

## TRIMO URBAN CRASH COMPETITION 2011 – TASK

**TRIMO  
URBAN  
CRASH**

The Trimo company, with the support of the City of Ljubljana, traditionally runs a design competition for architecture students, under the title Trimo Urban Crash, in order to generate original solutions for new architectural installations using Trimo products.

Trimo will realise the winning project in cooperation with its author in the form of a permanent installation/structure on the chosen location. Each competition location and theme strives to answer, through an original architectural and urban solution, a specific issue that concerns the wider society at large.

This year's competition will focus on Fužine, Ljubljana's largest residential district, with the winning project again entrusted to local residents to take into permanent use and thereby serving a very real everyday purpose.

### Broader competition context – Revitalising bedroom communities – A pan-European topic

The tender is inspired by common pan-European topics and problems related to contemporary urban life:

- **Revitalising bedroom communities**; striving to alleviate the alienation of local residents; the faceless character of the urban space and its relative remoteness from the city centre.
- **Migration, integration and coexistence** of members of different cultures and nationalities in a limited space, which can all too assume the label "ghetto", owing to its newly-formed ethnic and social composition.

The story of Fužine is written from both standpoints. In the late 1970s, this large residential district was densely inhabited by a large number of residents, most of them originally from the (now former) Yugoslavian republics. Initially the infrastructure (stores, post offices, public transport etc.) could not keep up with the tempo of this new and quite sudden influx of immigrants. Due to a shortage of quality leisure time possibilities, young people started gathering in the streets and outdoor public spaces, and Fužine soon developed the reputation as a dangerous neighbourhood amongst the general public. The situation improved with certain developments in building and civil engineering solutions. Various playgrounds, courts and other sports facilities were erected in the vast green spaces in the southern part of the district. A promenade was created on the banks of the Ljubljanica river, as well as a number of bridges crossing it, connecting Fužine residents with residents of other nearby neighbourhoods. In the meantime Fužine grew to assume a part in Slovenian pop culture mythology.



A more detailed description of Fužine can be found in Appendix 1.

## Research among the Fužine residents

Students from the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana conducted research on the needs and wishes of residents and representatives of various organisations based in Fužine. The research constitutes the basis for this year's tender and represents both a cross-section and a convergence of the proposals and possibilities for their realisation in the course of this competition.

## THE LIFE STAND — Tender for Trimo Urban Crash 2010/2011 competition

With this year's competition, Trimo is looking for the best proposal for an object we've given the name **"The Life Stand."**

The location is an area on the southern perimeter of Fužine which represents a meeting point for Fužine residents and other city dwellers. The object is to be placed within an area for sport and leisure activities where contact is activated among and between the neighbourhood residents, the Ljubljanica river, the riverbank promenade, the old Fužine Mansion (today the Architecture Museum), and the surrounding museum parkland dating back to the 19th century.

The object's micro-location, set within the parameters of the location, is defined by the competition participants. The goal of this new installation is to connect the neighbourhood's inner rhythms and the pulse of the city of Ljubljana as a whole.

While as a project the Life Stand is small in size, it represents the creative response of an architect/designer to the social/cultural/ethnic challenges characteristic of diverse contemporary suburban bedroom communities in most larger European cities today.

## THE STAND — a meeting place for local residents (and the rest of Ljubljana as well)

Our new object offers the possibility of creative interpretation of the stories described above. As an urban symbol of a diverse community it will serve:

- firstly as a meeting place for all generations of Fužine residents, answering their needs and (leisure) habits with its (multi)functionality
- secondly as a contact point for locals and others, a point where different lifestyles and cultures meet and intertwine.

The Life Stand is a useful architecture, corresponding to many purposes and meanings. Its location places it among areas of diverse activities. It opens towards a basketball court on one side and to a football field on the other. Many cultural and festive activities take place on both these fields and in the green area surrounding them.

*The best known of them is the annual "Revive Fužine!" event, attended by all the locals and many more. In the process, the entire area is transformed into an open-air stage for dance and music performances, theatre, games and tournaments, children's games, and a place where the aromas of various regional kitchens and cultures mix.*

There is the possibility of the stand itself becoming a stage/scenographic element. It's a stair- or entry-way that acts as a theatre, inviting its surroundings to take the role of a stand. It's a place for the neighbourhood's collective cultural consciousness, where various social sets meet and mingle: residents among themselves, local residents with fellow Ljubljana residents, and all of them with amateur sport enthusiasts.

The stand might host a larger choir which can drown out the everyday noise and bustle of the neighbourhood's daily goings-on with song. It might play its part in the meeting of two lovers, or the place grandfather comes to play with his little granddaughter. It's a venue for events both sporting and cultural. It can be used day or night, rain or shine, throughout the seasons.

One of the most important aspects of the project is the stand's symbolic nature. With its role-activity, form and chosen micro-location, The Life Stand should represent the bud of Fužine. Its purpose far surpasses mere functionality – it is more than a stand.

Also highly important is the stand's safety criteria, which will represent a notable evaluation criteria, along with the project's originality and its realisation with Trimo materials.

## Materials

The installation should be designed and constructed from selected Trimo materials.

- Materials that can be used are:
  - Trimo steel constructions
  - Trimoterm fire-proof façade panels
  - Qbiss system
  - Aglas colour panels – for up to max. 30% of the object's surface
  - ArtMe technique – choosing a relief pattern of the façade envelope

The size of the outer template of the structure may reach 600 m<sup>3</sup> of volume and a maximum height of 6 m. The ratio of surfaces of the same volume (approx. 600 m<sup>3</sup>) may amount to a maximum of 1:7.

Location bases are a component part of the tendering documentation, namely: land surveys, photographic material, orthophoto material, templates of the surroundings (visible on the photographs).



Ljubljana, competition locations - current and previous

## Revitalizing neighbourhoods – theoretical approach to the Trimo Urban Crash 2010/2011 tender

Along with looking for a project that would best fit in Fužine neighbourhood, Trimo is also awarding the best theoretical approach to the tender.

Revitalizing residential neighbourhoods is an ever relevant topic. Throughout modern history these communities were faced with the challenges of decreased human interaction, migration and uniformity. In design and construction, the social aspect often comes secondary to the rational utilization of the (urban) space. Many communities serve merely as “bedrooms” for people who commute daily to their workplace and back; some of them without ever meeting a single neighbour.

Today’s communities call for modern forms of agora, a point of assembly where people are prompted to meet, interact and exchange news, ideas and opinions, thus creating a unique identity and feel of the community. The wellbeing of the visitors and the community as a whole is considered and encouraged through well thought-out design.

Participants are invited to present their ideas regarding architectural design in diverse contemporary (sub) urban bedroom communities, focusing on the role of public spaces and installations. The proposals can discuss the Fužine situation or reviving the residential neighbourhoods in general. The proposals are not restricted to the use of Trimo materials. However, challenging the materials and/or introducing new technologies or experimental design concepts is welcome.