

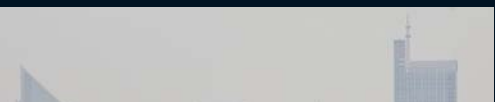


EDAW | AECOM

AN OPEN IDEAS STUDENT COMPETITION

URBANSOS

distressed cities, creative responses



US\$20,000 PRIZE MONEY



REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 15 MAY 2009



APPLY NOW: WWW.EDAW.COM/URBANSOS

World
Architecture
Festival
Barcelona
4-6 November
2009

Introduction

In an increasingly urban world, people across the globe are experiencing the opportunities and challenges that come with rapid urban growth and the evolution of cities. This includes many economic, social and cultural opportunities offered by urban areas, which often drive economic growth, and provide the cradle for social and cultural change. However, people in many urban areas face a range of challenges that affect quality of life, limit opportunities and perpetuate inequalities. These urban problems include:

- Environmental pollution
- Social disintegration
- Economic collapse
- Effects of global warming
- Impacts of natural disaster
- Ecological degradation
- Civil unrest

In many places, the benefits of urban growth are maximised and these challenges are mitigated through formal processes of regulation and positive city planning. However, alongside formal processes of city planning, formal urban development and planned investment, much urban change is the result of informal processes and the activity of individuals or initiative of communities. This informal activity operates at many scales, from the spontaneous development of large informal settlements, community-scale initiatives, to the activity of individuals. Often these informal processes are in response to the inability of formal structures to react appropriately or quickly enough to urban pressures and challenges.

As an idea-driven practice, EDAW AECOM has long nurtured the academic explorations that underpin the design and planning professions. The hallmark of this commitment has been our annual intern program. "It's the best thing we do," says CEO Joe Brown, FASLA. Since 1980, the program has had several iterations that give students from all over the world the opportunity to work on a real site, applying creative ideas, while building a social and ecological consciousness. The program has been awarded with the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) highest honor.

For 2009, EDAW once again innovates the program. We are sponsoring *Urban SOS: Distressed Cities, Creative Responses*, an open ideas competition. Why are we doing it? Our times call for it. We seek submissions that explore interventions required to stabilize challenged urban communities, anywhere worldwide. Responses should demonstrate a holistic approach to urban problems, should not be limited to design responses, and should focus on both formal and informal processes that can bring about change.

Open to currently enrolled students worldwide, the top four entrants/teams will be invited to present their proposals at the [World Architecture Festival](#) in Barcelona, in October, 2009, before an interdisciplinary jury. The winner will receive prize money equal to US\$20,000. Learn more about the program - the what, the how, and the why – in these pages.

Who

The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students at all levels of higher education in all countries of the world. Entrants must be enrolled in a certified programme at the time of registration. All members of the team must be enrolled students at the registration deadline (15 May 2009). Employees of AECOM (including EDAW AECOM) are not eligible.

- **Levels:** Bachelors, Masters, Ph.D. students.
- **Fields of Study:** Urban Planning, Urban Design, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Economics, Urban Geography, Sociology, Anthropology, Urban Studies, Environmental Studies, Engineering, Traffic Planning or related fields.

Submissions may be from individuals or teams of up to 4 members, and should reflect the multi-disciplinary issues identified in the brief.

What

EDAW is seeking submissions for its first sponsored competition, the EDAW Student Competition (ESC), in order to look at the range of interventions required to stabilise these challenged urban communities in an increasingly unstable and uncertain environment.

- What are the pressures/problems facing a specific urban site? How are these affected by global climate and sustainability issues?
- What are the creative solutions to address these problems, which may include greater public regulation, stimulating private investment, community-based action or voluntary sector initiatives?

Consistent with EDAW's approach, responses should demonstrate a holistic approach to tackling these urban problems, and should not be limited exclusively to design responses. Though much of EDAW's work is response to formal planning processes, for this competition responses should focus on both formal and informal processes that can bring about change.

For their identified location, Entrants should identify innovative and exemplary interventions which will positively engage with informal processes, stabilise communities and achieve lasting improvements in quality of life and opportunity. Responses should consider solutions that respond both to the way in which the site is managed or governed and also the physical issues of how it has been created or evolved.

Entrants will be considering substantive issues for which there is unlikely to be a perfect solution. Great challenges, however, deserve profound responses, and the judging panel will be looking for creative and insightful submissions that consider new ways of tackling these issues.

Judging Criteria

Responses will need to demonstrate:

- Multi-disciplinary approach, reflecting physical, social and organisational issues that affect the site
- Clear analysis of pressures and problems facing the selected site within its urban context
- Clear articulation of what the site needs to develop as a sustainable, enduring part of the urban fabric
- Innovative approaches to tackling urban challenges
- Relative degree of impact & deliverability
- Creative approaches to delivering urban solutions

Where

Geographical selection is open.

Entrants are required to identify an urban site or area of 5-100 hectares that is affected by specific urban challenges. In selecting an appropriate location, Entrants should consider social, physical, economic, demographic and environmental issues that affect the local community.

Locations may include, but are not limited to:

- Unplanned settlements
- Displaced communities
- Declining communities facing further economic uncertainty
- Sites suffering from longstanding environmental degradation or challenges
- Derelict and degraded urban sites
- Areas recovering from environmental disaster
- Excluded communities, such as economically disadvantaged, travellers, immigrants, homeless

When

March 2009	Competition Opens for registration
15 May 2009	Registration Deadline
31 July 2009	Submission Deadline
1 September 2009	Announcement of Semi-Finalists
4-6 November 2009	Presentation & Critique of Semi-Finalists' Submissions at the World Architecture Festival
6 November 2009	Announcement of Winner

How

Registration Requirements

Entrants will be required to complete the online registration form. This includes a short statement (maximum 500 words) that should include initial thoughts on the following:

1. Site selection: Entrants must identify a specific site, and provide the Google Map reference for it.
2. Overview of site issues, including identification of key environmental, design, economic, social and demographic issues as appropriate. A site plan must be provided that shows the existing conditions.
3. Introduction to intervention

Registration must be completed using the registration link on this website by 12pm GMT on 15 May 2009. Entrants will receive a confirmation that your registration has been accepted and a login and password. (Please retain confirmation for reference)

Main Submission Requirements

Maximum of two A0 boards (total of 1682mm x 2378mm). Boards must include images and/or text. There is no word limit, but font size must be no smaller than 12pt. All responses must be in English, with any measurements provided in metric.

Submissions must be in Adobe Acrobat PDF format (maximum of two files to be uploaded). Each file must be no larger than 5MB. File submissions must not include any identifying information about the Entrant, except for registration number.

Submissions must be uploaded using the submission link on this website by 12pm GMT on 31 July 2009. Entrants will receive a confirmation that the files have been uploaded. (Please retain confirmation for reference)

Semi-finalists' Submission Requirements

Four semi-finalist teams will be selected to develop their proposals further and invited to present their submissions to the final judging panel at the 2009 World Architecture Festival in Barcelona.

The semi-finalists will be announced on 1 September 2009, and each team will be assigned a professional EDAW mentor who will work with the team to further articulate its proposed interventions.

Each of these four teams will be provided with an honorarium to contribute to travel costs (amount varies depending on location of Entrants). At the World Architecture Festival, the semi-finalists will be invited to present their submissions in an appropriate format (presentation, video, display boards, model) to the judging panel). Further details on submission requirements will be provided to the semi-finalists.

Why

For three decades, EDAW's annual academic initiative has shaped and showcased emerging talent studying in the fields of design and planning. This is your opportunity to compete with the best young thinkers out there in the world of integrated place-making, and your work will come to the attention of the best professionals in the process. The experience will be challenging, exciting, and fun. The top four Entrants will get to travel to Barcelona to attend the World Architecture Festival in November 2009. And like we said, we'll throw in US\$20,000 for the winner.

This competition is about creative solutions for distressed cities. If you're passionate about solving complex problems; about improving the quality of the world's communities and environments; if you know what Garrett Eckbo meant when he said "people live in volumes, not planes;" then this competition is for you. It's your opportunity to get your voice into the conversation and get your hands onto the clay. Today's built and natural environments need creative, thoughtful ideas. If you have one, don't keep it to yourself.

Competition Terms

Registration

Registration requires submission of an online form, which includes identification of team members, site selection, rationale and submission of a site plan. Full details can be found in the 'How' section of the website.

Entry Fee

There is no entry fee for entering the EDAW Student Competition.

Schedule & Deadlines

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31 July 2009	Submission Deadline
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4-6 November 2009	Presentation and critique of Semi-finalists' submissions at World Architecture Festival
6 November 2009	Announcement of the Winner

Eligibility

The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students at all levels of higher education in all countries of the world. Entrants must be enrolled in a certified programme at the time of registration. All members of the team must be enrolled students at the registration deadline (15 May 2009). Employees of AECOM (including EDAW AECOM) are not eligible.

Semi-Finalist Mentoring

The semi-finalist teams will each be assigned a professional EDAW mentor who will work with the team to further articulate its proposed interventions. Guidance provided by the EDAW mentor will be solely related to challenging the development of the proposals and providing professional guidance. Participation of an EDAW mentor will not influence the judging and all work presented in the final critique must be solely of the Entrants' authorship.

Judging

The semi-finalists will be selected by a judging panel comprising representatives from EDAW and the Architecture Review.

The top 10 Entrants will receive special mention on the competition website. Four semi-finalists will be invited to present their work to the final judging panel at the World Architecture Festival.

The winning team will be determined by the final judging panel at the World Architecture Festival, comprising of international practitioners within and beyond EDAW.

Notification

All Entrants will be notified by email on 1 September 2009 when the semi-finalists are announced. The winning team will be announced at the World Architecture Festival on 6 November 2009.

Winner and Prizes

Each of the four semi-finalist teams will receive an honorarium to contribute to travel expenses related to attending the World Architecture Festival in Barcelona to present the team's submission. The semi-finalist honoraria are to contribute to expenses related to attendance and presentation at the World Architecture Festival only and cannot be exchanged for other prizes. In addition, each team will receive US\$500 to contribute to additional costs. No other costs or fees will be covered by EDAW or the sponsors.

The winning team (or teams) will receive a cash prize. The total prize money is valued at US\$20,000, which may be divided amongst one or more winning team.

Decisions made by the judging panel shall be final.

Number of Entries

Individuals may participate on only one team. Each team is permitted to enter only one submission.

Publication Restrictions

Entrants may not refer to projects that have already been implemented or which have been designed on the basis of any agreement entered into by the Entrant or Entrants with a public, public/private or fully private body with the intention of actual development of the project in question. Similarly, entries may not refer to projects published before the last day of the deliberations of the judging panel.

Infringement of Copyright and Other Intellectual Property

All work submitted for the ESC must be the Entrant's original work. It is the Entrant's sole responsibility to ensure that the work submitted does not infringe upon the intellectual property rights of any third party, including, but not limited to copyright, trademark and design right. EDAW shall not be responsible for Entrant's infringement of any third party intellectual property rights, regardless of whether said infringement was known or should have been known by Entrant.

Use of Submitted Works

Entrant agrees that EDAW|AECOM and ESC sponsors are granted the non-exclusive reproduction rights to all entries for EDAW|AECOM's advertising, promotion, exhibition, print publication and internet purposes directly relating to the ESC.

EDAW shall have no responsibility for any unauthorised use of the Entrant's works by any third party, including but not limited to the sponsors.

Public Announcement & Exhibition

All competition submissions, the winning proposals and all other submitted proposals, will be exhibited online. The exhibition will continue through the spring of 2010.

Further Information & Questions

All information required can be found on this website. If you have questions that cannot be answered online, please contact EDAW at urbansos@edaw.com.

About EDAW

EDAW is a multi-disciplinary practice which prides itself on robust, evidence-based responses to complex problems that are sensitive to local circumstances and community aspirations. This involves bringing together urban design, planning, economic, landscape architecture, sustainability and environmental responses to deliver practical solutions.

www.edaw.com
www.aecom.com