

COMPETITION TOPIC
'LITE' EDITION

DOCEXDOCELITE

PROLOGUE

And so it begins! The 1st 'lite' edition of DOCEXDOCE Competitions in special collaboration with EASA CH and the municipality of Villars-sur-Ollon (Switzerland)

As you already know, all the participants who are currently reading this text are in the same situation, working under the same time limit and not knowing the competition topic beforehand. It is time to face a new challenge, demonstrate your ability to adapt to a new context in an agile and clever way. Good luck!

MEET VILLARS

Villars is located in the heart of the Vaud Alps, at an altitude of 1,300 metres, on a south-facing natural terrace. For over 150 years, the resort has offered a wide range of sports and leisure activities to families and visitors of all ages, away from the urban hustle and bustle, tourists can enjoy spectacular views stretching from Lake Geneva all the way to Mont Blanc. With a travel distance of 120km to Geneva and 30km to Montreux, strong urban centres are easily reached from Villars.

Villars has historically been one of the first touristic destinations in the Frenchspeaking part of Switzerland. To attain this position, a strong identity and a recognizable iconography was developed. Postcards, which are now being replaced by social networks, send out this image as a message to the world. Attracting tourism is a goal that requires the building of necessary infrastructure; hotels, transport means, leisure centers, cultural hotspots, shops, etc. to absorb the incoming flow of people. In this process, cultural and built landscapes are undergoing radical changes.

Villars townhall exemplifies how Villars has managed to retain its village feel despite significant tourism development due to a construction policy dedicated to maintaining architectural uniformity. Old ancestral chalets sit alongside new wood and stone constructions, with the aim of retaining a harmony that blends perfectly with the natural setting. The presence of many protected areas also helps preserve the surrounding natural environment, where we can find the highest point of the area, the Grand Chamossaire, that peaks at an altitude of 2,120 m.



Villars's landscape results from a mixture of natural and man-made elements, an entanglement where frontiers are blurred. Above the village, pastoral practices juxtapose the marks of modern mass tourism: the resulting landscape is a nature-culture assemblage uniting the coordination between nonhuman and human projects.

THE COMPETITION

We ask that you work on the site where Villars ice rink is currently located. You may also make proposals for the ice rinks urban surrounding space, should you consider it applicable.

Villars-sur-Ollon's ice rink was built in the 1960's and plays an ambivalent role in current dynamics of the town. On one hand, it holds an important heritage and many indigenous people attach an important emotional bond to it. On the other hand, it is energetically and socially inefficient, as its accessibility and visibility is low. As one of the only ice rinks functioning all year round (!), it attracts users from all over the region. Professional ice hockey teams as well as educational institutes drive a long way to be able to use it.

The ice rink is part of a sports complex, which also hosts an indoor swimming pool, a spa and a skateboarding park. These activities aid Villars to promote itself as a recognised village for sports, health and family tourism.

However, due to the relatively outdated equipment and poor profitability of the infrastructure, Villars-sur-Ollon wishes to seek for new scenarios.



Should the ice rink be kept? If yes, should it still be functioning all year round? How can the access be made easier for people with and without a car? How could the sports complex function with additional activities and services? These are the questions that need resolving in order for the sports complex to benefit both locals and tourists in a sustainable, profitable way.

The themes that Villars will have to address when renovating the sports complex, and in particular the ice rink, are the following:

a. ACCESS

How can the issue of insufficient parking space be addressed as a general problem of access?

b. CONTEXT

What is the relationship of the sports complex with its surroundings and other similar infrastructure in Villars? How do the proposals take into account the dynamics created by seasonal tourism, and how do they integrate sustainable development?

c. PUBLIC SPACE

What kind of encounters and public/private spaces are generated by the proposals? How can the sports complex become a place for social encounter and benefit all users and the surrounding environment?

d. IDENTITY

The ice rink has played an important role in shaping the identity and memories of Villars' inhabitants. How can this heritage be taken into account?

These thematic indicators are on how to make your proposal as relevant as possible to the municipality and to the locals. They are not mandatory; participants may choose to address only certain ones, or in a radical mood, none. We invite you to rethink, rebuild or propose a new use for this site.



DELIVERY

The documentation to be presented by the teams will consist of:

Two **vertical A2 panel** (420 x 594 mm) in JPEG. The first panel must show an **axonometric view** at the scale of the neighbourhood, this drawing should be based on the 3D file provided and consist of black lines mainly. The second panel must show an image that demonstrate the **atmosphere and the program** of the project in context, this image can be created using any method you wish (drawing, collage, sketch, diagrams...)

One **vertical A4** in PDF with a short text explaining functions, program and infrastructure of the proposal.

The **team ID code** that was emailed to your team representative must be displayed in the upper right corner of every panel. The project must have a title. We recommend that you place the **title** in the upper left corner next to the identification code. The file must be sent with a graphic resolution suitable for printing but no larger than 10 MB. The file name must be the team ID code + "axonometric", "render" or "text".

The panels delivered must be completely **anonymous**, no team member names should be displayed anywhere in the submission. Any panels delivered in a horizontal layout, with names of participants, without a title or without an identification code will be immediately disqualified from the competition.

The jury will value the theoretical basis of the proposal made, an appropriate consideration of the context, an innovative response to the issues raised, the originality and the sustainability of the program, as well as an holistic approach of the sports complex.

The overall graphic quality of the panel delivered will be also highly valued. Please keep in mind when being creative that your images should be readable and understandable by people without an architectural background and who know Villars very well. Exhibitions will be promoted for the general public in Villars.

The proposal must be uploaded to the competition website **before 9:00 PM** (GMT + 2, Madrid local time) on Wednesday, September 4, 2019.

For technical problems or questions, contact us on Facebook or write to info@docexdoce.com.

GOOD LUCK!

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ANNEX

On the 4th and 7th of August some meetings between architecture students, locals and the municipality of Villars were conducted during the event EASA 'Tourist' (European Architecture Students Assembly), organized by EASA CH. Here information about the ice rink was gathered and people from different backgrounds expressed their opinions and views toward the site. The meetings became a platform to discuss in-depth about the faults of the ice skating rink, its future, the future of the entire sports complex and the development of Villars.

These discussions concluded with five major problematics from the first meeting (heritage & identity, centrality & relationship to Villars, economic sustainability, environmental sustainability and access and parking) and four major points from the second meeting (role of the sport complex, sustainability, community and future of Villars-sur-Ollon).

In order to provide you with extra information for the development of your proposal should you so require, below is a summary of the above problematics as well as quotes/findings collected by EASA organizers and participants during the meetings:

Heritage & Identity

The sports complex and the Ice Skating rink provides infrastructure to Ice Hockey team which is "old and is considered a heritage." The complex is also used by other locals and tourists who visit Villars every year. However, old technology and outdated infrastructure have resulted in a decline of users. During the participatory workshop, the locals raised the issue of lack of promotion of the space. As per them "the rink is used during summer by many international institutes from the whole region. The marketing (of the ice skating rink) is gene-



rally done towards a tourist clientele and less towards locals. It is among the top 4 of Villars' points of interest, (however), there is a lack of communication about the rink." Some of the inhabitants also have strong emotional and relationship bonds with the Ice rink and the sports complex. However, according to them, fewer efforts are being taken by the authorities to upkeep the complex and the skating rink.

Centrality & relationship to Villars

An other issue that was raised by the locals at the meetings was about a community space or the lack of it. According to them, Villars lack common public/community spaces, where the locals can gather for collective celebrations. They suggested that the building could become a community hub as well as sports complex due to its central location and historic prominence among the people rather than just a sports complex. It could be a space where people from all walks of life can come to be part of the Villars community. During the workshop, the locals proposed some easy solutions such as making the access more visible and welcoming the non-users to the space in order for it to become more interactive with its context.

Economic sustainability

Loss of market is another concern for the sports complex. This has caused a debate on whether to keep the ice skating rink or replace it with something economically viable amongst the locals and authorities. The sports complex also lack promotion and is failing to attract new generations. As mentioned by one of the locals, "the development could be done in partnership with the surrounding institutes." The positives for the future of the complex can be the existing spa, swimming pool, skateboarding and ice skating rink. It also has an infrastructure for a restaurant which is currently shut but has the possibility of renovation and restart. During the participatory workshop, the locals expressed their ideas in the form of collective development of the sports complex (physical as well as economically) that would attract tourist and locals that will help generate business all around the year.



Environmental sustainability

Currently, the ice skating rink functions even during the summers, however, existing infrastructure consumes an enormous amount of energy and is economically unsustainable. The current design of the building is highly inefficient to function it as a skating rink. Open to the elements from all sides, the space traps heat in the summer making it difficult to maintain the necessary temperatures for the ice. The swimming pool is also an inconvenient space as it awkwardly fits within the skating rinks. To make the building sustainable, local people suggested creating a close space that would help regulate the internal temperatures for the skating rink.

Access and parking

During the workshop, the locals introduced the issue of parking within the periphery of the sports complex. The complex currently has 30 to 50 parking provisions, however, over time, due to the escalation in private vehicles, the complex now needs space for approximately 100 cars. During of events, the roads are crowded with cars, cyclists and pedestrians making it difficult to manoeuvre. Parking as an issue is not just concentrated on the sports complex only, it is a homogenous concern of the entire village. In the discourse on parking spaces and cars, a few similar questions have emerged: is parking an issue or influx of cars? Can our cities and villages be car-free, if yes then when, if no then what sustainable solutions are possible to tackle the issue? Can we develop a multimodal transport system which distributes the pressure from private cars to efficient public infrastructure?

Role of the sports complex

The ice rink is important to Villars' inhabitants; the hockey teams also use it, but it is not profitable to the village. The surrounding villages also face similar problem and have been doing things to diversify the activity on the ice rink. Can the rink be used for a different activity during the summer? there is also a small indoors climbing activity in the Villars which is above the college (Centre de sports).

Sustainability

The tourist department would like to make Villars a winter as well as summer resort. The tourism should be sustainable all year round. Currently, infrastructure in Villars is predominantly aimed at winter tourism when the villages population increases by 3 or 4 times due to the amount of visitors. On a sustainable front, the ice rinks problem is 80% due to the fact that it is open during the summer and used significantly less.

Community

May be integration of the tourism and the localism will benefit to the Ice rink. The people of Villars do not have any collective community activity space. Without a suitable space to gather the loss of sense of community may be a concern.

Future of Villars-sur-Ollon

Personally, I would like it to see a natural development and for Villars' village spirit to still be active 40 years from now. During the winter, Villars is an international place full of energy and during the summers it quietens down allowing families from nearby towns and cities to holiday there. Villars is more authentic and less chic than other similar winter resorts.