

10th Arquine International Architecture Competition

The bicentennial towers

Thirty years on from the publication of *Delirious New York*, Rem Koolhaas's manifesto celebrating congestion culture, at the peak of the high building craze in most of the world, and moving on from post 9-11 panic, Arquine announces its 10th International Competition, proposing the design of two skyscrapers, with 100 floors each, to celebrate the bicentenary of Mexico's independence in 2010.

The skyscraper and the open chapel are two typologies of genuinely American origin.

The challenge of imagining a new function for the skyscraper (beyond phallic-formal exhibitionism) invites us to enrich the controversy over the leap in urban scale as a means to the Mexican capital's necessary densification.

The project consists in setting each tower in two strategic areas of Mexico City: the Azcapotzalco Technology Park and the Xochimilco Ecology Park, establishing a dialectic between content and void; between built object and urban landscape.

The competition invites you to embark on the projects with two relevant discourses in mind: ecology and technology, true paradigms of early 21st-century culture.

The towers should favour mixed uses (permanent or temporary housing, offices, workshops, businesses, etc.) and blur the limits between the public and private domains.

Program

Each of the bicentennial towers should develop on a maximum built surface of 150,000 m² (excluding underground levels), and include the following program:

- Housing, min. 20%
- Offices, min. 30%
- Businesses, min. 10%
- Hotel, min. 20%
- Auditorium, min. 5%
- Terraces, min. 5%
- Parking, min. 20%

In the technology tower the use of new technologies and building materials should be favoured, focused on reducing energy consumption and producing energy from renewable sources.

In the ecological tower the use of sustainable design and biocompatible materials should be favoured.

Material to be submitted

- Two 90 x 60 cm (A1) laminates on stiff **light** boards in **vertical** format. On the back they must have the registration code provided by Arquine on registration. The laminates should include:

1. General layout plans scale 1:500
2. Floor plans scale 1:250
3. Sections scale 1:500
4. Descriptive text no longer than 300 words.

- A sealed Letter-sized (A4) envelope with the inscription code on the outside and the following documentation inside:

1. the names and contact details of the participants
2. a Letter-sized (A4) print-out of the submitted laminates
3. a CD containing digitalized images of the panels at 300 dpi.

Registration Period

October 15th, 2007 to February 4th, 2008.

Cost

October 15th to December 31st, 2007:

\$800* Mexican pesos (Mexico), \$100 USD (International)

*Including a year's subscription to the magazine inside Mexico

January 1st to February 4th, 2008:

\$1,000 Mexican pesos (Mexico), \$120 USD (International)

Registration

Register at www.arquine.com, entering the required details, together with an active e-mail address, to which Arquine will send confirmation of the registration when the corresponding payment has been made.

There will be two possible ways of paying over the internet:

Referenced deposit (only in Mexico)

Pay at any bank in the country, with the reference code given by the system.

Credit card

Enter the details of any VISA or Mastercard credit card.

Jury

Guy Nordenson (professor of structural engineering and architecture at Princeton University, co-founder of New York's Structural Engineers' Association and SEAoNY inspector at Ground Zero - www.nordenson.com)

Francisco Serrano (architect of, among other buildings, the Mexican Embassy in Berlin; the Universidad Iberoamericana and the Arcos Bosques complex in Mexico City)

Jose Castillo (architect, researcher and curator of the Mexican participations in Rotterdam 2005 and 2007, Sao Paulo 2005 and Venecia 2006 - www.arquitectura911sc.com)

Michel Rojkind (finalist in the international competition to build the Toronto Residential Tower - www.rojkindarquitectos.com)

Alejandro Aravena (Chilean architect of the Siamese Towers in Santiago - www.alejandroaravena.com)

Prizes

1st place: Arquine – \$100,000 pesos

Final submission date and mailing

Monday 29th February, 2008, before 2pm.

The projects must arrive at the Juan O'Gorman bookstore:

Librería Juan O'Gorman

Colegio de Arquitectos

Av. Constituyentes 800

Col. Lomas Altas

Delegación Miguel Hidalgo

México, DF 11950

T. +52 55 5259 9004 /5259 9015

Monday to Friday, 10am to 2pm.

Include map

IMPORTANT

-For mailed submissions by courier service, from Mexico and abroad: the date will be determined by the postmark, and they should not arrive after March 7th, 2008.

- The projects submitted will not be returned under any circumstances.
- The projects must arrive directly at the Juan O’Gorman bookstore. Projects that arrive at the post office will not be accepted.
- Arquine will not cover any mailing costs or customs charges.
- To avoid projects being detained at customs, follow the following indications:
 1. Place the note “Non-commercial sample” in a visible place on the package.
 2. Avoid declaring a value when you mail the package.
 3. Bear in mind the messenger service’s weight restrictions.
 4. Request complete information about customs taxes from the messenger service.

Queries

Queries will only be received via e-mail, at the following address: concurso@arquine.com from October 22nd till November 2nd.

The e-mail’s subject field should read “DUDAS CONCURSO” otherwise it will go straight to spam.

The answers to FAQs will be posted on www.arquine.com from November 5th, 2007.

Results

The jury will meet in Mexico City during the **9th Arquine Congress** (March 12th, 2008), where the awarding will take place and the winning projects will be exhibited. They will be published on the Arquine webpage and in issue 44 of the magazine (June 2008).