

# The competition for the smart district of Špitálka has a winner. Participation was record-breaking, with designs arriving even from Japan and Singapore

The task for the participants in the International Open Urban Design Idea Competition for Špitálka was to convert a part of the disused premises of the Brno district heating plant and the surrounding area into a smart city district. The competition was organised for the City of Brno by the Chief Architect's Office. The jury evaluated a total of twenty-six proposals from the Czech Republic, but also from Slovakia, Serbia, Poland, Belgium, Lithuania, United Kingdom, Japan and Singapore. The winner of the competition was a design submitted by the Prague-based studio Aulík Fišer architekti. The results were approved by the Brno City Council on Wednesday 20 March 2019.



*“The competition was very well prepared and fulfilled its goal of bringing a solution to the transformation of an unused part of the industrial compound of the heating plant, where a lively urban neighbourhood should arise. It is one of the first steps towards revitalisation of the broader area around Špitálka, Křenová and Cejl streets, and at the same time an example of how to use other brownfield sites in the city centre,”* said Markéta Vaňková, Lady Mayor of the City of Brno.

The area in question is located between Koliště, Cejl, Radlas and Špitálka streets, bordered by a railway line to the south. It has a surface area of about 25 hectares. The new neighbourhood should be of mixed use, with apartments, offices, services, leisure and relaxation facilities.





*“The new city district will offer housing for three to four thousand people, new job opportunities and services, while it will always be an attractive locality within walking distance from the historic centre. The city will now use the ideas of the highest-appraised proposals for commissioning a planning study of a broader territory, which will then be used for an amendment to the Master Zoning Plan of the City of Brno and for the very construction and revival of this part of the city,”* said Petr Hladík, Deputy Mayor and member of the jury.



The jury, composed of Czech and international experts, selected as a winning design the one submitted by the Prague-based architectural studio Aulík Fišer architekti; its authors were Jan Aulík, Petra Skalická and Miloš Linhart. The jury particularly appreciated the appropriate scale of streets and blocks of the development. *“The proposal is ambitious, yet still realistic. The authors connect the circle of city parks with the Svitava embankment. The parks thus forms the basic axis along which the construction is articulated. At the same time, it creates a range of diversified public spaces, but also a dense network of footpaths and cycling routes. They also work sensitively with those industrial buildings that had to be left in place in order not to disrupt the operation of the heating plant,”* summarised Michal Sedláček, Director of the Brno City Chief Architect’s Office.

The transformation of the area of what nowadays is a district heating plant will not only be associated with new areas for housing, work or leisure time, but also new transport links will be added in the zone. The most important of these is the so-called New City Avenue, which is supposed to connect the north and the south of Brno with a new route. It will be a boulevard with retail shops on the ground floor, user-friendly for both pedestrians and cyclists. It will also be used by public transport, with a new trolleybus line to be operated here.

In addition to the new urban artery, the competition designs also had to take into account the principles of the so-called smart city, making the new neighbourhood environmentally friendly and self-sufficient as regards energy consumption. The objective is to verify new technologies and innovative approaches that could subsequently be expanded also to the rest of Brno. The Špitálka district could thus serve as a pattern for further construction.

The City announced the competition in October last year. The Špitálka project is part of an extensive European project entitled RUGGEDISED, which aims to introduce innovative technologies and approaches for the development of urban neighbourhoods. Brno is cooperating on this project with five European cities – Rotterdam in the Netherlands, Glasgow in Scotland, Ume in Sweden, Gdansk in Poland and Parma in Italy.

## International open one-phase urban design idea competition Špitálka – the results

- **1st prize – Aulík Fišer architekti** (in the amount of CZK 500,000)

Authors: Ing. arch. Jan Aulík, Ing. arch. Petra Skalická and Ing. arch. Miloš Linhart

- **2nd prize – Pelčák a partner architekti, s.r.o.** (in the amount of CZK 400,000)

Author: **prof. Ing. arch. Petr Pelčák**

Co-authors: **Bc. Jakub Czapek, Bc. Petra Fialová, Bc. Karolína Langnerová, Ing. arch. Filip Musálek, Bc. Michaela Rigová, Ing. arch. David Vahala, Bc. Tomáš Wojtek and Ing. Petr Soldán**

- **3rd prize – Ing. arch. Veronika Kubalcová, Ing. arch. Jana Liptáková and Ing. arch. Eva Kovářová** (in the amount of CZK 300,000)

Authors: **Ing. arch. Veronika Kubalcová, Ing. arch. Jana Liptáková and Ing. arch. Eva Kovářová**