WPA 2.0:
an open design competition for working public architecture
www.wpa2.aud.ucla.edu

organized and sponsored by cityLAB
www.cityLAB.aud.ucla.edu

Call for Submissions

JURY: Stan Allen, Cecil Balmond, Elizabeth Diller, Walter Hood, Thom Mayne, Marilyn Jordan Taylor
AWARDS: Over $30,000 in prize money to be awarded.

cityLAB, an urban think tank at UCLA's Department of Architecture and Urban Design, announces a call for entries to "WPA 2.0: Working Public Architecture." WPA 2.0 is an open competition that seeks innovative, implementable proposals to place infrastructure at the heart of rebuilding our cities during this next era of metropolitan recovery. WPA 2.0 recalls the Depression-era Works Projects Administration (1935-43), which built public buildings, parks, bridges, and roads across the nation as an investment in the future—one that has, in turn, become a lasting legacy. We encourage projects that explore the value of infrastructure not only as an engineering endeavor, but as a robust design opportunity to strengthen communities and revitalize cities. Unlike the previous era, the next generation of such projects will require surgical integration into the existing urban fabric, and will work by intentionally linking systems of points, lines and landscapes; hybridizing economies with ecologies; and overlapping architecture with planning. This notion of infrastructural systems is intentionally broad, including but not limited to parks, schools, open space, vehicle storage, sewers, roads, transportation, storm water, waste, food systems, recreation, local economies, 'green' infrastructure, fire prevention, markets, landfills, energy-generating facilities, cemeteries, and smart utilities (more examples are included in the 'Infrastructure Matrix' on the WPA 2.0 website).

In addition to the general competition, there is a special competition for students, which has the same objectives but has its own deadlines and requirements (see "Student Edition: WPA 2.0 SE").

Objectives and Priorities

Beyond the mere replacement of obsolete or overtaxed infrastructure, WPA 2.0 seeks design ideas that exploit the opportunity for such solutions to be leveraged, through nested scales of thinking, into strategies that catalyze a larger and more visible public benefit. In this respect, it is looking for proposals that put architecture back to work through designs that:

- are embedded with added value (multifunctionality, imageability, public presence),
- represent potential prototypes, adaptable for use in numerous locations,
- are locally self-regulated and controlled (i.e. which "unlock" the grid),
- strategically attract investment and/or generate community stability, and
- generate new sustainability practices.

Jury

Stan Allen. Principal, Stan Allen Architect; Dean, Princeton University.
Cecil Balmond. Deputy Chairman, Ove Arup and Partners; Cret Chair, University of
   Pennsylvania
Elizabeth Diller. Principal, Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Professor, Princeton University.
Walter Hood. Principal, Hood Design Urban Landscape + Site Architecture; Professor,
   Berkeley.
Thom Mayne. Principal, Morphosis; Professor, UCLA.
Marilyn Taylor. Partner, Skidmore Owings & Merrill; Dean, University of Pennsylvania.

About the Competition

Designers of all fields are eligible to submit for this competition, which is staged in two phases. Multi-disciplinary teams are particularly encouraged, in the belief that design invention comes from more integrated approaches to problem-solving--whether by applying new thinking to old problems, or old thinking to new ones--to yield visionary hybrid forms and relationships.

From the first stage submittals, up to six proposals will be selected by a jury of world-renowned design professionals to advance to a second stage. Each finalist team will receive $5,000 in order to develop its preliminary design in greater detail. Team representatives will travel to Los Angeles for a workshop in which they will present their proposals to and receive feedback from leading experts in fields relevant to infrastructure and urban redevelopment, such as policy, energy, infrastructure systems, urban agriculture, planning, market analysis and land use development.

The fully-developed proposals will be presented on Monday, November 16, 2009 at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. in a day-long symposium that includes jury members, nationally-recognized experts on infrastructure, and a selection of officials involved with recently-passed stimulus plans and their implementation.

The final projects, along with video from the workshops and symposium, jury commentary, and media coverage, will be featured in a web exhibition launched by cityLAB in February

2010. The proposals will also be featured as part of a larger coverage of the symposium in The Architect's Newspaper.

Stage 1: Request for Proposals

Proposals shall consist of a digital design sketchbook that outlines and illustrates your proposal's
- core premise and objectives (the problem you are addressing and how you intend to address it),
- inventiveness,
- design approach, developed at a conceptual level, and
- opportunities for implementation (qualities that are tangible and concrete, such as why or how it might be financed)

The proposal can be for a real or speculative project, for one or more real sites, so long as it is as yet unbuilt, and either located in the U.S. or applicable to U.S. sites. Further, the proposal need not be generated exclusively for this competition, provided that it addresses the intent of the competition. It may be the result of earlier research or the reworking of an unrealized project.

Submission Requirements

The sketchbook should include both visual and textual information, with pages formatted vertically 8.5" by 11": either in single sides or as double-page spreads. Its length must not exceed 10 sides. The digital file, in PDF format @ 300 dpi, should not exceed 10 MB. No identifying information should be included, as entries will be presented and judged anonymously. The presence of identifying information will be grounds for automatic disqualification. To identify submissions, each applicant will receive a registration number that must appear on the first page of the proposal, lower right corner.

Supplemental information may be included in a separate digital file of the same dimensions and format as the sketchbook, not to exceed 4 pages/sides and a total of 4 MB. Letters of support from those who might have a role in realizing the proposition, or can testify to its plausibility, would be useful here, as long as those letters are about the project itself, and not about the team or its ability to execute it. This additional file may also be used as an opportunity to allow entrants to give evidence of past projects, research, or publications that enable the jury to see how they think. In no case, however, may the file, (projects, letters, etc.) contain any information that might reveal the identity of any team members. Doing so will result in the disqualification of the entire submittal.

Stage 2: Design Development

Up to six finalists will be selected from the first phase submissions to advance to the second stage of the competition. Their proposals will be further developed and refined for

presentation and discussion at the November 16 symposium in Washington, D.C., at which the jury and national policymakers will be present to discuss them. Deliverables for the final submissions will center around the production of a roughly 10 minute digital animation sequence illustrating the project from differing vantage points and scales, as well as its strategy of implementation over time, if relevant. Other requirements, if any, will be determined in consultation with the finalists themselves (drawing types and scales, etc.).

A representative from each team will participate in a cityLAB-organized experts' workshop in Los Angeles during the second week of September. Winning entries will be announced at the symposium's conclusion, and up to two representatives from each team will be invited to share their work at a press conference on Capitol Hill the day after the symposium.

Dates and Deadlines

June 1st, 2009: Registration opens; Question & Answer Period opens (updated weekly)
July 24, 2009: Registration closes; Last day to submit questions
July 31, 2009: Final update posted to Questions and Answers
August 7, 2009: Digital Design Sketchbooks DUE (5 PM)
August 21, 2009: Finalists announced
September 11-12, 2009: Finalists in LA for Experts' Workshop
November 10, 2009: Phase 2 Submittals DUE
November 16, 2009: Symposium and Exhibition in Washington, DC
February 2010: Web exhibition launched

Student Edition: WPA 2.0 (SE)

A parallel competition, WPA 2.0 (SE), offers students the opportunity to take on the challenge of WPA 2.0. All programmatic intent is the same in WPA 2.0 (SE) as the regular competition but submission deadlines and requirements are altered to accommodate the academic schedule (see below).

Entrants to this portion of the competition, which comprises a single stage, may enter as individuals, independent teams, or through academic studios under the leadership of an instructor. The competition organizers energetically encourage participation among students, and are willing to work with studio instructors who wish to set WPA 2.0 (SE) problems for the Fall 2009 term.

Each student (or independent team) is required to submit one landscape-oriented 30" x 40" board in digital form. The student or student team will be assigned a registration number to affix to the board upon receipt of registration application and fee. Up to six WPA 2.0 (SE) submissions will be chosen to be exhibited in Washington, DC, and their authors will be invited to attend the symposium. At the symposium event, the jury will select a first prize

with a cash award of $500. All exhibited projects will be included in the cityLAB web exhibition.

Dates and Deadlines for WPA 2.0 (SE)

June 1st, 2009: Registration opens; Question & Answer Period opens (updated weekly)
September 28, 2009: Last day to submit questions
October 5, 2009: Final update posted to Questions and Answers
October 16, 2009: WPA 2.0 (SE) Student Registration closes
November 2, 2009: Student entries DUE (5 PM)
November 10, 2009: Student finalists announced
November 16, 2009: Symposium and Exhibition in Washington, DC
November 16, 2009: Student Prize Awarded
February 2010: Web exhibition launched

Registration

All teams must register by the official registration date utilizing the downloadable form on this website. Students and student teams should also use the same downloadable registration form, making sure to check the box "WPA 2.0 SE". (NOTE: Students are welcome to enter either competition, but cannot enter the same proposal to both).

Download the registration form at:
http://wpa2.aud.ucla.edu/inx/files/wpa2registration-locked2.doc

Registration fees for WPA 2.0 are $100 per professional team.
Registration fees for WPA 2.0 (SE) are $40 per student or independent team.

Checks should be made out to "Regents of the University of California" and mailed with registration forms to:

cityLAB
Department of Architecture and Urban Design
1317 Perloff Hall, Box 951467
University of California
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1467

All qualifying WPA 2.0 registration applications (form with check) must arrive before 5 pm PDT on July 24, 2009. Applications arriving after the deadline may be disqualified. Applications to WPA 2.0 SE must arrive to the same address by 5 PM PDT on October 16, 2009.

Upon receiving registration applications, cityLAB will issue each registrant a registration number, which must appear on the first page of the proposal or competition board (for WPA 2.0 SE) , in the lower right-hand corner.

Logistics

All submissions are non-returnable and all registration fees are non-refundable. Decisions regarding finalists and winners are at the discretion of the selected jury and cityLAB.

cityLAB and UCLA retain the right to use any and all submitted work for press, publication, and/or exhibition purposes. Copyright to the work is retained by the original author teams. It is the responsibility of all entrants to verify the viability and quality of their CD/DVD submittal and files. cityLAB will notify teams if their submissions are damaged or corrupt, but take no responsibility for loss or damage to files or mail. Please proofread, spell check, and test all files prior to final submission.

There is no maximum number of submissions that may be made by any one team or individual team member, however the same proposal may not be made to both the professional and student categories of the competition; doing so will result in the disqualification of BOTH submittals. Every submission must be individually registered, with fees paid. Members of the Board of Advisors and regular employees of cityLAB, their immediate family members, and competition jurors are ineligible to submit proposals to WPA 2.0 or WPA 2.0 (SE).

Submissions may be sent on DVRs to:

cityLAB
Department of Architecture and Urban Design
1317 Perloff Hall, Box 951467
University of California
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1467

Submissions may be emailed, using YouSendIt (http://wwww,yousendit.com) to transfer the files to hhiggins@ucla.edu.

Competition Sponsors
The Architect's Newspaper
UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture
Ziman Center for Real Estate Development
Sarah Jane Lind
The National Building Museum

CHECKLIST for SUBMISSIONS

WPA 2.0 - Stage I - Digital Design Sketchbook

Labeled CD/DVD or ftp upload with primary folder that includes the following pdfs:
     a. Design Sketchbook*
     (PDF formatted at 8.5x11 portrait orientation; 10 sides max; 10 MB max)
     b. Supplemental Information*
     (PDF formatted at 150 dpi, as 8.5x11 portrait orientation; 4 sides max; 4 MB max)
     c. Completed Registration Form including the Project Information section
     d. Registration number (either at lower right corner of first page in web submission,
     or CD/DVD labeled with registration number on both case and disk)

* Design Sketchbook and the Supplemental Information files shall not contain any information concerning the identity of the entrant/team.

WPA 2.0 (Student Edition)

Each student (or independent team) is required to submit a labeled CD/DVD, or ftp upload with a primary folder that includes:
     a. Presentation Board*
     (one landscape-oriented 30" x 40" board in digital form; 10 MB max)
     b. Registration Form, including the Project Information section
     c. Registration number (at lower right corner of board; registration number must
     also appear on digital folder label or on CD/DVD, both case and disk)

* Files shall not contain any information concerning the identity of the entrant/team.

Inquiries
email questions to hhiggins@ucla.edu