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International Urban Landscape Award 2007

Parc Central de Nou Barris in Barcelona wins the Award conferred by Eurohypo AG

- **Close on 60 entries from countries including the USA, Mexico, Switzerland, Poland, The Netherlands, Great Britain, Spain and Germany**
- **Bernd Knobloch, Chief Executive Officer of Eurohypo AG: “Municipal parks that are designed to be recreation areas make a major contribution towards protecting the climate.”**

Eschborn. The International Urban Landscape Award (IULA) is this year going to the Parc Central de Nou Barris in Barcelona. The Award is conferred annually by Eurohypo AG, the leading specialist bank for real estate and public finance, in collaboration with Topos, the international journal for landscape architecture and urban design, and the magazine A&W Architektur&Wohnen. The presentation ceremony was held in Frankfurt am Main on Friday, 5 October. The prize money of euro 50,000 will go to the benefit of the winning project.

The park completed this year as the second largest in the Catalan capital convinced the international jury for its function as a local recreation area and its unusual design. In addition, the jury also felt that the Parc Central performed an important integrative task in a rapidly expanding and multi-ethnic quarter of Barcelona.

“Near-to-nature spaces laid out in the middle of cities are islands of recreation and places of encounter. In an age of increasing urbanisation of the world, they also make a major contribution to protecting the climate”, commented Bernd Knobloch, Chief Executive Officer of Eurohypo AG, at the presentation of the Award.

Altogether close on 60 entries were submitted from such countries as the USA, Mexico, Switzerland, Poland, Great Britain, Germany, The Netherlands and Spain. Besides the winning project, four other projects were nominated for the Award:

- Westergasfabriek in Amsterdam, Netherlands;
- Olympic Sculpture Park in Seattle, USA;
- Grüner Bogen Paunsdorf in Leipzig, Germany, and
- MFO Park in Zürich, Switzerland.

Two more projects received an honourable mention: the ‘Winterbadeschiff’ (swimming-pool boat) in Berlin and the Canal Nacional in Mexico City.

A project to improve the waterway system and nature conservation in Bydgoszcz (Poland) won the public voting. The weblog “PerfectCity” initiated by Eurohypo called on website visitors to vote for their favourite project.

Following the presentation of the Award, an international round of experts, including the patron of the event, Klaus Töpfer – former German Minister of Urban Development and former Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) – then discussed the challenges posed by climate change for megacities.

The winner of the 2007 Award: Parc Central de Nou Barris

The architects and landscape architects Andreu Arriola Madorell and Carmen Fiol Costa from Barcelona had submitted the “Parc Central de Nou Barris” project for the IULA 2007. The park design was based on the assignment to create a connecting element in Nou Barris -

in many respects a heterogeneously structured district. Their inspiration for the park design came from the early cubist and very colourful pictures of Pablo Picasso, which the young artist painted in 1909 at La Horta de San Juan (in Catalonia). The triangle was chosen as the creative guiding theme of the park because it is the most flexible of the geometric forms. Triangular wooden structures resembling artificial palms are therefore also the symbols of the park. They stand – singly or in groups – at key locations, giving shade during the day and illuminating the park at night. The fundamental features of this Mediterranean garden are trees, lawns, ponds, paths and tiled walls that are blended harmoniously into the various levels of the park. The Parc Central invites you to go for a casual stroll as much as to play boisterous games in the spaciouly laid out playgrounds.

The Jury of the IULA 2007

The members of the jury were:

Alfonso Vegara, President of Fundación Metrópoli, Madrid/Spain and Ex-President of ISOCARP – International Society of City and Regional Planners (Chairman of the Jury)

Henri Bava, Landscape Architect, Paris/France and Professor Karlsruhe University/Germany;

Kathryn Firth, Architect and Urban Planner, Senior Associate Principal Kohn Pedersen Fox and Visiting Lecturer Architectural Association, London/Great Britain;

Barbara Friedrich, Editor-in-Chief, A&W Architektur&Wohnen, Hamburg/Germany;

Walter Hood, Landscape Architect, Professor University of California, Berkeley/USA;

Bart Lootsma, Professor in Architectural Theory, Leopold Franzen University of Innsbruck/Austria, and

Robert Schäfer, Editor-in-Chief, Topos, Munich/Germany.

For Information:

Eurohypo AG

As part of the Commerzbank Group, Eurohypo AG with its head office in Eschborn near Frankfurt am Main is the leading international specialist bank for real estate and public finance. Its activities focus on the financing of commercial real estate worldwide. In this field, it offers professional investors the entire value-added chain for real estate financing. Eurohypo thus in a special way combines conventional real estate financing with the complex, capital market-related services of real estate investment banking. Moreover, public finance is the second business pillar of the bank. With tailor-made capital market products, municipal lending, project and infrastructure financing as well as private public partnership models it is a major partner for the public sector – also on international level.

Partners

The International Urban Landscape Award was conferred in collaboration with the publications Topos and A&W Architektur&Wohnen.

- **Topos**

Topos is an international English-language journal focusing on landscape architecture, urban design and town planning. Topos was founded in 1992 and is published by Verlag Georg D.W. Callwey, Munich.

- **A&W Architektur&Wohnen**

A&W Architektur & Wohnen is a classic example of the German magazines for lifestyle, architecture, landscape gardening and design and is celebrating its 50th

anniversary in 2007. A&W is published six times a year by the Premium Magazin Gruppe of Jahreszeiten Verlag, Hamburg.

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Topos

The International Review of Landscape

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