

Architecture is Competition

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ARCHITECTURE IS COMPETITION.

Student competitions, professional competitions, open competitions, single stage, multi-stage, ideas competitions, international competitions, local contests, invited competitions, nominations, RFQ's, RFP's, peer-reviews, fellowships, awards, grants...we are always competing.

As competition entrants, advisers to students, jurors, and organizers, our small, two-person studio has been involved in over 40 architectural design competitions in the past fifteen years.

To us, competitions are a framework for architectural education, practice, and advocacy. We believe competitions:

EVEN THE PLAYING FIELD

Competitions are an opportunity to reach a broader audience, in anonymity, detached from name, gender, school prestige, nationality, personal brand, or architectural lineage.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL NARRATIVES

Competitions are a venue for research, speculation, and discovery. They allow us to question our reality, offer a way to explore beyond established boundaries and functional constraints. Competitions serve as a platform to envision the future.

EXPOSE US TO NEW PROBLEM FIELDS

Architecture can be hyper-specialized. Competitions permit exploration of new topic areas and typologies not confronted in daily practice.

BUILD NEW COMPETENCIES

Participating in competitions facilitates learning. They are safe places to test drive advanced software, practice new tools of representation, and gain exposure to industry best practices.

ACCELERATE THINKING

Short timeframes necessitate a charette approach, require a clear point of view, focus efforts toward big ideas, and hone time management skills. Competitions build tacit knowledge and design-muscle memory.

EMPOWER ARCHITECTS

Competitions are space for recovering our voice as designers in a deconstructing, fragmented discipline and allow us to reclaim participation in the genesis of ideas.

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COMPETITORS

9/11 Memorial *Phase II Finalist, Exhibition 2003*
ACSA Pavilion *Finalist, Exhibition 2018*
Chicago Prize “Urban Water Tanks” *Selected for Exhibition 2005*
C2C Home *Selected for Exhibition 2004*
Green Tent *First Place, Exhibition 2004*
History Channel’s “City of the Future” *IBM Engineering Innovation Award, Exhibition 2006*
McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum Sculpture *Phase II Finalist, Exhibition 2005*
New Orleans Sustainable Housing Design Competition *Notable Entry Award 2006*
Olympic Landmark for Paris 2012 *Notable Entry Award, Exhibition 2004*
The Shining Maze *Finalist 2015*

Architecture for Humanity & Nike “Community Center” 2010
Architecture for Humanity “Siyathemba Youth Sports Facility” 2004
Architecture for Humanity “Youth Sports Facilities for Africa” 2008
Calgary Artcity 2006
Cheogna City Tower Design 2008
Dwell Playhaus 2011
Flight 93 National Memorial 2005
Jardins de Metis International Garden Festival 2008
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Portland Housing Competition 2007
Ragdale Ring 2016
Re:Vision Dallas 2009
Rio City Tower 2009
Tsunami Memorial 2005

ORGANIZERS / CURATORS

Building Voices *Competition & Exhibit 2017*
Building Voices “Honolulu Connects” *Competition & Exhibit 2018*
Burnham Prize “Next Stop” *Competition & Exhibit 2013*
Chicago Prize “Future Prentice” *Competition & Exhibit 2012*
Currencies of Architecture *Exhibit 2015*
Emerging Visions *Competition & Exhibit 2014*

ACADEMIC ADVISORS

ACSA/AISC Steel Student Design Competition *HM 2010*
Building Voices *Second Place, Third Place, HM, HM, Citation, Citation, Citation 2017*
ComEd Student Design Challenge *First Place 2012*
Metal Construction Association Student Design Competition *Third Place, HM 2006*
SOFA Design-Build Installation 2014
SOFA Design-Build Installation 2015

JURORS

AIA Houston Design Awards 2007
Art Institute of Chicago, Schiff Foundation Fellowship 2011
ASLA Hawai’i Design Awards 2018
Black Spectacles “The Un-Competition Project” 2012
Building Voices “Honolulu Connects” 2018
Chicago Architectural Club “Emerging Visions” 2014
University of Hawai’i “Ala Wai Challenge” 2017
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign “Green Re-scheme” 2010