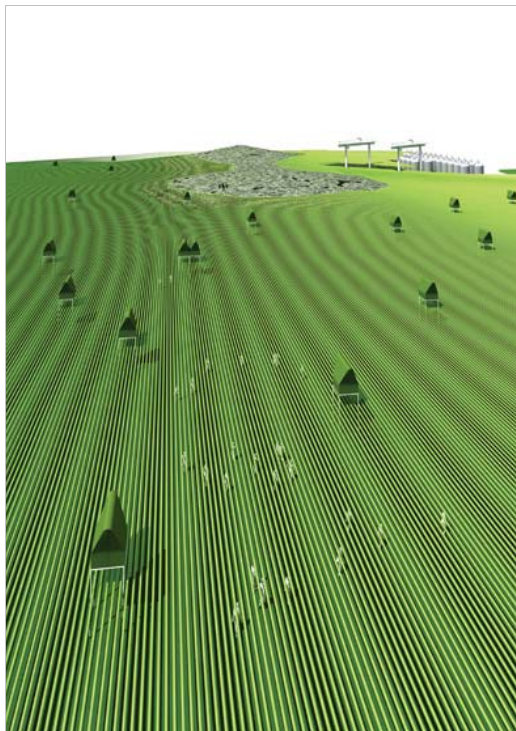


Winners of the 2G Competition. Venice Lagoon Park

Thomas Raynaud and Cyrille Berger sign the winning entry of the international ideas competition organised by 2G. *International Architecture Review*.



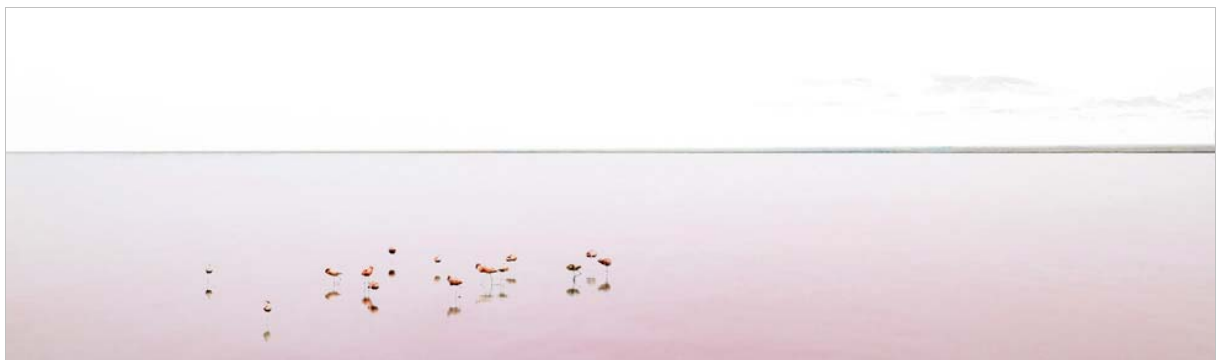
Barcelona, January 2008 · The Paris team consisting of the architects Thomas Raynaud —from BuildingBuilding—and Cyrille Berger —from Berger&Berger—has won First Prize in the **2G Competition. Venice Lagoon Park** for entry presented with the slogan **Drip Feed**.

Of the proposal that has won first prize, the jury highlights, among other features, the intelligence, skill and clarity with which the proposal is capable of generating a polyvalent, flexible and intense public space. Thanks to the simple but effective superimposition of a system of energy transformation consisting of very few elements of a high technical rigour, bio-organisms existing in the lagoon revert the process of eutrofisation of the water and convert the contaminating agents into clean energy. The result makes many uses and readings of public space possible and dissolves the disciplinary boundaries between the specifically architectural and the purely landscapist.

The authors themselves describe their proposal thus: “Our project for the urban park of Sacca San Mattia consists of reinvesting the island in a Venetian, multi-functional approach to urban planning, in the context of an enlarged metropolitan, tourist centre. The **Drip Feed** project on the Island of Sacca San Mattia puts into place an above-ground *ulva rigida* cultivation device that is in keeping with the Greenfuel system. A saprophyte structure that ingests polluted waste from local industry, and conceptually redefines the lagoon’s future water level, without harming the natural state of the island.”

Second Prize and special mentions

Using the slogan **[500 M APART]**, Johanna Irander, Nicole Carstensen, Nicolò Riva, Nuno Gonçalves Fontarra and Samuel Austin, established in The Hague, have won Second Prize in the competition.



On this occasion the jury has highlighted the sensitivity, delicacy and clarity with which the proposal is capable of generating an emotional landscape, formed by the simple but effective disposition of a few built elements proceeding from the reactivation and visualisation of a few phenomena and agents existing in the lagoon. From the phenomenological point of view, the result generates an architecture made up of atmospheres of enormous beauty.

Lastly, seven special mentions have been awarded: **FJ749 (The Batrachian And The Wader)**, whose authors are Gauthier Le Romancer and Guillaume Derrien (France); **Homo Lacunaris**, whose authors are Michele Brunello, Giovanni Roncador and Constantina Verzi (Italy); **Instant Gel**, whose authors are Josep Tornabell Teixidor, Gerard Bertomeu, Miriam Cabanes and Enrique Soriano (Spain); **Novissimissime**, whose authors are Giacomo Summa, Paolo Capri, Andrea Zanderigo, Pier Paolo Tamburelli, Silvia Lupi, Francesca Torzo, Vittorio Pizzigoni, Lorenzo Laura and Chiara Pastore (Italy); **Proto** whose authors are Pierre Bélanger, Ed Zec and Behnaz Assadi (Canada); **The Merchants Of Venice**, whose authors are Anders Berensson and Ulf Mejergren (Sweden); and lastly, **Transhumans**, whose authors are Aymeric Olry and Jeremy Bernier (France).



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Jury

Meeting in December 2007, the competition jury was made up of the Spanish architect Iñaki Ábalos; the Italian architect Francesco Careri; the North-American architect and landscape designer James Corner; the French architect Anne Lacaton, jury president; the Swiss architect Philippe Rahm; and lastly, Mónica Gili, editor-in-chief of the magazine 2G, plus editors Moisés Puente and Anna Puyuelo, all of them part of 2G Team.

Present during the jury's deliberations with a voice but without a vote was urban advisor and architect Sandro Bisà, responsible for coordinating the competition in Venice.

Evolution of the competition

The **2G Competition. Venice Lagoon Park** was convoked in April 2007 in connection with the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the magazine 2G. The contest proposed a multidisciplinary treatment of an architectural and landscape design intervention on a territory—the Venetian lagoon—with a long and intense historical trajectory. At present, the lagoon constitutes a rich ecosystem subject to a wide variety of uses—tourist, residential, industrial, farming—which are difficult to reconcile and to re-elaborate. The 2G Competition has delimited and determined this complex reality so as to emphasise, using a real example, many of the issues posited by current architectural debates.

Numerous schools of architecture have adopted the proposal as course material, as they have found in it an optimum scenario for questioning and providing possible solutions to such burning issues for architecture as sustainability, tourism and intervening on the landscape.

With almost seven months gone by since the call for entries, more than 1,000 teams from all around the world were registered. Among the countries most represented were Spain, the USA, France, Italy, Argentina, and the UK, and the profile of those registered was almost fifty-fifty professional architects and students. The prize-winning projects and a few selected ones will be shown next year as a complementary activity to the programme of the Venice Biennale of Architecture and a special *2G Dossier* will also be published about the event.

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