

1999-2000 ACSA/Otis Elevator
International Student Design Competition
URBAN HOUSING PLUS - Integrated Urban Development Solutions

A competition sponsored by the
Otis Elevator Company
and directed by the
Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture
1735 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006 USA

Throughout the course of modern urban development, one hallmark of a thriving urban core has been the existence of stable residential areas in proximity to the downtown commercial, civic, and cultural centers. Flourishing cities have retained a rich residential mix of generations and incomes, in part because of policies and amenities that have kept the city attractive to them, as well as the existence of diverse and readily available housing integrated with the urban infrastructure.

The mutual dependence among residents, businesses, and their civic and cultural institutions is a central fact that binds them into cohesive communities. Without this close connection, disposable income migrates away from the central core, depriving the city center of necessary resources and resulting in an ultimately unsustainable quality of life. At the same time, housing created independently of supporting infrastructure often lacks essential services, leading to untenable communities disconnected from the previously existing socio-economic network. As a consequence, in many cities, real communities disappear, leaving a city devoid of social cohesion in their place. On the other hand, vibrant urban centers have housing opportunities for people of all incomes and land use plans that facilitate employment, education, culture, recreation, public transportation, and retail.

With this in mind the competition calls for a housing design that takes into account the competing interests of any urban setting: integrated land use, optimum density, compatibility with existing infrastructure, environmental impact, affordability, contextual appropriateness, preservation, and above all, social need. The underlying theme of the competition calls for a solution that actively engages the social and economic context of its urban setting; in short, a design that redefines the aspirations of your city.

The competition will challenge students from all regions of the world to propose urban development schemes integrating mid-rise housing (five stories and taller) within an existing urban infrastructure, emphasizing mixed-use potential and the socio-economic and physical needs of the resident population in the students' region. Design solutions that look at master planning as well as the development of specific plan elements are encouraged (though not required); this may take the form of two-tiered programs over the course of one or two semesters, or a more integrated exploitation of multi-disciplinary teamwork.

The competition calls for the integration of new mid-rise housing and ancillary facilities for approximately 1,000 residents into an historic or redeveloping urban setting of the contestant's choosing, adapting and/or augmenting the existing service infrastructure. Depending on the site selected by each participant, the design could comprise a combination of open space, reconstruction/rehabilitation of existing buildings, and new construction.

In developing the design, students must specifically address the following issues:

- responsiveness to the socio-economic and physical needs of a high-density resident population;

SCHE DULE

13
March
2000

Deadline for receipt of registrations by ACSA (there is **no fee** for registration).

14 April
2000

Deadline for receipt of entries in Washington, DC.

April
2000

Finalists and honorable mentions chosen at the initial jury in Washington, DC.

10
June
2000

Final presentation and announcement of winning entries at the ACSA International Conference in Hong Kong.

Autumn
2000

Publication of catalog of winning projects.

There is **no entry fee** to participate in the competition.

REGISTRATION

All information and materials needed to successfully participate in the competition are available from this web site.

Faculty who wish to enroll all or part of their studio classes must complete a copy of the **registration form** and return it to ACSA before 13 March 2000. One form only should be used to register all students working under one sponsor, with each student participant listed individually by name. Students or teams who wish to enter the competition on their own must have a faculty sponsor, who should complete the form. There is no entry or submission fee required to participate in the competition.

Upon registration the architecture faculty sponsor will receive a package of Otis resource pamphlets. **Please note that due to the number of entries, ACSA is not able to otherwise acknowledge receipt of registrations;** please keep a copy of your registration for your records as verification.

FACULTY

The administration of the competition at each school is left to the discretion of the faculty sponsor(s), within the guidelines set forth in this program document. Work on the competition may be structured over the course of one or two semesters during 1999 or early 2000 terms.

RESPONSIBILITY

EVALUATION

Each faculty sponsor is expected to develop a system to evaluate the work of his/her students, using the criteria set forth in this program. The evaluation process should be an integral part of the design process, encouraging students to scrutinize their work in a manner similar to that of the jury.

CRITERIA

The final result of the design process will be a submission of up to four presentation boards describing the design solution (see requirements below). In addressing the specific issues of the design challenge, submissions must clearly demonstrate the design solution's response to the following requirements:

1. Connection to the community infrastructure, including the integration of ancillary facilities for residents (such as shops, markets, daycare, offices, etc.), the potential for mixed-use development (residential/commercial/institutional), and contextual response to the most significant aspects of the surrounding urban fabric.
2. Accommodation of a demographically diverse population within a project of appropriate urban density. Submissions should present an integrated design solution for a discrete population of approximately 1,000 residents; the solution's applicability for larger populations may be included within the presentation as part of a larger urban master plan.
3. The crafting of public and semi-public circulation and socialization spaces, both within the project and in relationship to the adjoining urban context. The elegant and creative use of Otis transportation technology, from both technical, social, and aesthetic points of view, may figure prominently in this regard.
4. Constructive adaptation of new/rehabilitated housing and infrastructure to the existing development trends within the participants' selected site. Design solutions should demonstrate a clear understanding of and position on the particular nature of current urban development in their region (i.e., the developing world, the "post-industrial" world, etc.)

Projects must also demonstrate evidence of multi-disciplinary investigation in response to the specific criteria listed above (see "Collaborative Process" above). Team entries have generally resulted in the most successful fulfillment of this requirement, and student participants and faculty sponsors are encouraged to promote team

SCHEDULE

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|---------------------|---|
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| Autumn
2000 | Publication of catalog of winning projects and other selected entries. |

QUESTIONS

All information and materials needed to successfully participate in the competition are contained in this program document. Additional questions should be addressed to:

ACSA/Otis Elevator Company Student Design Competition
Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture
1735 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006 USA

Telephone: 202-785-2324
Facsimile: 202-628-0448
email: [Beth Young](mailto:Beth.Young@acsa.org)

IMPORTANT

NOTES

Entries cannot and will not be returned to participants under any circumstances.

Upon receipt they become the property of ACSA. Students submitting original material for this competition should ensure that they have adequate reproductions before sending their work. (See above under "presentation Format" for the return of electronic submissions.)

Otis Elevator Company and ACSA reserve the right to publish drawings, written descriptions, and photographs of entries, and the names of student entrants, without compensation.

Otis Elevator Company is the world's largest company in the manufacture and service of elevators and escalators. Now in its 146th year of operation, Otis employs more than 65,000 people around the globe. It is a subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation, based in Hartford, Connecticut, USA. United Technologies provides a broad range of products and support services to the aerospace, building systems, and automotive industries.

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture is a non-profit organization founded in 1912 to enhance the quality of architectural education. ACSA now represents over 4,500 faculty members in 122 member schools in the United States and Canada, as well as over 120 affiliate member schools worldwide.