

Press release – Announcement of the 2025 Winners PERSPEKTIVE Fund Architecture Ideas Competition

Berlin, October 9, 2025

The PERSPEKTIVE fund and the Visual Arts Office of the Institut français Germany are pleased to announce the winning projects of the 2025 Architecture Ideas Competition – SPACE IS THE PLACE.

The award ceremony will take place on **Friday, November 7, at TECHNE SPHERE LEIPZIG** (Niemeyerstraße 2-5, 04179 Leipzig) **starting at 6 p.m.** in the presence of the winners, jury members, and competition organizers. An exhibition of the nine best projects selected for this competition will also be presented at this event, along with a lecture by Elena Schütz, architect and co-founder of Studio Something Fantastic, entitled “What do we really need? – What do we really have?”.

Entitled “**SPACE IS THE PLACE – invent new uses for old places**” for this third edition, the PERSPEKTIVE Fund's architecture ideas competition is open to professionals, whether beginners or experienced, living in Germany or France and working in the fields of architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, design, or visual arts.

The competition invited participants to choose an unused building or one whose use is now being questioned, and give it a new function. It could be located in France or Germany, be of definite historical interest or of relative importance. Anything was possible, provided that participants demonstrated their inventiveness by showing that the future of architecture is no longer limited to new construction but also includes the transformation, adaptation and conversion of existing buildings.

The organisers received **77 entries from Germany and France**. The Franco-German jury met on 19 September 2025 and was composed of **Matthias Ballestrem** (architect, professor at Dortmund Technical University), **Yann Motreff** (architect, co-founder of aloHOMora and programmer at Béton Le Havre), **Joanne Pouzenc** (architect, lecturer at ENSA Toulouse and director of the Maison de l'Architecture Occitanie-Pyrénées) and **Elena Schütz** (architect and co-founder of Something Fantastic).

The jury analysed all of the projects and noted their great diversity, in terms of the nature of the buildings chosen, their different geographical locations and the new uses proposed. In making its selection, the jury took into account environmental and social issues, as well as the aesthetic dimension of the projects. The quality of the writing and the care taken with the illustrations were also selection criteria, as were the originality, radical nature and universality of the proposals.

For this edition, the jury selected **five winning projects** for three awards, with prize amounts of **€5,000, €3,000, and €2,000**. The **third prize was shared equally among three projects**, each receiving **€666**.

Four additional projects were selected for inclusion in the exhibition to be presented at the awards ceremony, which will take place on November 7 at Techne Sphere Leipzig (Germany).



The top three prizes are:

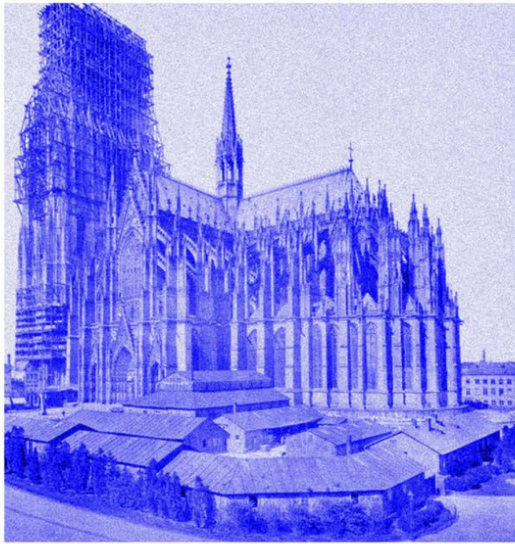
First prize

« **Justice under construction** » by Jenny Neubig, Mascha Creutz and Maura Schmitt (Berlin, Germany)

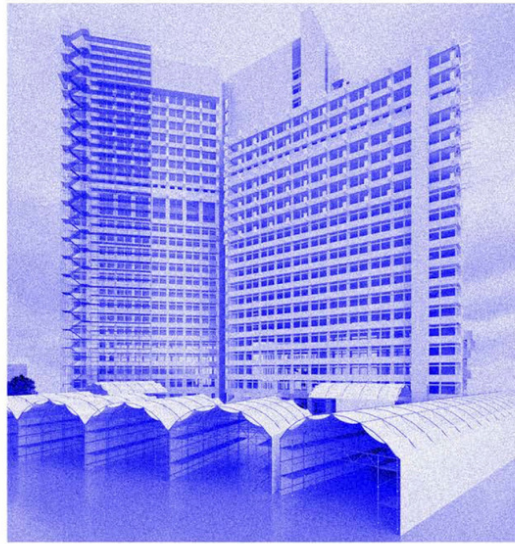
This project impressed the jury with its original idea for renovating the Cologne Court of Justice building.

It draws inspiration from the Dombauhütten, or masons' lodges, which were temporarily built on the outskirts of medieval cathedral construction sites to allow craftsmen to exchange ideas and develop new skills.

This proposal is designed as an open platform dedicated to technical and cultural transformation, collective learning and the transmission of ideas and knowledge. It supports a process of continuous transformation, as opposed to the idea of a renovation project planned in advance and executed in a single phase. The jury praised the social and symbolic commitment of this approach, which resonates with the previous function of the site.



Cologne Cathedral under construction with
Bauhütte / loge de maçon since 1248



Cologne Justice Center under construction with
Bauhütte / loge de maçon since 2025

© Picture 1 : <https://www.koelner-dombauhuette.de/aktuelles/detail/bauhuetten> (edited)

Second prize

« **Garden for Eternity: Monument to the Energy Transition** » by Carl Wolff (Berlin, Germany)

The jury was particularly moved by the poetic scope of the proposal, which focuses on the site of the former nuclear power plant in Stendal, Germany (Saxony-Anhalt), transforming a massive industrial relic into a meditative and living landscape. Rather than demolishing this colossal structure, the project proposes to preserve it as a historical trace, while allowing it to be slowly reclaimed by vegetation: an evolving landscape, where ruins become a living space. This contrast between the permanence of concrete and the long time frame of flora gives the project a sensitive dimension, which questions our relationship to energy, memory and the resilience of the landscape. Both monument and garden, the monolith thus becomes a place of contemplation, open to the imagination and the passing of time.

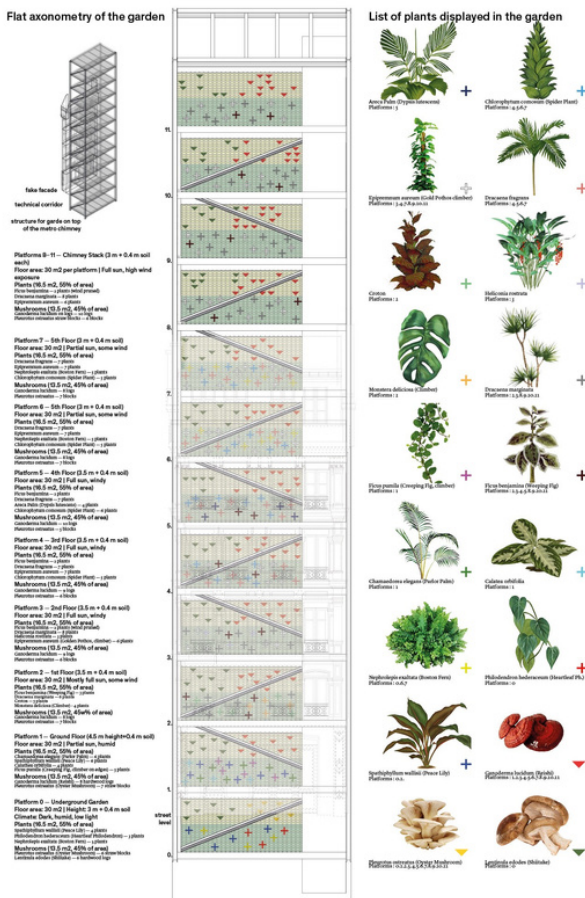


garden perspective in a few years

Third prize (shared).

« Manifesto for Chimney Gardens » by Rachel Rouzaud and Bernadetta Budzik (Paris, France)

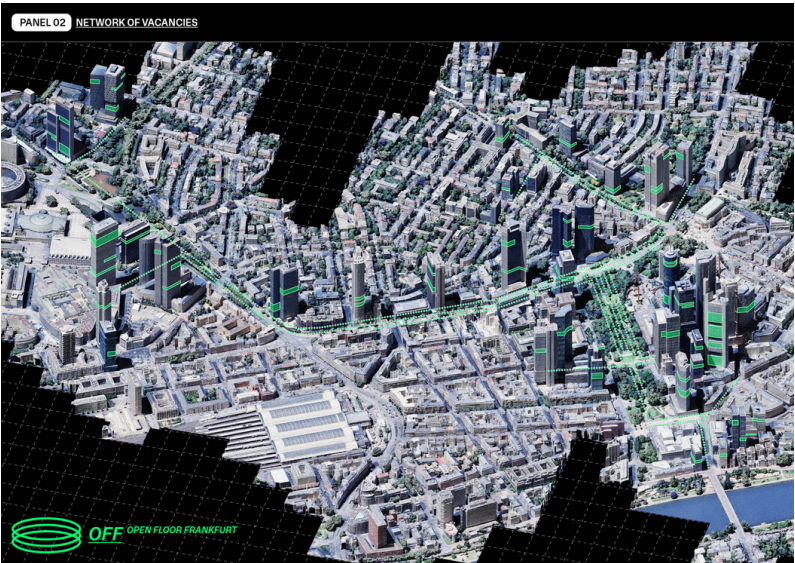
This project caught the jury's attention with its in-depth research into the false façades of Paris's 10th arrondissement. The project stands out for its originality, both in terms of its subject matter and its approach. Starting with an almost invisible architectural element, these false façades that conceal technical infrastructure, the winners question the mechanisms of invisibility, aesthetic control and urban standardisation. The jury also praised the ecological relevance of the project, which proposes a pragmatic conversion: transforming polluting air vents into organic filtering systems, adapted to the specific microclimate generated by underground infrastructure. By using plants and fungi with pollution-reducing properties, the project embodies a powerful manifesto, capable of reconciling nature and architecture, thus advocating for a city more in tune with contemporary urban issues.



Third prize (shared).

« OFF – Open Floor Frankfurt » by Moritz Hahn, Mark Balint and Jakob Bittner (Würzburg, Germany)

The jury recognised the relevance of the investigative approach and critical reading of the urban fabric proposed by this project. Through a careful approach and language articulated around social and economic issues, the project highlights a striking reality: that of the largely under-occupied urban business centre, a symptom of a structural imbalance between built production and social needs. By focusing on empty offices, these often-ignored ‘built surpluses’, OFF deploys an original urban protocol capable of reactivating these dormant spaces for the benefit of the community. The jury praised this subtle and pragmatic approach, which draws on existing legislative tools to enable temporary, adaptable and collective forms of occupation.



Third prize (shared).

« The Blue Castle » by Helena Kehl (Kiel & Stuttgart, Germany)

This project won over the jury with its narrative power and joyful tone. Through a beautifully crafted text, the project traces the history of a forgotten social housing building in rural Brandenburg, Germany. It revives a collective ideal that has been put on hold, revealing its latent potential. The jury also praised the confident use of a naive graphic language, particularly the oil pastel drawings. This unique aesthetic choice reflects the spirit of the project: that of a reconquest through ordinary uses – collective vegetable gardens, open-air kitchens and spontaneous gestures of reappropriation. The Blue Castle thus becomes a place of rural reinvention, where a new, more flexible and informal form of collective life is taking shape. The jury praised this vision, which is both critical and hopeful, transforming a derelict building into an open stage for shared futures.



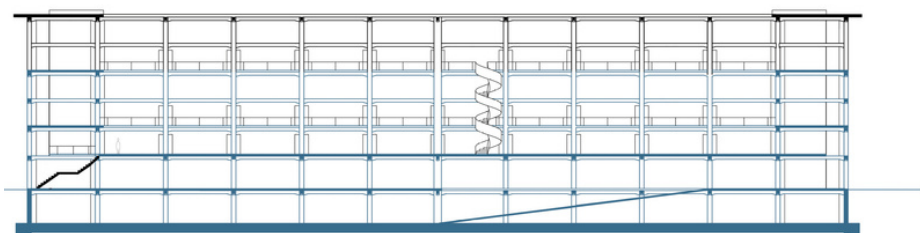
The four additional projects were selected for the exhibition (in alphabetical order by project title):

- ***Gesund schrumpfen? Rethinking Rural Futures***, by Lisa-Marie Byhan, Benedikt Ahlers and Bäumer-Kern (Weimar, Germany),

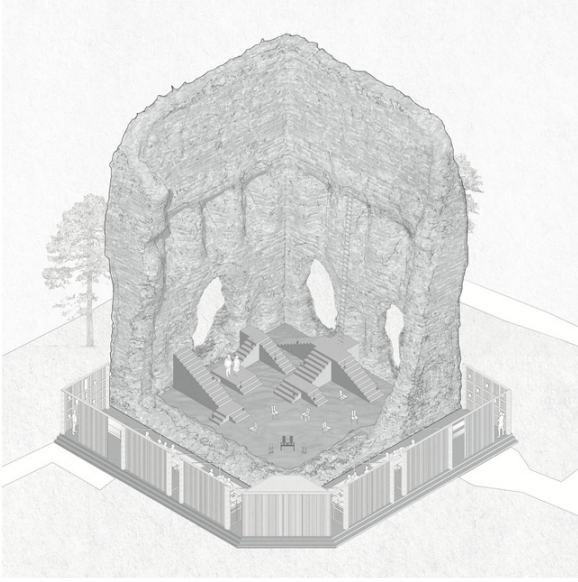


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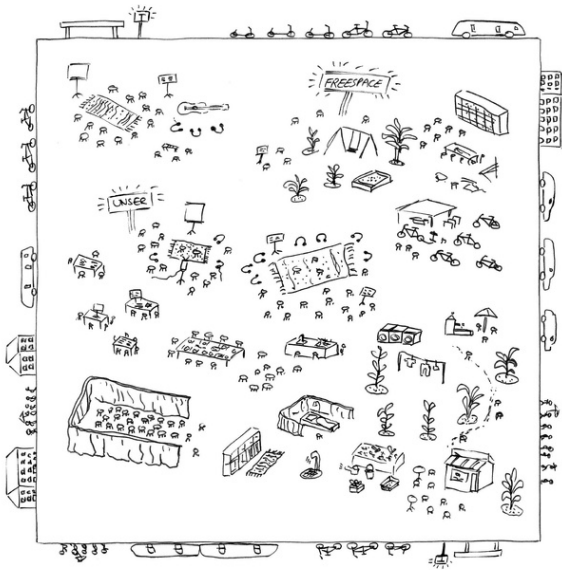
- ***No Parking***, by Simpert Hafenmeier (Berlin, Germany),



- ***Palimpsests, when remains become scenic space***, by Louna Benloulou (Paris, France),



- ***(Re)Inventing the Fuel Station***, by Max Hofmeister (Hanover, Germany).



PERSPEKTIVE is a **Franco-German fund for architecture and contemporary arts** created in 2014 by the Visual Arts Office of the Institut français Germany and supported by the Institut français, the French Ministry of Culture and the Goethe-Institut.

All the projects can be viewed on the [Visual Arts Office website](https://www.visualarts-office.com/).