The topic of the 2016 Otto Linne Prize is associated with Hamburg’s future urban development. The East of Hamburg provides space for attractive and affordable housing, as well as places of work for the commercial and industrial sectors, all within a high-quality landscape. In 2014 the concept Upstream on the Elbe and Bille – Housing and Urban Production in Hamburg Ost was presented to the public. In eleven separate areas of focus the concept presents a vision for the future for eastern areas within the city, stretching from Hammerbrook, Borgfelde, Hamm, Horn, Rothenburgsort, Billbrook, to Billstedt and Mümmelmannsberg, all of which are to be developed in a holistic and site-specific manner. The concept focuses on the goals of bringing living and working close together within the individual neighbourhoods, i.e. putting them in an urban context, while at the same time improving the area’s valuable open space. With a view to the continual growth of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, this space has a great deal of potential and must be carefully developed.

The area the competition focuses on is in the eastern part of Hamburg and includes the so-called ‘Green Passage’ that stretches from Hamm and Horn to the landscape axis Horner Geest and the industrial area Billbrook/Rothenburgsort finally to the Vier- und Marschland areas. The numerous open-space areas in these neighbourhoods, which are completely unknown to most of Hamburg’s residents, are to be made more tangible and connected to one another.

Although the central area, Am Tiefstackkanal, appears to be quite green, it is mainly dominated by commercial and industrial structures and is criss-crossed by narrow paths and a tangle of tracks, bridges and access roads. In between there are canals, waterways and allotment gardens. The navigable Tiefstack Canal connects the Bille (the city’s second-biggest river, which crosses this area) with Billwerder Bay. The landscape of this tidal bay provides a special backdrop. But no one goes for a walk or spends any time daydreaming near the Tiefstack rapid transit station located between the Rothenburgsort and Billbrook industrial areas. People walk briskly as they make their way to work. Between the driver-training area and the highly visible Tiefstack power plant along the shore of Billwerder Bay, it is difficult to comprehend this seemingly strange part of Hamburg. Disorientation and confusion are caused by a deficiency of reference points and the lack of a clear identity. Where do the paths lead? Does anyone actually live here?

Following the tenor of Otto Linne, participants are being encouraged to investigate both the specific locations (a functional and important industrial area) and current developments within landscape architecture in order to independently determine the key challenges and tasks.

Creative solutions, stimulating discussions and refreshing conceptual approaches – participants are invited to become openly and courageously engaged with the particular urban structures and to develop inspiring ideas for making the existing urban typologies more tangible. It is important to explore new and different approaches. In addition to landscape architectural involvement, urban planning, architectural, traffic-related, sociological and artistic aspects should also be included in the analysis. The Otto Linne Prize will award designs that offer innovative solutions with regard to urban landscape architecture and promote inspiring ideas for this specific space.

The formulation of the task has been deliberately left open so that the competition can be integrated into universities’ educational programs and fleshed out in accordance with educational aims. Comprehensive plans and information about the competition area will be made available to participants.
Announcement

In 2016 the Otto Linne Prize will be held again with the goal of encouraging students and young graduates to investigate current issues and challenges in the field of landscape architecture. The prize is awarded in honour of Hamburg’s first garden director Otto Linne (1869 – 1937) in order to promote the professional development of young planners and honour outstanding achievements in the field of urban landscape architecture.

Eligibility for participation

Participation is open to teams of students and young graduates (date of birth 1 January 1977 and younger) of landscape architecture programs in collaboration with additional disciplines. Interdisciplinary cooperation (urban planning, architecture, transport planning, sociology, philosophy, communication design, art, film, etc.) is strongly recommended. The competition task is well-suited to semester assignments and projects. All those wishing to participate in the competition must register online at www.luchterhandt.de (registration is free).

Jury, awards ceremony and publication

Competition entries will be judged by a professional jury. Winners of the competition will be honoured in a public awards ceremony. All entries will be shown as part of extensive documentation of the competition. A brochure will be presented at the awards ceremony on 2 December 2016 (Otto Linne’s birthday).

Requirements

The focus of the competition is on ideas and on an attempt to try something new. For this reason, no particular level of performance or scope of work has been stipulated. Competition requirements with regard to the necessary graphics and choice of scale for each entry are to be individually chosen based on the respective concept. Entries may range from classical plans to a film or interactive media proposals. The minimum requirement is to present a summary of the concept on an upright, portrait format DIN A0 sheet.