

## COMPETITION OF COMPETITIONS

### Redefining Briefs, Clients and Agents

by Storefront for Art and Architecture for the AAAI! \*

Throughout history, competitions have constructed a relationship of servitude between architects and the structures of economic, politic and cultural power.

The competition brief has served as the initial document for the manifestation of desires either through programmatic, economic or formal needs. Often, the role of the architect has been reduced to answer a question that someone else has asked. In exceptional occasions, the architect's ability to reinvent and produce new desires has occurred in the form of rebellion against the brief. In an act of bravura, architects have broken the rules, driven by the pure belief that the real needs were contained outside of the given principles.

Given competitions operate in a confined space for experimentation, they have perpetuated and sometimes repeated ad nauseam a series of programmatic and social needs – from Museums to Concert Halls - without actually asking what needs of society architecture should aspire to serve.

This competition claims that the true desires of our present society are outside of the current taxonomy of competition briefs and that architects should be participants in the construction of the questions they are asked to answer.

If a competition is the articulation of society's desires in space, what new desires should we consider? What underrepresented spaces or individuals need to be explored? What are the questions of our time that we should be asking to architects, urban planners and policy makers to redefine the way in which we build our cities and territories? And, what are the agents, authorities or organizations from which the competitions should be promoted?

The intention of "The Competition of Competitions" is to provide and deliver new and relevant forms of engagement and content to the economic, politic and social systems that currently act as the voice of authority for the development of our cities. "Competition of Competitions" asks architects, artists, economists, philosophers, writers, and citizens at large to create interdisciplinary teams to formulate the questions of our time and define the agents that should pursue the task to ask and commission the visions for the future in the form of a competition brief.

We encourage participants to rethink the format, content and agent/s that constitute the basis for the way competitions and commissions are organized.

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\* "Association Against Architectural Irrelevance!" is a fictional association still to be founded that defends the role of architects in contemporary society.

## SITE

This is a conceptually based bureaucratic competition. The scales or sites of operation that each submission might choose to engage has no limits and should be specified by each participant in the brief.

## DELIVERABLES: How to write your brief

Each entry will be able to define the necessary elements for the articulation of the competition brief. Each submission should not be longer than 10 one-sided pages, including text, images and/or drawings.

The following points summarize the general parameters to be addressed throughout the brief. When not applicable or appropriate, applicants might decide to respond differently to the following requirements.

1. **Title:** List the title and, if desired, subtitle of the competition.
2. **Political Agent:** Describe the individual, corporation, organization or collective (real or fictional) in charge of organizing or commissioning the proposed competition. Please provide the CV or mission statement of the organizing entity or individual.
3. **User-Subject:** Describe the individual, corporation, organization or collective (real or fictional) to whom the competition brief is addressed.
4. **What:** State a general description of the competition. This might include, but is not limited to, ideological, programmatic, material or formal principles.
5. **Scale:** Delimit the competition site (physical or conceptual)
6. **Deliverables:** Enumerate the necessary documents to be produced to establish a proper judgment of the future possible entries.
7. **Temporality:** List the start date, deadline, phases, schedule, etc.
8. **Economics:** Outline the prize[s] and budgetary constraints, if any.
9. **Rules/Laws:** State the competition rules. Briefs might respond to current laws or might assume the creation of new laws, rules or regulations of existing or fictional governing authorities. Submissions should specify the applicable rules the brief needs to obey.
10. **Eligibility:** State entrant's eligibility. Requirements for entry need to specify who can and cannot participate. Please, specify conflicts of interests or any other policies applicable.
11. **Jury members:** Indicate individual names or generic categories with brief descriptions.
12. **Evaluation guidelines:** Indicate the criteria used to evaluate the entries.
13. **Questions:** Establish formats of communication between the organizing entity and the entrants.
14. **Registration:** Define the protocols of subscription and entry.

# Storefront for Art and Architecture

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[www.storefrontnews.org](http://www.storefrontnews.org)



**15. Anonymity:** Address the notion of authorship, recognition and identity by identifying the mode in which authors might or might not be identified.

**All entries must be submitted online through a link provided after registration and via e-mail by sending a PDF of no more than 10 pages to [coc@storefrontnews.org](mailto:coc@storefrontnews.org) by August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at midnight.**

## **SCHEDULE**

Competition launch: February 22<sup>nd</sup>

Early Registration: March 22<sup>nd</sup> [50USD]

Late Registration from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup> [100USD]

Relevant Questions: Answers will be published periodically

Final Submissions: August 30<sup>th</sup>

Announcement of Winning Entries: Fall 2013 TBD

## **AWARDS/PRIZE**

First Prize 2,000 USD

Second Prize 1,000 USD

Third Prize 500 USD

7 Honorable Mentions

Storefront Special Prize

The jury will select 10 projects (3 Prizes and 7 Honorable Mentions) and a Storefront Special Prize: "The Competition of Competitions of Competitions Prize." All selected projects will be publicized and given support to reach the pertinent agents and authorities.

The Special Storefront Prize "Competition of Competitions of Competitions" will be awarded to a Competition Brief that resonates with Storefront's mission. The recipients of the Special Storefront Prize will be commissioned to organize and run the submitted competition as part of the 2014 Storefront for Art and Architecture program calendar.

## **RULES**

1. All submissions should be sent in English. Please, provide translation footnotes if native language is deemed necessary at points within the submission.
2. There is no limit to the number of submissions a given organization, team, or individual may submit, but each submission must be registered separately and be accompanied by a unique Identification Number and separate registration fee payment.

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3. No entrant shall receive or be entitled to receive any payment as a result of a submission or for granting the promoters any right here in or associated with the competition except an award pursuant to the rules herein.
4. All registration fees [50usd for early registration and 100usd for late registration) are non-refundable and nontransferable.
5. Ineligible participants include any staff or directives of SFAA (Storefront for Art and Architecture) or of AAAI [Association Against Architecture irrelevance], any jury members and direct employees or relatives.
6. Storefront for Art and Architecture has the right to publish without prior consent all materials submitted to this competition.
7. Submissions shall not be published or made public until a final decision by the jury is made public.
8. By entering the Competition, any and all entrants, and where applicable, their predecessors, successors, assigns, heirs, officers, directors, attorneys, agents, affiliates, parents, subsidiaries, employees, shareholders, and any other person or entity similarly situated, agree in full to these Rules and Brief.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

1. All submitting teams must be formed by at least 2 people (real or fictional).
2. Each submitting team must have at least two people from the following disciplines: economy, philosophy, architecture, anthropology or art history.
3. Additional team members from other disciplines, ways of life and expertise are encouraged.

## **JURY**

The decision of the jury shall be final and binding on all parties, and no disputes shall be entertained.

The jury might declare the competition deserted and reject any and all proposals received in response to this competition.

The jury might waive or modify any irregularities in proposals received or any other aspect of this competition.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Difficulty: Originality, innovation and risk.
- Style: Thoroughness, clarity and consistency.

## **QUESTIONS**

All questions should be e-mailed to COC@storefrontnews.org. Relevant

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questions and answers will be posted on the “Competition of Competitions” web page found on the [www.storefrontnews.org](http://www.storefrontnews.org) periodically.

## **REGISTRATION**

Competitors are required to register their intention to enter. This registration must be received by August 15, 2013 before midnight, by sending the registration form [Annex 1] to [COC@storefrontnews.org](mailto:COC@storefrontnews.org), which includes a \$100 registration fee payable in advance via PayPal. Projects will not be juried without valid registration. Upon receipt of payment and registration form, each entrant will be emailed further instructions and a unique Identification Code which must be used to identify the project on each page of the submission.

## **ANONIMITY**

Competitors must not communicate with the jury about the competition in any way until a public announcement of the winners is made.

ARCHITECTURE  
ALLY URGENT