

Tilburg, The Netherlands 28/07/2020

Subject: APPLICATION JAN DOMS - LEF CITY DYNAMICS  
OPEN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR RECREATIONAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENTS DESIGN IN FRIENDSHIP PARK  
GYUMRI

Dear Sir, Madam,

My name is Jan Doms, and I work internationally as a constructive sculptor and as a designer / researcher for architecture and urban planning. In 2001 I founded my own company under the name LEF stadsdynamica (city dynamics), agency for spatial design and research, the legal successor of De Maatschap International, studio for multi disciplinary projects (1988 - 2000).

### curriculum summary Jan Doms

Jan Doms attended Tilburgse Academie where he studied constructive sculpture, Russian avant-garde and urban history. He went on to pursue a degree in Material Culture Studies at Tilburg University, with a specialisation in architecture and urban development.

He also embarked on educational trips to urban and rural locations Europe, Brazil, USA and Japan. In 1997 together with his friend and painter Han Klinkhamer he went tramp shipping from Hamburg to the northernmost tip of the Gulf of Bothnia before travelling south through the Strait of Gibraltar to Gandia, a Spanish port city on the Mediterranean.

Jan Doms constructs, sketches, designs, researches, writes, directs and organises. His activities cover everything from the art of sculpture and drawing to performance, literature, architecture, urban planning and landscape and extend beyond borders. He delights in operating in the areas where the various art and design disciplines overlap, where excitement and adventure lie (quote from review).

Retrospectives of his sculptures and performances have been held at the Stedelijk Museum Roermond (NL | 1988 | 1990) and the Stadtmuseum Meissen - Dresden (D | 2000), under the flag of De Maatschap internationaal.

In 2009/2010 CASA Vertigo organised a retrospective exhibition in the Vertigo building, which houses the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at Eindhoven Technical University (TU/e).

In 2019, the Armenian Center for Contemporary Experimental Art in Yerevan (ACCEA / NPAK) organized an oeuvre exhibition (partly documentary) about my work, in which Jan Doms also collaborated intensively with young Armenian artists and architects.

### 1.1

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My company and I work with varying teams, depending on the nature of the current projects.

On the one hand, internationally oriented teams are composed for the multi-disciplinary art projects, consisting of composers, (electronic) musicians, dancers, actors, filmmakers, light animators and theater technicians for light and sound.

On the other hand, teams for the projects in the field of architecture and urban planning are composed, consisting of engineers, architects and constructors and we collaborate with specialized companies in the field of glass applications (Saint-Gobain), steel application (De Cromvoirtse) and engineering (Buitink Technology).

Jan Doms will basically represent the interests under this competition.

## 1.2

Over the years I have been able to realize various architectural and urban design. In this document I would like to point out some of the designs that are representative of my way of design and that are more or less related to this competition. For the rest I refer to the publications mentioned below in which various projects are described and illustrated in more detail and which I will upload.

a. Design and realization of the new production tower (height 52 meters) for dry mortar 'Maxima I' on behalf of Saint-Gobain Weber Beamix on the skyline of Eindhoven.



b. Design and realization of the temporary exhibition pavilion on the occasion of the restoration of the famous 17th star forest De Oude Warande in Tilburg. Commissioned by the Tilburg City Council in the context of the celebration of the annual National Parks Day. The exhibition showed the history of this national natural monument.



- c. Design and realization of the temporary glass pavilion in the form of a greenhouse in the garden of the Carthusian monastery as part of the International Glass Biennale Roermond.



- d. Design and realization of the extension of Luycks Gallery Tilburg with a project space for contemporary art, in the form of a glass railway wagon (12 meters long), exhibited here as part of an exhibition on structural sculpture in the polygonal hall in the redevelopment area De Spoorzone Tilburg (railway zone). The Municipality of Tilburg wants to purchase this object to articulate the walking route from the central station to the contemporary art museum 'De Pont'.

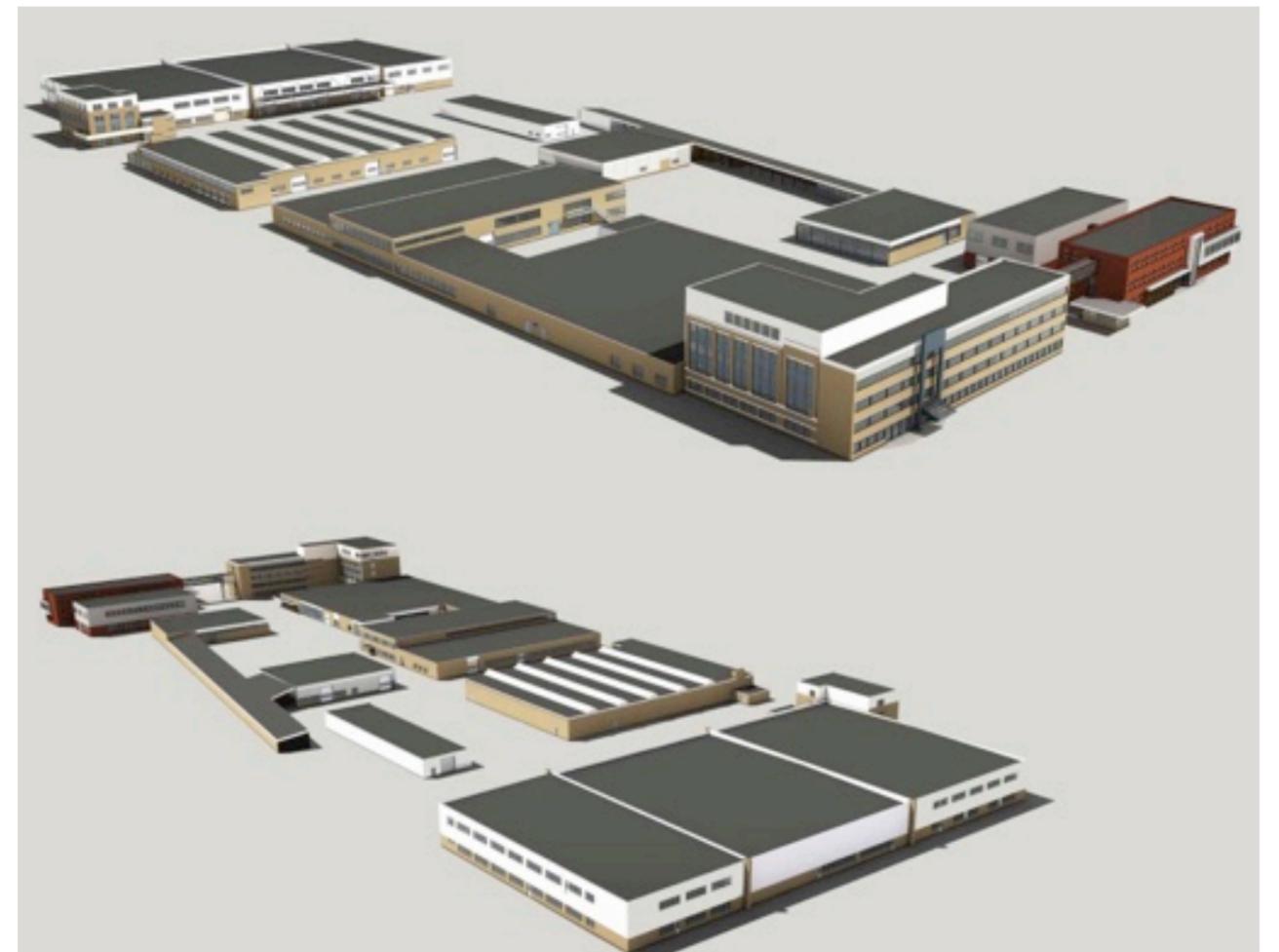




e. Researchproject urban development of the city of Lublin, Poland. This research and design project 'Cultural Strategy Lublin' in collaboration with the architect and urban planner Joanna Muzikowska mainly aimed at developing a tool (strategy) for interactive forms for urban development.



f. Redevelopment project of the former Stork Factories Eindhoven on behalf of the owner Stichting MERO. The plan to transform and further develop this industrial complex was designed in collaboration with the Bulgarian architect Olga Doreva and has since been transformed into a leading breeding ground for the creative industry. Currently, about 150 small businesses of artists, innovative producers, service providers and designers are housed, united in Section C.



### 1.3

Jan Doms was awarded the Tilburg Modern Industrial City Prize for his urban development activities in 2007 and the Cast Award in 2015 for the "solid and distinctive contribution to architecture and urbanism" (quote jury) he delivered in Tilburg, including the establishment of the Tilburg Center for Architecture and Urban Planning and the realization of FAXX, work center for contemporary visual arts and audio-visual media and De Vorst, theater for contemporary theater and dance.

He was nominated for the Dutch Steel Prize 1989 for the project 'Frost'.

Recently in 2018 he received the Belgian-Dutch Bernardine de Neeve Award for his innovative contribution to the application of glass in constructive sculpture and architecture.

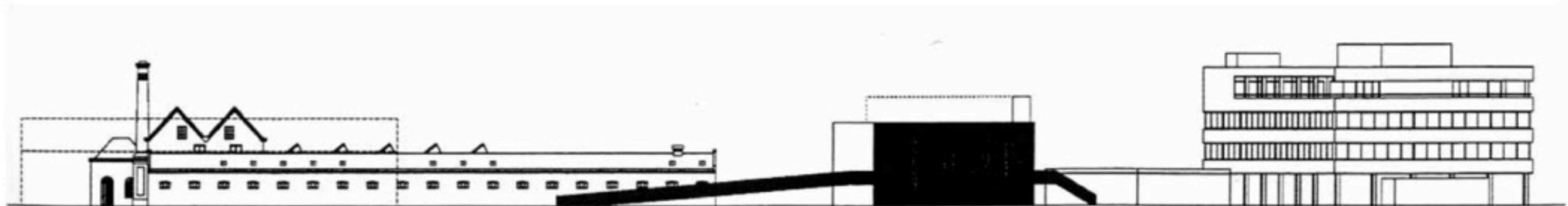
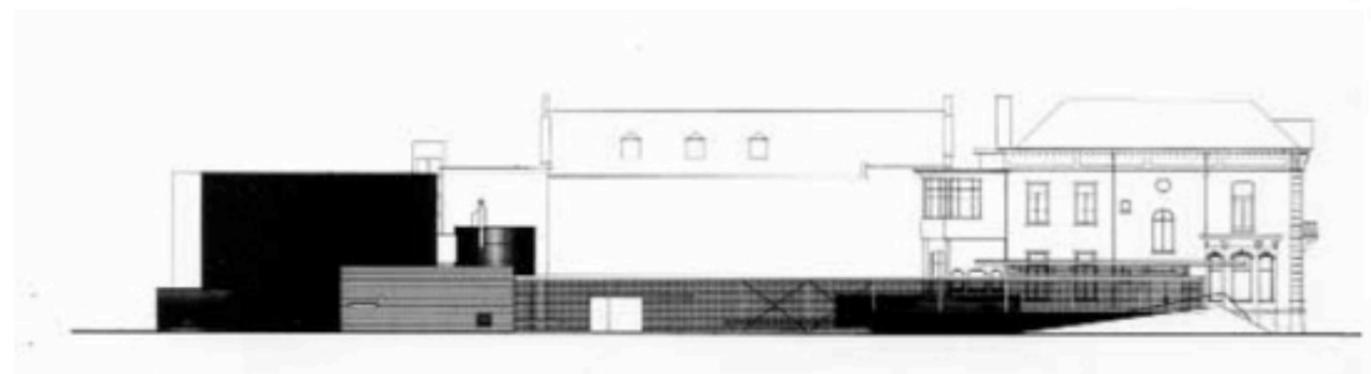


*Pictures*

right: Frost

below: drawing by FAXX for art and audio-visual media

right: drawing of theater De Vorst

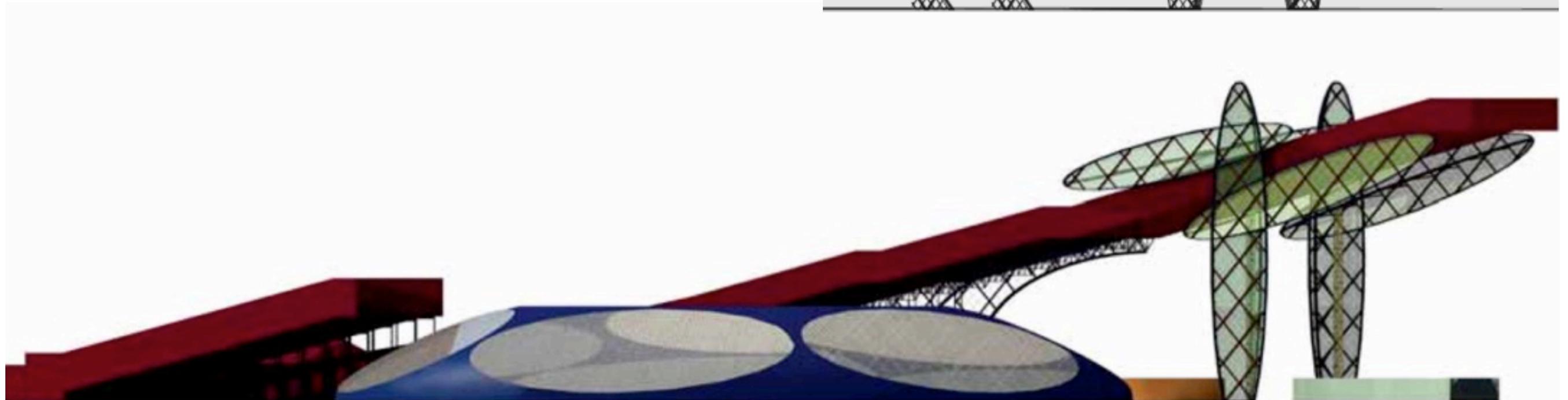
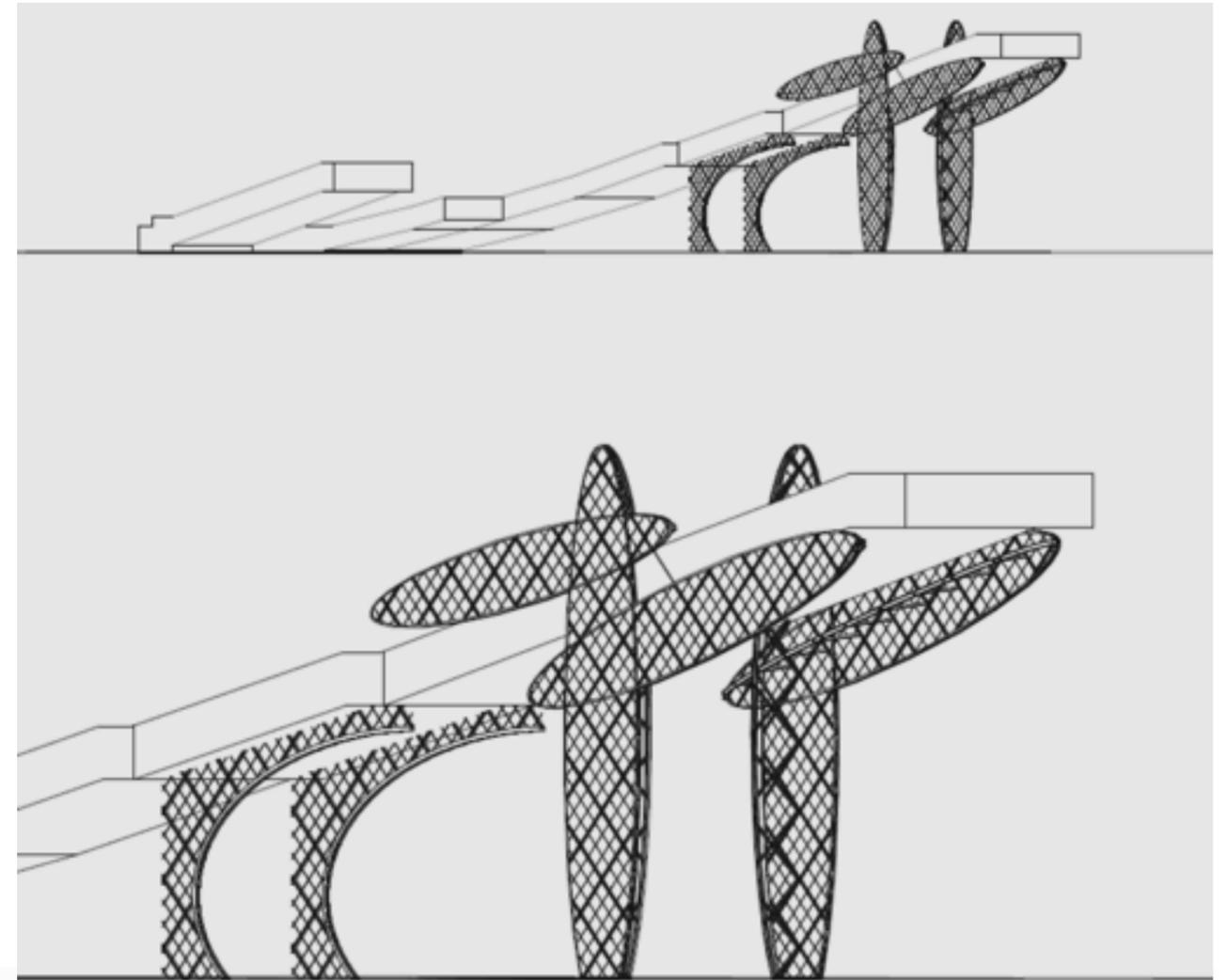


Very rarely does Jan Doms - LEF participate in competitions. To be honest, He only participated in such a competition once in his life and that was at the invitation of the municipality of Peer in Belgium, to design a sports campus with a ski slope (height 72 meter), a velodrome (olympic dimensions) and two sports pavilions, in competition with four other design agencies.

The reason for this special invitation as the only Dutch design agency was the design of the production tower Maxima I, which had just been completed. The other 4 design agencies were from Belgium.

The design of Jan Doms was rated highest by the city council, but the investor ultimately opted for a different design. A decision according to the old saying: "who pays, determines".

The basis for the special design of the supporting structure of the ski slope is the dragonfly common in the surrounding Flemish landscape, which was particularly appreciated by the local community. A new iconic image was seen in this design that would enhance the area's identity.



## 1.4

Last Monday I first saw your call to participate in the open international competition for recreational infrastructure elements Design in Friendship Park Gyumri.

Hrach Vardanyan (painter) and Avetik Vardanyan (architect) sent me a link to your competition site. So I didn't have much time to answer your call. In this case, making a film is not possible for me in this (too) short time to make the application.

But I can (will) send you a short animation film (made by the Bulgarian filmer Aspa Petrov) that shows very well how my work relates to the architectural and landscape environment.

It is a film about the temporary glass archi-sculpture 'Triangles' that I made on behalf of the Juan Miró Museum in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. The assignment was to create a pavilion-like large-scale object in the museum's sculpture garden that could connect and articulate the architecture of Moneo (designer of this museum) and the landscape sculpture garden with the sculptures of Juan Miró and a view of the sea.

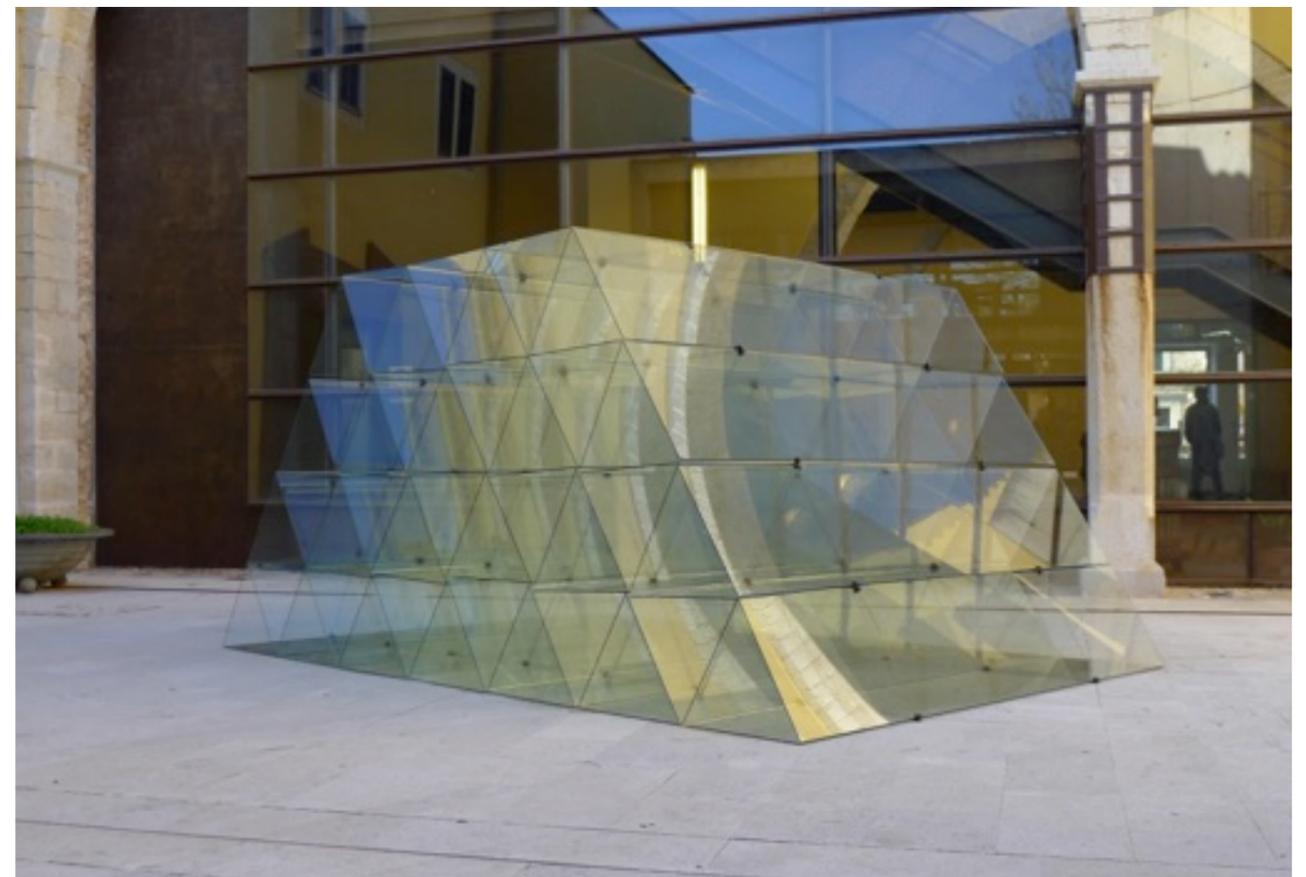
This project marked the beginning of a whole series of diverse archi-sculptures in Mallorca with the aim of reflecting and articulating the urban landscape historically and modern.

For instance the temporary archi-sculpture 'Ziggurat' was created in the inner court yard Casa de Cultura Can Gelabert in Binissalem, Mallorca, as part of the exhibition representing the best of the festival for visual arts 'IncArt' in which I participated.

### - The team

Due to the short time that I have been able to take note of this competition, I have not yet had the opportunity to put together a team for this. But I can name you two persons that I would like to involve. That is the Bulgarian young architect Olga Doreva and the Dutch engineer Ir. Philip van Boxtel. In the past I have already realized various architectural projects with both.

I would also like to work with one or more young Armenian architects whom I met during my stay in Armenia and who participated in the design and research workshops (laboratories) in Gyumri. I did not have contact with them about this matter yet.



**- The main values and principles of the approach of Jan Doms - LEF**

The most important aspect of Jan Doms - LEF's method of working is that for every assignment, prior thorough on-site research into the spatial, cultural and functional context forms the basis for the design process.

**- Application of (modern) principles in the context of the historic city.**

What I hate is historicizing design. That is in fact an expression of the designer's impotence. It is quite possible to involve historical motifs in architecture in the design process in an innovative and contemporary way.

**- Influence of the cultural context of Armenia**

If my work is appreciated by you and there is a continuation in the form of participation in the next round, it seems to me a special task to connect the urbanist achievements of the Netherlands with the lively urban landscape of Armenia, in this case Gyumri where the history of architecture and urban planning are so closely interwoven with the present.

I became fascinated after ACOSS (Artist in Residence Program Yerevan) and the City Research Center Gyumri, invited me for the first time 5 years ago to contribute to the urban development of Gyumri in Gyumri.

**1.5**

Signed Form of Consent to the Competition Rules (Annex 5).  
This form will be uploaded.

**1.6**

For me and LEF there is no connection whatsoever with the competition organization and jury. So I don't think there is a potential conflict of interest.