



2008-Second Annual Design Competition for Architectural and Theatre Students

The Architectural Commission of the United States Institute for Theater & Technology

Theatres are the most complex buildings that we design and construct. They are three dimensional puzzles with complex building systems, complex theatre equipment, ridge functional requirements, special acoustical needs and strong architectural character. All of these conditions must merge within narrow parameters to create a successful performance venue.

Competition Goal

Open communication between the theatre users and theatre designers is critical. This competition poses the design question, "What is the ideal theatre for teaching professional theatre"? This question is to be explored and answered by a "Team" composed of theatre students currently enrolled in a college or university theatre program and architectural students enrolled in an accredited school of architecture.

Each team member has a defined responsibility. The theatre students will act as the "Client" and the architectural students as the "Designer". The "Client" is responsible to teach the "Designer" about the workings and artistry of Theatre! The solution MUST be the result of a "Conversation" between the "Client" and "Designer". History proves the most successful theatre design solutions take into account all aspects and needs of theatre production, artist presentation and audience interaction.

The Problem Statement

Your college has been given a gift of \$20 million to construct a new Center for the Performing Arts. The new Center must reflect your department's educational goals and the technological needs for your area of theatre specialty. The audience chamber can be between 400 to 600 seats. The layout is to be defined by your program's performance specialty. Additional front and back of house will be defined by the "Client" to meet the department needs. The Center will be a free standing building on your college campus.

Competition Rules

1. The Design submission must be the results of a "Team" effort between currently enrolled college/university students of theatre and architecture.
2. "Team" is defined as at least two individuals: one student of architecture and one student of theatre. There is no limit to the number of members on a team.
3. A single theatre "Client" can be a "Client" to multiple "Designers."
4. The design submission must include documentation of the theatre design AND of the design process between "Client" and "Designer."

Competition Schedule

1. Beginning August 27, 2007: Competition documents are available.
2. October 17, 2007: Questions on the competition are DUE
3. October 30, 2007: Intent to enter the competition is DUE
4. January 16, 2008: Competition entries DUE by 5:00 p.m., CST
5. Early February 2008: The Professional Jury will make selection of the 3 Finalists
6. End of February 2008: Finalists will be notified by e-mail
7. Friday, March 21, 2008: Judging and selection of the Winning Team, by the Architectural Commission

Submissions to be sent to:

USITT Competition:
Scott F. Georgeson, AIA,
HGA Architects, 333 East Erie Street,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53202
414.278.8200

Awards

Three "Team" Finalists will be selected to present their design solution and process to the USITT Architectural Commission in Houston, Texas, at the USITT Annual Convention, March 21, 2008. A First Place Winner will be selected at the Architectural Commission Student Design Competition Session.

The three Finalists will each be awarded \$1000.00 (one thousand dollars) to assist in travel to Houston.

The First Place Team will be awarded an additional \$500.00 (five hundred dollars).

All submissions will be displayed by the Architectural Commission at the 2008 USITT Convention.

Merit Awards may be given at the discretion of the Professional Jury or Architectural Commission.

Professional Jury

Architect, Joseph Valerio FAIA, Valerio Dewalt Train Associates

Acoustician, R. Lawrence Kirkegaard, FASA, Kirkegaard Associates

Theatre Consultant, Robert Shook, ASTC, SchulerShook Theatre Consultants

The entries will be judged on:

- Meeting the "Client's" program statement
- Understanding of the workings of the Performing Arts
- The "Team's" design process
- Design Innovation

For Additional Information:

E-mail requests for competition brief to: Studentcompetition@theatrearchitect.net, Subject line: USITT Competition.

Web site: www.USITT.org
Go to the Architectural Commission page

The Competition is brought to you by the generous support of:

TBA

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