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Under the US Umbrella

Poland is one step away from agreeing to being part of the US missile-defense programme. Or is it?

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Opera supports young talents

Tomasz Galik from Warsaw won the international competition "Architectural Academic Awards 2008". He received a First Prize of 6 000 euro. Martin Hudec of Opera awarded the Prize to the winner during a ceremony in Vienna. Second Prize – 1 000 euro was won by a Ukrainian student from Kharkov. The competition was organized by INVI for the fourth time to promote talented students from CEE and SEE countries.

Investment Environments (INVI) – design, consulting and development company is proud to organize this event every year. "We are inviting students from many universities from throughout Central Europe. The ceremony took place during the real estate fair "Real Vienna" Anna Mirska-Perry from INVI says.

The 1st Prize went to a student from Poland. Tomasz Galik from Warsaw University of Technology presented the best project and received 6 000 euro, a prize sponsored by Opera (a Slovak company well known because of its mixed 650 hectares real estate project in Bratislava). "Tomasz's project was an Exhibition Concept Center on Granary Island in Gdańsk" Martin Hudec, Chairman of the Board of Opera, explains.

Second place was ranked by Andriy Lemishko from Kharkov State Technical University for Construction and Architecture. The project presented Festival Center in the reconstructed block of the historical city core. Lemishko received 1000 euro, also founded by Opera. "We also organized a Scholarship Prize from Raiffeisen Evolution which was a job opportunity in the company for two students from Dresden - Matthias Korntheuer and Clemens Wall" Mirska-Perry adds.

During three days of the event the organizer collected also over 250 votes from Real Vienna participants for the Public Prizes. This time the prizes went to students from Moscow and Kiev Daria Zybyna and Ilya Moroz. In this year's edition, there were 15 students participating from 12 different countries. They came with their professors to Vienna from Poland (Wrocław and Warsaw), Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine (Kiev and Kharkov), Russia, Hungary, Turkey, Germany and Serbia (Belgrade and Novi Sad), Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia.

The subject of current edition was: Authenticity of the Central European City" Mirska-Perry says.

The objective of this competition is to present how a new



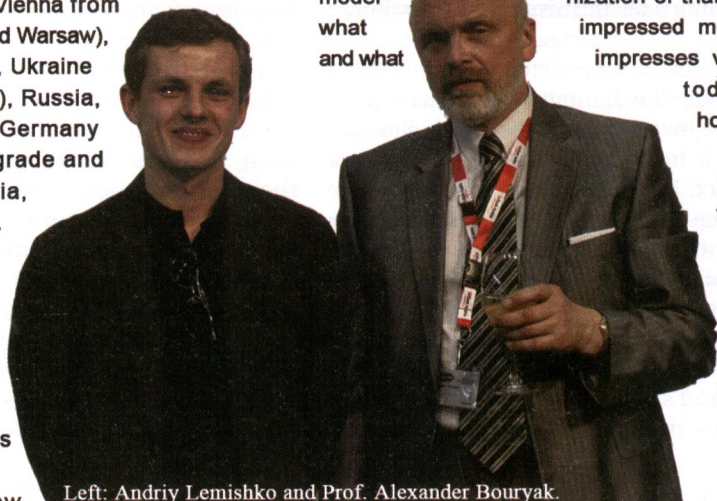
Left: Prof. Jacek Weisłak, Martin Hudec (Opera), Guy Perry (INVI) and the winner - Tomasz Galik.

generation of architects and urban designers see the future of their cities. Less as a replica of the trends of western markets (often the financial vehicle of large developments) and more of a local cultural assertion which I believe to be ultimately more economically sustainable as well" Guy Perry, President of INVI and Visiting Professor at MIT, says.

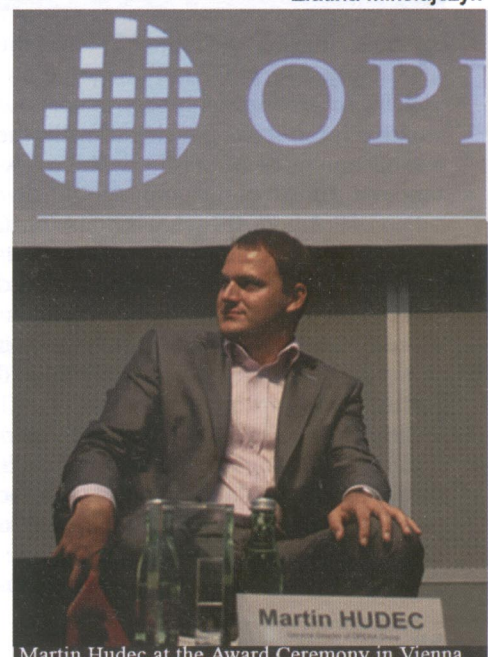
The current competition topic is, in essence, about the cultural and economic maturation of the central European markets. It is about the sustainability of those places. "I spent the first few years of my career in Barcelona where I participated through my work at the Taller de Arquitectura in the modernization of that city – what impressed me then, and what impresses visitors today, is how that city transformed itself on its own terms" Guy Perry adds.

The competition jury comprised experts: Guy Perry (jury chairman), Kurt Puchinger (urban planning Director of Vienna), Gerald Beck (Managing Director of Raiffeisen Evolution project GmbH), Andrej Brna (Member of the Board in Opera Group), Professor Peter Gal from Slovakia University and Pierre Laconte (President of ISOCARP). The jury after a long discussion decided that Tomasz Galik deserves to get the main prize.

Zlatina Mikołajczyk



Left: Andriy Lemishko and Prof. Alexander Bouryak.



Martin Hudec at the Award Ceremony in Vienna