



Construction Industry
Round Table

Celebrating 30 Years



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

CHICAGO
ARCHITECTURE
CENTER

CIRT National Design & Construction Competition

2020 Competition Packet
cirtcompetition.org

“Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.”

– **Winston Churchill**, Statesman, scholar, author,
WWII British Prime Minister

**A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT WITH THE
ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF AMERICA
AND
CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER**

About the Competition

The 2020 CIRT National Design & Construction Competition invites ACE Mentor Affiliate teams (student and mentors) from across the country to design solutions for one of three challenges: water resource management, a national pavilion, and a gastronomic center.

The competition is maintained, coordinated and juried by the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT), in coordination with ACE Mentor National and the Chicago Architecture Center. The 2020 theme celebrates the innovations and contributions the design and construction community make to the quality of American life, while understanding the issues and challenges the industry faces to deliver on this legacy.

The true goal of the competition is to judge student ability to make a reasoned, coherent, well thought out and clear presentation on their team's design and construction approaches within the project's objectives and/or constraints.

Eligibility

To be eligible to compete, applicant must be a participating ACE Mentor Program student and enter with a team of three or more students and ACE Affiliate(s).

Teams

Any ACE Mentor Affiliate/Chapter can volunteer to participate in the Competition. Teams must be comprised of three or more students. The intent is to encourage group dynamics requiring assignments, compromise, and/or consensus building.

CIRT strongly requests and recommends that Affiliates with more than one team consider submitting entries in the different challenges rather than multiple entries in the same category. It would greatly increase the value of the competition and improve the odds of having one of the teams among the recognized entries.

Competition Timeline

September 25, 2019	Competition Announced
January 6, 2020	Submission platform open
March 3, 2020	Final submissions due
March 18, 2020	Finalists notified/Preliminary Results Announced
April 6, 2020	Finalists required to have made lodging arrangements in Washington, D.C.
April 27, 2020	Finalist Presentations in Washington, D.C.

Project Deadline

All work must be submitted to the competition portal at CIRTcompetition.org by 11:50pm CST on March 3, 2020 to qualify for jury review. The CIRT National Design & Construction Competition is free to enter. See Project Submission section for more details.

Winners + Prizes

A professional jury will review eligible entries in the preliminary round. Then top finalists will compete for first, second or third place in the Final Round in Washington, D.C. Winning teams, on behalf of their Affiliates, will receive a monetary award that can be used for any purpose to support the operations, programs, grants, and/or needs of the Affiliate.

First Place Team	\$5,000 + stipend for travel expenses
Second Place Team	\$3,000 + stipend for travel expenses
Third Place Team	\$2,000 + stipend for travel expenses
Runner-Up Teams	Additional prizes

Competition Schedule & Awards

The annual competition is announced in the early fall and officially begins in January concluding with a presentation round, which is usually held in late April or early May, where the winner(s) will be selected and announced. CIRT will present prizes for the top three national finalists, plus prizes for runner-ups, in addition to providing a travel expense stipend (approximately \$1,000 per team) to put towards the costs associated with attending the final round as the Affiliate/Chapter best determines.

Challenges

Water Resource Management and Preservation

Water: the life sustaining precious resource that also has importance to commerce, connectivity, and community. Water can also be an unpredictable force of nature, capable of destroying or wiping out structures, terrain, buildings, and lives. How we manage, harness, preserve, and use this vital element relies greatly on ingenious design AND construction solutions. This project option calls upon the teams to delve into the challenge of water resource management through use of dams, locks, levies, canals, grading, and reservoirs, etc. Critical to success: focusing on dams and other water infrastructure, either propose a new solution entirely or renovate/replace – restore an existing facility/system. No matter new, renewed, or updated -- to take on this challenge you *must* demonstrate: (1) the importance of your site selection [before vs. after site development], (2) why is it critical to undertake your plans, (3) how use of materials/construction adds value, (4) balance of functionality and design, (5) environmental impacts, security, and construction approaches, and (6) lay-out the solutions as well as provide a cost estimate (per foot) to address the needs that are realistic and doable for the resources/financial support likely available in the locale. Due to the likely displacement and logistical problems this project will create in a community, the proposal **MUST** include the precise CONSTRUCTION steps, stages, demolition, and remedies for these problems.

National Pavilion

The mission of this competition is to create an iconic landmark that reflects, symbolizes, and captures in design and construction materials, methods, and standards the U.S. in the 21st century (for 2020) reflecting its diversity, technological strengths, and security needs. This entry must connect between our history, our present, and our potential future – to display or capture in the “built environment” (including structures, landscaping, building materials, techniques, and overall presentation) the essence of being an American – and all its vitality and freedom. The proposal must determine the size of the undertaking (both in terms of structures, land use, and access) [Provide before vs. after site development]; as well as provide a CONSTRUCTION timeline and per/sq. foot estimate of the cost of delivering the project. [The cost estimates must be realistic and doable for the resources/financial support likely available]. The winning pavilion should strive to be a catalyst for the promotion of U.S. tourism, investment, business excellence, and a showcase for the quality of life found in the United States.

Gastronomic Center

With the rise of interest, variety, and educational need, the objective of this project challenge is for the teams to create a space for cultural exchange through gastronomy. In this spirit, the entry should develop using construction materials and approaches that will provide space for chefs from all around the world to exchange knowledge and share their experiences, techniques, styles, foods, cooking methods (stoves/grills, etc.), in order to promote gastronomic education and exchange, while providing for their own personal and professional enrichment – and that of students or studio audiences (onsite and TV). Your entry *must* demonstrate: (1) the reason for your site selection, (2) how use of materials/construction address the challenge, (3) balance of functionality and design to achieve the project goals, and (4) provide a cost estimate (per foot) to accomplish the needs in a realistic and doable way consistent with the resources/financial support likely available in the locale. [The proposal **MUST** also include the precise CONSTRUCTION steps, stages, and remedies for this challenge].

The project options for the CIRT Design Competition may have been derived from actual competitions that are underway or have been recently completed. The information furnished has been edited and/or modified so as to meet the needs and form the basis of the CIRT competition.

Project Submission

All work must be submitted to the competition portal at CIRTcompetition.org by 11:50pm CST on March 3, 2020 in order to qualify for jury review.

Submission Requirements

Teams must submit 1-2 digital presentation boards for their chosen challenge (up to 2 single page/image files). All final submissions must be uploaded as a JPG or PDF to the competition platform at CIRTcompetition.org.

A brief written explanation describing the context and thinking behind the scheme should be included on the board(s). Photographs (of the site, 3D model, etc.), drawings, photograph of physical models, or exported views of your 3D digital model can be scanned/uploaded to include on the displays. No specific drawings or scales are prescribed, but the presentation must convey the ideas underlying the design, its overall forms and spaces, its character and atmosphere. A narrative addressing the design process should be on or presented as part of the boards.

Multi-page proposals, slideshows, or presentations will not be accepted. Supporting text documents may not be reviewed by the jury; all content must be on the competition board.

Finalist Board Submissions

Teams selected as finalists are required to create physical boards from their digital submissions, to be printed and mounted on 1 or 2 boards for the final presentation round, to be held in conjunction with a national conference in Washington, DC. Boards must be:

- a maximum of two, approximately 841mm x 594mm
- mounted on A1 lightweight boards.

These physical boards **MUST BE IDENTICAL** to the digital ones submitted in March to be evaluated during the presentation round for the finalists.

Local printing options include:

ABC Imaging	ARC
1120 20 th Street, NW	8245 Boone Blvd.
Suite 102-103	Vienna, VA 22182
Washington, DC 20036	
703/848-2997	703/893-0335(o), 703/893-0336 (f)
www.abcimaging.com	www.e-arc.com

Additional details about boards, printing, travel and the final presentation round will be sent to finalist teams in April 2020.

Jury Criteria

The judges are looking for overall clarity, understandability, constructability, completeness, flow of ideas and how the proposed solution realistically and fully meets the precise elements of the challenge. Submissions should be clear, concise, complete and well thought out with sufficient information to stand independently from any written narrative or report. Teams must demonstrate their use of the design AND construction process.

Design Process

Jurors will carefully consider your submission concepts, renderings, etc. in addition to how you address the following components of the process:

Question A:

Define and/or describe the problems and challenges you faced when deciding on the project you chose to do for the competition.

Question B:

Thoroughly describe your design process, in writing and through visuals (e.g., sketches, renderings, stepped process, before and after, budgets, timelines, workflow, etc.) that specifically and realistically meets the precise or exact nature of the challenge and/or the client goals/needs.

Question C:

Explain how your approach is an appropriate, innovative solution that realistically responds to the precise project challenges (including use of material/construction methods, etc.). Explain how your entry is different from other approaches or processes, meets budgetary constraints, timeline issues or other construction challenges.

Question D:

Describe any social, ecological or otherwise beneficial qualities of your design solution. For example, is it a universal design? How so? Is it environmentally friendly? Does it use cost-effective or recyclable materials?

Question E:

Describe and/or demonstrate what you learned from this competition.

Design & Construction Evaluation Criteria

The following design and construction aspects will be jury evaluation criteria, and should be explained where appropriate:

- site selection and its context (built and/or natural)
- constructability (structural challenges, materials, schedules, textures, colors, etc.)
- strategy for sustainability
- surrounding landscape/external spaces
- life and activities, in and around the building, including the qualities of enclosed spaces showing furniture, fittings and finishes (where needed or appropriate to the challenge selected).

Jury Review

Judges

The panel of judges will be mainly comprised of CIRT member CEOs of the leading design and construction firms in the United States. A jury will be selected for the preliminary and final presentation rounds of the competition.

Judging Approach

The overall theme or evaluation criteria for the competition is one founded on the practical aspects of the profession, particularly with respect to constructability, use of materials, meeting deadlines, workflow, and establishing realistic/reasonable expenses or budgets. ***More important than the actual solution, is the methods and processes used to arrive at a solution. Fundamentally, the spirit of this competition is one of design AND construction.***

During the final round, great weight will be given to the ability of the ACE students (i.e. their selected representative) to articulate a clear, comprehensive, coherent, and cogent presentation that persuades the judges as to selecting his/her team as the winning entry. Preparing the student representative is part of the overall process that the other team members will receive benefit from as well.

Judging Process

All entries must be submitted to the platform and meet the submission and student eligibility requirements to be judged.

The preliminary rounds will be determined by what is submitted to the platform. Each of the challenges will have their top entries determined as part of selecting the national finalists. However, only three teams will move onto the presentation round in Washington D.C. to determine the National Champion.

If none of the design entries meet the requirements, the panel reserves the right not to award a winner. There is no requirement that each option/challenge has a representative among the three finalists. All decisions made by the panel are final.

Additional Information

PLATFORM

The competition will be hosted on an online competition platform:

- Competition main page: CIRTcompetition.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mark A. Casso, Esq.
President

Construction Industry Round Table
8115 Old Dominion Drive, Suite 210
McLean, VA 22102
202.466.6777 – office
mcasso@cirt.org

**Contacts for any competition content, timeline or specification questions.*

Diana Eidenshink
Executive Director

ACE Mentor Program of America
6110 Exec Blvd
Rockville MD 20852
571.297.6869 – office
DEidenshink@acementor.org

Edgar “Edge” Quintanilla
Manager of DiscoverDesign

Chicago Architecture Center
111 E Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601
312.561.2147 – office
equintanilla@architecture.org

**Contacts for any technical, competition platform (registration or submission-related) questions.*

CAC Helpdesk

Chicago Architecture Center
111 E Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601

eduweb@architecture.org

TEAM RESOURCE: COLLABORATE ON DISCOVERDESIGN.ORG

Teams may collaborate digitally using the Chicago Architecture Center’s online learning platform, DiscoverDesign.org. Teams can select any of the three CIRT challenges, leave comments, share and upload images, links, and other resources as they work through the design process. Mentors can set project timelines and deadlines, and remix a challenge to suite your unique project goals. Create an account to start. Contact CAC’s Helpdesk at eduweb@architecture.org.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The project options for the CIRT Design & Construction Competition may have been derived from actual competitions that are underway or have been recently completed. The information furnished has been edited and/or modified so as to meet the needs and form the basis of the CIRT competition.

If for any reason you believe a key piece of information is missing or you are unclear as to a specific reference in the information provided – please make an educated guess or assumption that would further your proposal (and simply indicate what that assumption was and why you made it). Please do not let a geographical reference or other individual piece of information prevent you from completing the CIRT design competition submission!

There is no cost to enter this competition.

Mail-in submissions of final projects will not be accepted for the preliminary round. Finalists will be asked to provide boards for the final panel.

By participating, you agree to comply with all competition requirements.

Applicants may be disqualified if they:

- Are not a member of a qualified ACE Mentor of America Affiliate team.
- Do not upload content (text and/or images) onto the competition platform.
- Do not adhere to the design, writing and presentation requirements.
- Plagiarize or violate copyright rules by submitting non-original material—whether student or professional, built or unbuilt.

Permissions

By submitting to the CIRT National Design & Construction Competition you grant permission to the rights of your image(s) to be used for educational purposes such as conference presentations, advertising and promotional materials, exhibitions, informal presentations or online. Images may be edited, copied, exhibited, published or distributed.