

Global Schindler Award

Competition Overview

1. Principle

The Global Schindler Award (GSA) is an open, anonymous ideas competition aimed at engaging students of architecture and planning in complex urban conditions. The GSA competition is a joint project between the Schindler Group and the Chair of Prof. Kees Christiaanse at ETH Zurich.

2. Eligible Participants

The GSA is open to Bachelors degree candidates in their final year and Masters degree candidates, in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, urban design and planning. Teams must have confirmed oversight by a faculty member or instructor from their school.

3. Prizes, Jury

An international jury of renowned experts will evaluate the entries and allocate awards, with a total prize sum of 150,000 USD.

4. Schedule

1. August 2014	Opening of the competition, release of the brief
1. September 2014	Deadline for questions
15. September 2014	Answers from the organizers
15. November 2014	Registration deadline
31. January 2015	Deadline for projects to be submitted
2.- 15. February 2015	Technical evaluation
16- 28. February 2015	Pre-selection
Early March 2015	Jury Meeting (to be confirmed)
End April 2015	Award Ceremony (to be confirmed)

5. Concept - Access to Urbanity: Designing the City as a Resource

The aim of “Designing the City as a Resource” is to interpret the city not as something to simply be consumed but rather as a provider of resources, in the form of cultural, political or economic advantages. The key is to design the city to provide access to these benefits in an inclusive and sustainable way. By linking people, goods and information in urban space, new productive interactions are released.

We understand the production of human settlement as urbanization. This process, however, does not necessarily result in urbanity. Centrality, accessibility, usability, adaptability, appropriation, interaction and diversity are some of the urban qualities most responsible for a high level of urbanity. A density of varied human interaction in public space generates exchange and friction; consequently competitiveness and progress. Ideally this process leads to tolerance, cultural diversity and innovation. “Designing the City as a Resource” involves designing a fertile and diverse environment, rich in relationships. Entries to the GSA should focus on the creation of vibrant urban environments, stimulated by appropriate urban typologies and their strong interconnection with public space and mobility networks.

6. Site as a Case Study - Shenzhen, Pearl River Delta, China

The site for the 2015 competition will be in Shenzhen, part of the Pearl River Delta in China. A specific boundary will be defined and announced when the full brief is issued in August 2014. What was once a fishing village is now a sprawling metropolis of more than 10 million people. Shenzhen grew at an extraordinary pace, making it one of the world’s fastest developing urban areas over the past 30 years. Moreover, Shenzhen is part of the rapidly expanding Pearl River Delta region, with a current population of over 40 million. Since 1978, the economic opening of China has been the motor of rapid urbanization in the Pearl River Delta. Shenzhen’s status as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) drove the growth of the city and the region, opening trade and the flow of ideas between Mainland China and the world. Foreign and state owned enterprises settled in the proximity of the Pearl River Delta’s international ports, train stations and highway exits. These mobility nodes were the initial focal points of Shenzhen’s early urbanization, dominated by industrial and market interests.

Competition entries are expected to respond to Shenzhen’s challenges considering its past and in its current state of transformation from a predominantly industrial agglomeration into a metropolis with a rapidly expanding third sector. The idea of “Designing the City as a Resource” refers to the fact that instead of the frequent practice of *tabula rasa* – demolishing and building anew – the projects should take existing social, economic and cultural structures into consideration, making use of them as resources in a process of incremental transformation.

7. Scope of the Competition

The GSA looks for unconventional approaches, innovative urban design strategies and architectural concepts for livable, mixed-use, high-density urban environments. A detailed brief will be issued in August 2014. Projects should focus on the creation of interactive urban ensembles in which the central theme is the interface between different modes of horizontal and vertical mobility. Projects should be developed from a trans-scalar, holistic, and cross-border perspective.

The submitted projects shall provide responses, at different scales, to the following questions:

1. What is likely to happen in Shenzhen in the context of the Pearl River Delta? What are the current trends and the anticipated development?
2. How should a comprehensive vision for Shenzhen be conceived and rendered? What role does this vision foresee for the designated competition site?
3. What built forms and public spaces result from this vision, and subsequently what does daily life look like?
4. How can this vision be reached? What design strategies are applied to achieve an incremental transformation process from the status quo to the envisioned future?

8. Submission Requirements

The project should be described in a comprehensive storyline, a narrative structure that explains the logical coherence between the analytical thoughts and the resulting design. Alternative transformation scenarios may be tested with impact assessments of their possible spatial, social, economic and environmental consequences.

Entries will consist of two parts:

Drawings:

2 A-0 panels, containing maps at regional, inter-city, city, neighborhood and block scales. Plans as well as sections, elevations, isometric drawings, diagrams and visualizations should be used to explain the project. This drawing set must also be submitted in A3 size.

Booklet:

A Booklet of a maximum of 15 pages in size A4, containing additional information such as analysis, preliminary studies, calculations, narration, and derivation of the project through written annotations, diagrams and drawings.

9. Submission Process

Each team will be issued an entry number at the time of registration. As the competition is anonymous, this number must be used to identify all submittal documents. All documents must bear the entry number of the team in the lower right-hand corner. Any entry containing names of the students or their schools and/or any reference to their identity will be excluded from the competition.

All documents must be submitted digitally on the website. An upload link and submission form will be provided online.

Models cannot be submitted for the jury process but photographs of models may be included as part of the submission.