

Международный конкурс проекта застройки квартала
International competition for the design of an urban block

QUIET DOWNTOWN

OPEN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE DESIGN OF AN URBAN BLOCK IN THE HISTORICAL CENTRE OF BELGOROD

Though Belgorod is an historical city, it was completely destroyed during WWII. Only the street pattern in the centre of the city reminds us of its past. Since only a limited number of buildings were erected in the first decade after WWII, the architecture of the centre is dominated by low-quality buildings of the Khruchev and Brezhnev era. Nevertheless, since they follow the historical street pattern and are relatively low, they give the centre of the city a certain character that is different from the parts of the city that were built in later years.

There are urban blocks that show the more rich architecture from the Stalinist area. The urban block that is the subject of this competition is the largest one. With an area of more than 6 hectares, it contains two-storey collective housing in classical style in a very low density. Since rehousing costs of the existing population are low and quality of construction is poor, this block is now primarily targeted for redevelopment. With the redevelopment of this site, the city gets the opportunity to reconsider the architectural and urban makeup of its centre. Within the old street pattern, a new city can grow that paradoxically may reflect more adequately the city's past than post-war developments. This competition is therefore not only about the design for a specific location, it is also meant to generate recipes that can be applied in other parts of the historical centre.

Site

The competition site is on the location where the heart of the city used to be. Until 1707 the Belgorod Fortress stood here. A male monastery and the Church of the Holy Trinity were built here after the demolition of the fortress. They were destroyed in WWII. Recently, there have been attempts to restore the historical meaning of this place by constructing a bell tower, a park marking the foundations of the original church and a small underground museum where original walls of the church can be seen. Most of the urban block is occupied by low rise housing from the Stalin era. Only in the North and the Westside we find five story buildings from the Khruchev era.

The location of the site is not only important historically. Its west side borders the Prospekt Bodgdana Khmel'niskogo – a main thoroughfare, linking the city with Moscow and Kharkov. The north side borders the Prospekt Slavy – the main east-west connection through the city that ends at the Railway Station. At the south there is the Sveto-troitsky Boulevard that leads from the reconstructed Pokrovsky Church to the cities' main square and is an important historical urban space in the city.

Program

The aim of the competition is to create high quality urban spaces that could give this place a meaning that matches the importance it had in the city's history. This meaning should be more symbolic than functional: there is no place here for a large shopping centre, or for cultural program like a museum or concert hall. The block should primarily be used for premium class housing. Having said this, there is certainly place for boutiques, small cafés and restaurants, services like hairdressers and small offices. Shopping should however be small scale and be concentrated along the Boulevard, the Prospekt Bodgdana Khmel'niskogo and the Uliysa 50 Let Belogorodsky Oblast. No shopping should be added to the Prospekt Slavy.

Together with the boulevard the block should become the most prestigious place in Belgorod, not because it is the busiest, but to the contrary quiet and peaceful. A place to stroll, sit down, do window-shopping and have a coffee.

The result of the competition should be a masterplan that will serve as a blueprint for the development of the site. The designers are not required to make detailed design of floor plans. However, the project should be worked out on the level of typology, access (location of stairwells, access to retail etc.) and insolation (apartments should receive enough sunlight). More important however is the definition and design of the public and semi-public space.

Limitations

The relatively low building height gives the historical centre its specific character. Therefore also the height of new construction is limited. Since the site is sloped, building height is limited by a plane that spans from a maximum height on the Prospekt Slava of 15 meters to a maximum height on the Boulevard of 20 meters. At the same time density of the site is free: designers are required to define the optimum between the wish to create a high quality urban environment and the wish to realize a maximum of sqm., which makes the site attractive for developers. Most of the buildings should contain business class housing, with other program located on the first floor. However, there can be exceptions, such as along the Prospekt Bodgdana Khmel'niskogo, where housing is not recommended because of heavy traffic. Cars should all be located inside (underground or multi-storey parking) with 1 car per apartment and 1 car for every 15 m² of other program. Finally, a kindergarten should be provided – the size should be based on the number of apartments that are realized in the project.

Norms

Design should take into account the current Russian construction norms. Foreign participants get a resume of these norms. Please note that this résumé is not complete.

Prizes and implementation

There is a total prize fund of 50.000 USD.

First prize 25.000 USD

Second prize 10.000 USD

Third prize 5.000 USD

Four honourable mentions: 4 x 2.500 USD.

The winners of the competition are chosen by the international jury. The project that is awarded the first prize by the jury is recommended for realisation. Apart from this

the jury has the possibility to recommend a second project from the list of winners for realisation. In that case the city administration will choose the project for realisation on the basis of a detailed study of the projects and their compatibility with local norms and rules. The city will use this project as the basis for a masterplan for the site. The site will be put on auction under the condition that the masterplan will be the basis of the development of the site. The author will be invited to conclude a contact with the developer.

Deliverables

- Axonometric drawing 30/30 degrees 1:500
- Plans, elevations, sections 1: 500
- Detailed design of an important public space 1: 200
- Street views and views from within the block.
- A model scale 1: 1000 on a 10 mm base of 36 x 24 cm

A template will be provided for the layout of the presentation panels

Materials should be in Russian and English.

A text of max. 1800 ch. should be provided separately in Russian and English.

Participants and registration

The competition is open for professional architects and urban designers from all over the world. The registration deadline is May 10 , 2013. Participants should register and pay a registration fee of 50 Euro for each project they are sending in.

Participants can register by filling out the form on this page. Foreign participants will receive an invoice from ASNOVA B.V. in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. (Please note that Dutch participants will have to pay an extra 21% VAT).

Number of projects

Participants are allowed to send in a maximum of two projects.

Anonymity

The competition is strictly anonymous. Participants are obliged to prevent the appearance of anything in the project presentation that could disclose their identity to the jury. Any projects that is shown to any member of the jury before will be disqualified. Employees of the City administration, the organizers or of the companies of the jury members are excluded from participation.

Each participant chooses a code that consists of three figures followed by three letters. This code should be printed on the top-right corner on the front of each competition panel and on the top-right (south east) corner on the front of the model.

Participants should include in their package a sealed envelope with a letter linking the authors of the project with the code they put on their panels and model.

Organizers

The international competition is organized by PROJECT MEDIA at the request of ,the Belgorod city administration

Curator of the competition is Bart Goldhoorn – founder of PROJECT RUSSIA (Russia's leading journal on architecture - www.prorus.ru), co-founder and curator of the Moscow Architecture Biennale (www.moscowarchbiennale.ru) and director of PROJECT MEDIA (Amsterdam/Moscow).

Jury

The Jury will consist of

- Representatives of the city of Belgorod
- Two Moscow architects
- One foreign architect
- Curator Bart Goldhoorn.

Time schedule

February 20 Announcement of the competition

March 30 First answers to questions are sent out

April 15 Deadline for the posing of questions

April 20 Last answers to questions are sent out

May 10 Registration deadline

June 3 Projects should be received by the City of Belgorod before 20:00 hours

June 5 Jury

June 6 Opening of the exhibition and announcement of the winning project

This information was supplied by the directorate for architecture and urbanism of the Belgorod city administration.