Expressions of interest are sought for the design of a future Australian city 2050+ that explores the creative potential of architecture for inclusion in the Australian Pavilion at the 2010 Venice Architecture Biennale.

BACKGROUND

The Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition is arguably the most important international architectural event. Thousands of the world’s most influential architects, designers, urban planners, and critics visit the Biennale, with considerable discussion and commentary in the architectural press and general media as a direct result.

Australian architecture will take its place at this gathering and the Australian Institute of Architects, through its Creative Directors and the Venice Biennale Committee, is focused on making this event the high point of the Australian architectural calendar.

The 2008 Australian exhibition continues to generate significant regional interest, and a smaller ‘highlights’ version of the original exhibition has been shown in Sydney, Melbourne, Bangkok, and is scheduled shortly for Singapore and KL. Following on the success of the 2008 exhibition, finalists for the 2010 Architecture Biennale can anticipate their work will be afforded the widest possible national and international exposure.

Now And When

This year’s exhibition will showcase Australian architectural thinking and culture focusing on Australian urbanism. Directors, Ivan Rijavec and John Gollings have conceived NOW AND WHEN Australian Urbanism, as a fully immersive visceral experience that will be conveyed in spectacular digital stereoscopic images.

NOW will focus on prototypical urban narratives that apply to Australian Urbanism as a whole. The three urban topographies of Sydney, Surfers Paradise and Melbourne balanced with the sparse aridity of the outback mining towns of South and West Australia. The diversity of Australian urban typology including sprawl, inner urban fine grain, urban ocean interfaces and CBD’s will set the scene.

WHEN will constitute stereoscopic imaging of urban futures inspired by a nationwide competition. Set in the distant future, 2050 and beyond, WHEN will free participants from the tedium of current urban debate, that is currently gridlocked between the planning regulation, resident protest groups and developers, and defaults to a function of economic and political expediency, diminishing the massive creative potential of architecture in the process.

WHEN will encourage architecture’s capacity as an urban art, animating the future in super real stereoscopic images that will inspire. It will be exhibited as a cyberspace of urban conjecture that dares to imagine Australian cities beyond 2050; WHEN will stimulate urban debate promoting architects as the leaders in the Australian urban debate.
The Exhibition

Two stereo screens mounted back to back at the rear and separating the upper and lower exhibition spaces of the Venice pavilion will be the focus of the installation. Screen “Now” will be on the upper level and screen “When” will be on the lower level. An urban themed black and white geometric matrix will be projected on the walls, floors and ceilings of the upper and lower galleries leading to two stereo screens. This has been conjured to lend an intensity to this immersive experience focusing attention on the two stereo screens where the captivating digital performance will loop in three minute cycles fully apprehending the attention span of its exhibition saturated audience, in a compact energised experience.
Urban transformation in Australia 2050 and beyond will be driven as much by political and economic imperatives as they will be by technology and design. Entrants may therefore incorporate cultural theorists, economists and anthropologists in their teams along with planners, landscape architects, engineers etc. as they see fit. Ideas will be promoted over aesthetic mastery nevertheless entrants should exploit the creative potential of architecture noting the visual emphasis of the exhibition on 3D visualisations.

EOI submissions should encompass ideas that apply to the city as a whole rather than infill or minor precincts, addressing the fundamental problems of Australian Urbanism as defined by the participants. Participants will be required to project the current issues of density, sustainability and the effects of global warming to 2050 and beyond nominating the date in which their conjectures will be set.

Submissions should also address urban theatrical propositions that embody projections of Australian culture 2050 and beyond. How will our ocean-urban interfaces change, how will our sprawl be densified, will our historic overlay precincts survive densification, how will the role of our cities develop in the matrix of world urbanism. Submissions should address answers to questions such as these and the nature of our inevitable cultural transformation; what will we become and how will our cities accommodate this?

Though written explanations will be included in the exhibition catalogue, the 3D presentations submitted will need to be didactic, i.e. the graphic representations will be required to be self explicit, readable without text such that intentions will be graphically legible as projections or pictures. Expressions of interest are sought for the design of a future Australian city 2050 + that explores the creative potential of architecture and has a strong theoretical basis. There is no requirement to use cities featured in Now for your submission.
Stage 1
Two A4 pages comprising the project team, a brief description of the idea and an illustration, i.e. as distinct from a design.

This first stage is required to be submitted in electronic format only. It is due by **12pm (noon) AEDST on 30th November 2009**, and should be emailed to nowandwhen@raia.com.au or cd/dvd posted to:

NOW AND WHEN eoi
Australian Institute of Architects
PO Box 3373 Manuka ACT 2603

The Creative Directors may wish to undertake phone interviews with prospective teams, if required this will take place from 7-10 December 2009. The successful shortlist will be notified by 18 December 2009.

Submitted materials must be in a commonly accessible format, or as specified above. The Institute accepts no responsibility for not being able to decipher material submitted in an unusual format.

Stage 2
The successful short list will then have until 28 February 2010 to provide the following:

1. Final draft of written submission comprising 500 words that may be incorporated into the exhibition and catalogue
2. Digital CAD files on CD, in any of the following formats; Autocad, 3D Max, Archicad, Rhino

Autodesk will be providing free trial software to assist those shortlisted in developing their submission during Stage 2.
Selection Process

Selection of proposals will be undertaken by the Creative Directors, John Gollings and Ivan Rijavec.

Selection Criteria

- The strength of the idea, i.e. accepting that we are also citizens of a global village and our sense of place has been displaced by the tele-technologies of television, video fax and modem, the idea’s architectural inventiveness and vision in the anticipation of developments in technology and culture.
- Demonstrated or rationalized capacity and/or experience of teams to complete the three stage process. Proposals will be required to have a highly developed 3D visual component which is visually strong and readily comprehensible.
- The Intellectual rigor of the argument for the future.

Intellectual Property

- Each team will make available its intellectual property to the Institute to the extent it is necessary for the exhibition.
- Each team grants to the Institute, a non exclusive, royalty free, worldwide license to use, reproduce and communicate the participant’s intellectual property made available for the term of the exhibition and thereafter.

Contact

For further information and questions regarding the EOI and subsequent stages of the submission please refer to web page www.architecture.com.au/nowandwhen or contact:

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