

9th OISTAT THEATRE ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION 2015

Introduction

The OISTAT Theatre Architecture Competition is an international ideas competition, aimed at students and emerging practitioners, which is organised every four years by the Architecture Commission of OISTAT (International Organisation of Scenographers, Technicians and Theatre Architects). The next competition will be generously supported by and exhibited at the *Stage, Set, Scenery* conference and exhibition organised by the DTHG (German OISTAT Centre) in Berlin from 9-11 June 2015. Selected entries will be exhibited and cash prizes awarded.

Competition Theme

The theme for the competition will be the design of a floating theatre to be moored at a particular location on the river Spree in Berlin, Germany, but capable of being moved to other sites on the river.

The floating theatre will provide a performance space for an audience of 200-300 people and backstage accommodation for a cast of no more than 20 performers. Facilities for the audience, such as foyer space, toilets and refreshment areas will be located on the land and will be temporary and easily moved to another location, when required.

There is increasing interest amongst theatre practitioners in the use of temporary site specific locations to present particular productions. These settings can often provide a unique atmosphere, which resonates with a particular production or style of presentation, in a way which may not be possible in a conventional theatre.

These are the themes to be explored in this competition.

Competitors are asked to design a theatre for a particular performance, which will be defined by the competitor. This may be a conventional performance or something more experimental. We wish to encourage a deeper understanding of the relationship between the performance itself and the space which it inhabits. Collaborations between architects and other theatre practitioners such as directors, designers, technicians, actors, dancers, musicians, or students in those fields, will be welcomed.

The Site

The site for the competition is on the north-east bank of the river Spree in Berlin in an area known as the 'Holzmarkt' or 'wood market'.

This part of the river Spree was the boundary between East and West Berlin during the years of the Berlin Wall and as a result became an undeveloped 'no man's land'. Since the wall was demolished after unification in 1989 the area has developed slowly with a number of large new corporate buildings further to the east. In recent years the 'Holzmarkt' site, which sits between the river and a railway line, has been occupied by a co-operative who have erected a number of low cost temporary buildings and structures and use the site as a place for young Berliners to enjoy the river, to eat and drink and to hold cultural events and parties. The co-operative have recently won a bid for the development of the site with the support of a Swiss sustainable pension fund. On the opposite bank of the river is the 'Eisfabrik' a derelict 19thC ice-making factory and a squatters' camp site. This is therefore an 'alternative' kind of place in a state of transition.

In the words of the co-operative:

The Holzmarkt is the center of the neighbourhood – physically and spiritually, the market, the creative village, the club and the restaurant invite, surprise, inspire and entertain. Artists, artisans, musicians and hedonists create with and for each other.

This is an ideas competition and there is no intention to build the winning entry but prize winners will have the opportunity to visit and participate in the *Stage, Set, Scenery* conference and exhibition in Berlin.

The following drawings and photographs of the site are provided:

Location Plan
Site Plan (.dwg)
Site photos sheets 1-3

A 3D CAD model of the area will also be made available shortly

Key Issues

Successful performance spaces have some very particular requirements, which you are expected to understand and explore in order to create an environment in which the unique interaction between audience, artists and technology, which constitutes a live performance, can flourish. Some key issues to be considered are set out below:

Audience Cohesion

The way in which an audience is arranged, in relation to the performance, plays a key role in creating a successful atmosphere where audiences feel engaged by the performance and performers can communicate well with them. To achieve this the audience must be as close as possible to the performance and be able to see and hear well.

Sightlines

To see well the audience must be arranged so they can all see the performance. Not only must their view be free of obstructions, but they must also be sufficiently close to the performers to distinguish their gestures and appreciate the scenic or architectural space they occupy.

Acoustics

Good hearing is as important as good seeing. Different performance types require different acoustic conditions to be best appreciated.

Technical Requirements

Most performances rely upon some form of stage technology to facilitate them. This includes scenery, lighting, projection, sound and mechanical systems, which are used to move scenery or reconfigure the room. Provision for these systems needs to be integrated into the architecture and must be accessible and safe to use.

Interpretation

The style and type of performance and the way it uses a particular space to interpret a particular piece or to tell a story.

The Purpose

You must state what type of performance(s) the design will be used for. Establishing a clear link between the performance and the architecture is a key aim of the competition. Drawings of the theatre space should show it in use for a performance.

Accommodation

The size of the theatre space and other accommodation will be constrained by the site but the following requirements need to be considered:

- A space for a live performance with an audience of 200-300 either sitting or standing.
- Facilities for the audience, including toilets and the sale of tickets, food and drink.
- Provision for technical installations for the performance (lighting, sound, mechanical systems).
- Backstage accommodation for up to 20 performers.
- Provision for delivery and setting up of scenery and equipment.
- Other facilities appropriate to the type of venue or performance proposed (workshops, rehearsal space, offices, plant).
- Provision for safe evacuation of all occupants in an emergency.
- Good access for people with disabilities

Competition Rules and Conditions

1. The Architecture Commission of OISTAT (the International Organisation of Scenographers, Theatre Technicians and Theatre Architects) is promoting an international ideas competition in a single stage, open to architects and students of schools of architecture. Collaborations between architects and other theatre practitioners such as directors, designers, technicians, actors, dancers, musicians, or students in those fields, will be welcomed, although it is not an essential requirement. Architects or students associated with members of the jury are not permitted to enter.

2. Documents to be Submitted

2.1 Drawing requirements

- a Plans of each level, at least two sections and important elevations to a scale of not less than 1/200.
- b three-dimensional images of the building and the theatre space.
- c Auditorium studies showing it in use for a performance or performances.
- d Site plan to a scale of 1/1000
- e Models cannot be accepted, although photographs of models can be included.
- f Drawings and text documents must not carry any means of identifying the entrant(s) apart from the code number referred to in para 2.2 (c) below.

2.2 Competition entries may only be submitted electronically. Every entry shall comprise an electronic copy of the following:

- a A single panel at AO size (841x1189mm) in vertical (portrait) format, submitted in pdf format at 300 dpi resolution). The document will be

identified by the six figure code (e.g. 123456/dwg.pdf)

- b A short written description of the project, the performance(s) to be housed and an explanation of the design concept (maximum 200 words). The text will be incorporated on the panels but will also submitted separately as an A4 size Word document. The document will be identified by the six figure code (e.g. 123456/text.doc)
- c Both the drawing and text documents are to be identified by a code of six numbers to be chosen at random by the competitor(s), 10mm high, appearing in the top right hand corner of each document.
- d A completed entry form in Word format, including the same code no. as in para 2.2 (c) above. The entry form can be downloaded from the website.
- e All text is to be in English.

2.3 This is an ideas competition and there is no intention that the winning entry will be built.

2.4 Entries will not be returned by OISTAT. Competitors should retain copies of their work.

3. Competition Schedule

3.1 The competition documents and conditions will be available from 13 October 2014 on the OISTAT Website: www.oistat.org

3.2 Questions can be sent by email to archcom@oistat.org
Questions should be written in English and must be received no later than 17 November 2014.

3.3 The answers to the questions will be posted on the Website from 24 November 2014.

3.4 Competition entries are to be uploaded electronically to the OISTAT website. Entries must be received on or before 27 March 2015. Late entries will be disqualified.

3.5 The entry fee for the competition is €50 per entry. Competitors will pay via pay pal on the website. Entries submitted without an entry fee will not be considered.

3.6 All entries will be handled by a third party and the jury will not know the origin of the entries.

4. Prizes

4.1. The first prize will be €5,000, the second prize will be €2,500 and the third prize will be €1,000. There will be three additional prizes of €500 each. In addition to these prizes, there will be honourable mentions. The jury reserves the right to modify the distribution of prize money, within the same total amount and number of prizes.

4.2 The results of the competition will be announced on the OISTAT website on 1 May 2015. Prizes will be presented at the *Stage, Set, Scenery* conference in Berlin in June 2015 and paid electronically to those unable to attend, after the prize-giving.

5. Publication

5.1 The competition entries will become the property of OISTAT and may be published and exhibited in any country at the discretion of OISTAT.

5.2 OISTAT will respect and acknowledge the copyright of the participants.

6. Acceptance of Conditions

6.1 By submitting an entry, participants or participating teams will:

a agree to the rules and regulations as set out in this programme.

b declare that the proposed design is their own work.

c agree to accept the decisions of the jury as final.

d agree not disclose their identities or publicise their entry in any way before the results are announced. Any breach of this rule will render the entry invalid.

7. Jury

7.1 The international jury will consist of 4 architects from different continents, plus one other experienced theatre practitioner.

7.2. In case of the absence of a juror, OISTAT will assign another qualified person as a member of the jury.

7.3 The jury will produce a report explaining the reasons for its decisions and commenting on the prize-winning and honourably mentioned entries.

7.4. The report of the jury will be published on the OISTAT website.

7.5 The jury will select at least 25 entries for an exhibition at the *Stage, Set, Scenery* conference and exhibition in June 2015.

7.6. An electronic brochure illustrating at least 25 entries will be published and will be available at the *Stage, Set, Scenery* conference and exhibition and will be available to download from the OISTAT website.

7.7 OISTAT will offer the results of the competition to the press (publications covering theatre design and architecture)