2021 Design Awards

Rochester Designers Unleashed: Ideas Competition
Call for Entries

Sponsored by Finger Lakes Community College

In collaboration with The Emerging Rochester Architects (ERA), AIA Rochester is pleased to announce the 2021 Rochester Designers Unleashed: Architectural Ideas Competition. This competition is intended to showcase the talents of young designers in our community, test the limits of what is achievable in our built environment, and inspire new solutions to the design and development issues we currently face.

Eligibility and Rules:
The competition is open to students, unlicensed architectural interns, architects licensed 10 years or less at the time of submission and interior designers, who live, work, or go to school in the Rochester area, or are associated with firms who elect to be a part of the AIA Rochester jurisdiction. The Rochester area is defined as the geographic region served by AIA Rochester, which includes Monroe, Wayne, Livingston, Ontario, Yates, Allegany, and Seneca counties. All submissions will be judged as a stand-alone category by the same jury that will be reviewing the Design Awards submissions. Participants may register as individuals, or in teams of up to four. All team submissions must clearly identify all team members. Each submission shall contain one design solution; multiple solutions must be registered as separate submissions with separate entry fees. Submissions shall not have been published in, or received honors or awards from, any previous competition, whether printed, online, or otherwise. Participants give AIA Rochester and ERA permission to reproduce their submission without restriction and acknowledge that no royalties shall be payable by AIA Rochester, ERA, or any other sponsors for use of the submission entry materials. Except where specifically called for in the submission package, entries must be submitted without identifying marks, including logos, texts, insignia, or images on the display surface that could be used to identify the submission’s author(s). Participants certify that all identifying information provided with their submission is true, that they are sole owner of the materials identified in the submission, that each submitted entry is an original work, and that neither these materials nor the permission granted hereby infringes upon the ownership, copyright, trademark, or rights of others. Participants agree not to discuss details of their competition designs and/or entries with any of the judges directly whatsoever. In addition to the submission presentation all entries must include a digital 36”x36” board layout. Submission templates will be provided by AIA Rochester upon completion of entry form and paid fee.

Competition Brief:
The 2021 Rochester Designers Unleashed: Architectural Ideas Competition challenges participants to take an actual site available for development in the city of Rochester and unleash their ideas upon it, without mercy or recourse, showcasing its full architectural and design potential. For the purposes of this ideas competition we will draw on Rochester’s reputation as an international music and cultural festival destination. One goal of these festivals is to promote tourism and bringing outsiders to downtown. Lodging for out of towners is often relegated to hotels or short-term private rentals, as such, they are limited in their capacity. Festivals in rural or undeveloped areas that draw massive crowds rely on options for onsite tent/ car-side/ RV camping, or catered upscale glamping. In order to adapt this concept to urban spaces, the challenge for this competition will be to design a mobile, modular structure that has a version capable of housing 2 people on a site of 30’x15’, and a version capable of housing 4 people on a site of 30’x30’. Both versions shall not occupy more than 50% of each site area. The structures shall be designed to be deployed during festivals throughout downtown and the Greater Rochester area, into empty parking lots, and open spaces throughout the city in clustered campgrounds near the festival locations. Visitors will rent them for the duration of an event. Separate sanitary and dining facilities to be provided in support of each cluster are outside the scope of this competition. Repeat commercial rental of structures will finance construction.
Post festival, shelters shall be designed to be stored in mass and to be easily transportable between event sites. The intention is also that structures can be deployed in emergency humanitarian situations as shelters for natural disaster, or to address issues with homelessness.

All components for a cluster should be able to be broken down and packed into a standard 40’ ISO High Cube Shipping Container, (8’W-9.5’H-35’L available internal space) shipping container – 5’ of length should be reserved for support utilities equipment and assembly tools.

For the purposes of this competition, entrants shall design a full cluster of modular structures, comprised of (6) 2 person units and (1) 4 person unit. See site boundary plan attached.

**Submissions for this competition should push the limits of design in Rochester. By pushing those boundaries in the setting of a competition we may find that the bar is raised for built architecture in the city.**

**Program Requirements:**
Design one 2-person structure and one 4-person structure to fit within bounds of the site plan utilizing a single modular system.
Designs shall address the following:

- Natural daylighting and passive ventilation for comfortable three season use.
- Insulation and being capable of being heated from outside utility source for use during winter.
- Design to identify type of heating and hookup point/utility required.
- Total modular components for a cluster consisting of (6) 2-person structures, and (1) 4-person structure shall fit within 8’W-9.5’H-35’L storage space. Reserve 5’ of length for support utilities equipment and assembly tools.
- Sanitary facilities to be provided by others not in scope.
- Dining/food prep facilities to be provided by others not in scope.
- Structures must be securable.
- Structures must be durable and easily cleanable post occupancy.
- Structures should be universally accessible.
- Preference should be given to naturally renewable, or recycled materials and products.
- Identify as a part of your submission a site suitable for locating a cluster of structures within the confines of the City of Rochester, and lay out the required site plot within this site. Take natural site factors into account when siting structures.

Design Goals:

- Create a modular construction scheme that is adaptable to multiple structure types.
- Design a comfortable, clean, and dignified temporary housing environment.
- Address program requirements from a standpoint of long-term sustainability and net zero energy usage.
- Structures should be exemplary examples of Architectural Design.

Requirements:

- Site plan, to scale, identifying a real site, showing required site boundaries (see attached cluster site plan), and locating a cluster of modular structures identifying type of each.
- Architectural drawings (Plans, Elevations, Sections...), to scale, that convey modular system, design of both 2 and 4 person structures and demonstrate how the submission meets the program requirements and design goals. Note critical dimensions on drawings.
- 3d Axon/ perspective of cluster in situ.
- Graphic description of materials utilized.
- Storage plan showing cluster components fit within storage limits.
- Graphic description of utilities and services both integrated to structure and what is to be provided separately.
- A power point conforming to AIA Rochester Design Awards criteria (template to be provided).
- A 36”x 36” digital board layout.
- Complete registration form and fee.

The purpose of an ideas competition is to discover solutions that have not yet been thought of, so use the parameters set forth as a framework to develop your project. If challenging the premise of the design problem makes for a better project then it will be taken into consideration by the judges.
Site Profile:
Site to be determined by entrant. Must be able to fit one Layout cluster at a minimum maintaining required fire lanes. (see plan below)