

A.I. Architects for innovative research Protocole 24 May 2023

Scope

To demonstrate and promote the new trends on architects' attitude, ACE has organised in February 2023 a European call to select the best proposals for innovative research in this field. The ACE will also publish a shortlist of the 20 best submissions that will offer an overview on the current A.I. architecture scene.

The aim is to provide an in-depth overview of current practices involving digital technology from different angles and to open up the discussion on future developments, threads and opportunities.

Phase 1

In March, ACE received 17 applications with:

- A brief description of the research objective
- An existing case-study project
- Additional information

Participants

1	Cosmin Furdui*	Romania
2	Marketa Gebrian	Czech Republic
3	Mustapha Adder	France
4	Linda Buondonno	Italy
5	Urbanist AI	Italy
6	A.I tree	Italy
7	Marco Vanucci	UK
8	Antónia Stretavská	Ukraine/slovakia
9	Roch Bigand	France
10	Jiri Uran Vitek	Czech republic
11	Daniel Koehler	Austin, Texas
12	Mathias del Campo	Michigan
13	Juan Perez Amaya	France
14	Nickl Agostino	Zürich
15	Pascal Terracol	France
16	Aydan Aghabavli	Portugal
17	Sandra Ferreira	Portugal

*On 2 may 2023, Cosmin Furdu has notified the withdraw of his application for the call.

Phase 1 – preselection of shortlisted submissions

All submissions were assessed by ACE Selection Panel and members of the Practice Committee. At first round, all members studied the 17 proposals individually and scored each project. All submissions were divided upon prevailing field of interest – urban issues, creativity, sustainability, education and practice.

20.3. 2023

In the first online meeting, all submissions and experiences of the individual studies were compared and discussed. All members confirmed the obstacles to the comparability of the project description to be evaluated. In conclusion, it was agreed to create an Excel sheet with concrete questions with equal space to answer.

All applicants were asked to respond within one week.

27.3.2023

At the second meeting the selection panel made decision to select 8 finalists to jury.

Selected projects: 4,5,8,10,12,14,15,16.

Phase 2 – Selection of finalists by ACE jury

26.4.2023

ACE Jury was composed of:

Diego Zoppi- ACE EB Member

Pavel Martinek- Chair of the ACE Practice Committee

Ursula Faix Chair of the ACE Women in Architecture task-force and member of the Practice Committee

Peter Hyttel Sørensen, member of the Practice Committee

External expert: Gry Hasselbalch

Coordinator– Julie Deutchmann

3 participants were selected based on the following criteria:

- Reasonability of the study in terms of discovering new frontiers
- Meeting ACE objectives
- Originality
- Applicability in practice

4 Linda Buondonno - 4 in favor, 1 against

5 UrbanistAI - 5 in favor

10 Jiri Uran Vitek - 4 in favor, 1 abstentio

Justification :

Linda Buondonno the project focuses on basic research into how digital tools influence human creativity. There was a general discussion about the extent to which the project meets the criteria for AI, but the jury concluded that basic research should take priority at a time when the application of AI is booming. The scientific and verified approach to the study of the programme was found to be credible and the objectives to be achieved feasible. The ACE recommends cooperation in the questionnaire research phase in order to use the practical experience of the architectural profession. The ACE

also raises the issue of the use of the results for software developers.

UrbanistAI – The jury evaluates a project focusing on the education of the younger generation in the field of artificial intelligence. The organisation of webinars accessible to a wide audience and the possibility of ACE involvement were considered worthy of support. The implementation of the project within the framework of a university programme also lends credibility to the project.

Jiri Vitek – This project was selected for its complexity and practicality. It proposes the creation of an AI application evaluating the sustainable approach to urban planning. Compared to other submitted projects that also focused on sustainability, the approach to the urban scale of the assessment was considered more effective and the facts were proven by using existing and publicly available environmental data. The audit on the city of Brno would serve as a demonstration of the research. The ACE recommends focusing more on creating a tool rather than giving conclusions on sustainability, as the assessment methodology is still subject to a wider social and scientific debate.

Conclusions/ Next steps:

ACE will meet with selected finalists to discuss projects and ACE legal conditions.

All 3 selected finalists will receive equally 6660 Euro each if project will be finished upon agreed scope, conditions and deadline.

If agreement with any of finalist will not be made, other shortlisted participants will be re-assessed for substitution.

All other participants are to be published as case-study projects for publication.

Notes : by Pavel Martinek