

THE PARACHUTE PAVILION:

an open design competition for Coney Island

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (REVISED* AND POSTED 3/21/05)

*new and modified questions are in **red**

REGISTRATION (NOTE: the registration period is now over- no late registrations will be accepted)

1. I completed the online registration in December and received the PayPal confirmation, but cannot find where to download the images and drawings. What do I need to do?

Upon completion of your registration process you were sent an automated confirmation email with your login ID number and a specific URL address that will gain you access to the high-resolution images and drawings database. If you do not have your login ID, you can request that it be resent by emailing coneyisland@vanalen.org. Also, please be sure to add vanalen.org to your safe list as the original automated email may have been blocked by spam filtering software. (We know that this has happened with Hotmail, Yahoo, EarthLink and some .edu accounts)

2. Is it possible to change/add contact information or team members on my registration form?

You may change contact information and add team members by email only through the end of the registration period (Feb. 25th) – **deadline for adding/changing team members and/or contact information has been extended to March 31st**. Modified registration forms will be emailed to registrants.

3. I did not print the on-line registration form when I was registering. How can I print it now?

We can email you your registration form. Please request this be email.

4. I completed the online registration form, but did not receive any confirmation from you. Why?

Completing the registration form is only one part of the registration process. Your registration is not complete until your payment has been processed as well.

5. What is my registration number?

There are no registration numbers. You only receive a Login ID number that gains you access to the image database.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Does each entry/team have to have a student represented?

No, you do not have to have a student on your team. As stated in the Eligibility section of the competition website: "At least one member of a team must be either a student in **or** graduate of a college or university design degree program"- the key word here is "OR".

2. I am an architect from Denmark. Am I eligible to enter this competition?

Yes you are. This is an international competition open to students and architects/designers from all over the world.

3. Eligibility states that one member of a team must have a degree from a college or University Design Program. Would a Fine Arts degree or a PhD in art and architectural history qualify as well?

A BFA degree or PhD in art and architectural history do not qualify. The requirement is not for an accredited architecture degree, but registrant's degrees must at least have a major in design/architecture (B.Arch, M.Arch, BS.Arch, BA Architecture and other equivalent degrees)

PAYMENT (NOTE: the registration/payment period is now over- no late registrations will be accepted)

1. I do not want/unable to use *PayPal* to process my payment. What other methods of payment are available?

You can complete your registration directly through Van Alen Institute by either of the following methods: **Credit Card**- We accept Visa, MasterCard or American Express credit cards. You may fax (212-366 5836), e-mail (coneyisland@vanalen.org), or phone (212-924 7000) in your credit card information to be processed; **Cash**- you may either send in cash by mail, or if possible, pay in person at the Institute's offices: 30 West 22 St. 6th floor, New York NY, 10010, USA; **Check/Travelers Check**- made to Van Alen Institute/Coney Island Competition and mailed to: Competition Manager, Van Alen Institute, 30 West 22 St. 6th floor, New York NY, 10010, USA.

2. I have completed the online registration form. Can I mail a check to you in February?

As long as your payment is received by the Institute on or before the registration deadline of February 25th you will be fine. All registrations and payments must be received on or before that day. All payments received after Feb. 25th will be returned.

3. I have completed the online registration form on Dec. 10th. Can I still pay the early registration fee of \$30?

No- all payments received after the early registration deadline of Dec. 15th, must be for the full \$60 registration fee (except for students who supply a copy of their student ID). The online registration form is not a complete registration until payment has been processed.

IMAGE DATABASE/DOWNLOAD

1. Where can I find scaled drawings of the competition site?

There are site plans and one Parachute Jump elevation available in DWG format on the image database page.

2. How can I download the high-resolution images and drawings?

All paid registrants are sent a confirmation email with a login ID number and a URL address to gain access to the image database. All competition images and drawings are available to download on that site by clicking on the thumbnails.

3. I have my Login ID, but don't see where to use it on the website

The URL address that was given to you in the confirmation email is the only way to access the images. You cannot get access to these images directly from the competition website, where you can only see the thumbnails. If you are not sure what the URL is, please contact us by email only.

4. My design partner lives in London and I am in San Francisco. How can we individually download the competition material after registration?

There is no limit on using the login ID and image database. You should both be using the same login ID to access the site.

SUBMISSIONS

1. May we submit 2 separate 30"x20" boards instead of one 30"x40"?

You may not split the board into two pieces. Submissions that do not comply with the given requirements will be disqualified and not viewed by the jurors.

2. Can we send you a 30"x40" sheet of paper rolled into a mailing tube?

All submission **MUST** be mounted as specified in the brief. Submissions that do not comply with the given requirements will be disqualified and not viewed by the jurors.

3. Can we use the metric system for the scale of the required drawings?

Yes, you may use the metric system that will be equivalent to the required scales, but the scale of each drawing must be clearly indicated on the presentation board.

4. Do we need to show a registration number on the submission board?

No, there is no need to include any numbers or any registration information on the front of the board. Please remember that you **MUST** attach an opaque envelope to the back of the board with your complete and signed registration form (and the required CD).

5. Can we hand-deliver our submission?

You may deliver your submission personally to the Institute. Submissions that arrive at Van Alen Institute after 5pm on April 18 will not be viewed by the jurors.

6. We think that there is a problem with the size of the required board in correlation with the scale of the drawings. Either the size of the board is too small or the scale of the drawings too big.

We are aware that it is difficult to fit all the required drawings on only one board, but we do know that it is possible- we have already received boards that have successfully done so. This is part of the nature of and challenge in this type of competitions. If you feel that it is not possible for you to include all required drawings, you should then select only the ones that are critical for representing your proposal- the important thing is that your project is clearly represented on the board. We also suggest that you only show the main floor plan at the required scale and the others at a smaller scale. In any case, you should clearly provide the scale next to each drawing on the board.

7. Regarding the orientation of the board, your requirement seems to be contradictory. Is it horizontal or vertical?

Please be sure to read the full sentence carefully: "with the 30" side oriented vertically (landscape format)". This is not contradictory. It means exactly what it says (the board is to be in Landscape format).

8. In the Presentation Requirements of the brief you requested "...one plan of the site showing the relationship between the proposed design and existing features of the site at an approximate scale of 1:100 ". Did you mean 1cm = 100cm or 1"=100'?

We regret if there was any confusion here. We meant 1"=100', but again, this requirement is an approximate scale and for this drawing you may choose an alternate scale that works best for you.

9. Can we submit a model along with the required drawings?

No. Please do not submit anything other than what has been specified in the brief. Jurors will only be viewing the required one 30"x40" board.

10. A written statement is required to be included in the presentation- does this mean we have to print it directly onto the board?

Yes, your written statement must be included on the board itself.

THE PARACHUTE JUMP

1. Is there any plan in the future to re-use the Parachute Jump?

There are no plans for re-use of the Parachute Jump other than the subject of this competition- the Parachute Pavilion adjacent to it.

2. Are we allowed to remove the fence around the Parachute Jump?

You may not remove the fence around the Jump, or alter any other part within the fence.

3. Can we remove the wooden structure that surrounds the base of the tower, thereby exposing the original metal underneath?

No, you may not remove any part of the Parachute Jump. It is a designated NYC landmark.

4. Is it possible to incorporate the existing structure, or site, of the parachute jump in our proposal?

You cannot modify, penetrate in any way, or use the space under, the Parachute Jump. You may not attach to the Jump, or extend beyond the given site. Please read the brief carefully, and remember that the Parachute Jump is a designated NYC landmark that may not be altered.

5. Can we build a wall or a ramp around the Parachute Jump?

You may not build walls or any other intrusions on any part of the Parachute Jump.

6. Is there any more information available about the lighting program that is planned?

The lighting program is currently being designed. No other information is available. If the design plan is released in the near future, an update will be sent to all competition registrants.

SITE

1. Are there any future plans to develop the land between the given competition site, the Boardwalk and the Parachute Jump. Can we assume that it will be an open space?

The Coney Island Development Corporation in conjunction with the NYC Economic Development Corporation is currently completing a strategic development plan for Coney Island including the area around the Parachute Jump. The plan will be finalized in mid 2005. At present, you may assume that the visual connection between the Parachute Pavilion site and the boardwalk will be maintained.

2. How fixed is the plot given to us (in terms of size). Can the plot, for example, be extended towards the elevated boardwalk and, if so, can it extend underneath it to connect with the beach?

The site for the Pavilion is fixed. You may NOT extend the pavilion underneath the boardwalk to connect with the beach, but you may provide an extension of the boardwalk (at the same level) towards the site.

3. May we provide a landscape design beyond the given site perimeter around the Pavilion?

The adjacent area between the boardwalk and the given site may be designed as an extension of the pavilion programming onto the boardwalk and may include street furniture. **The height of this extension can be at the boardwalk level, but may not exceed the height of the boardwalk itself. It may be designed at any height between street level and the boardwalk.**

4. Are there any restrictions to building below ground level?

Due to the high water level, you may not design any spaces completely below ground. There may be a first (ground) level that is maximum 3' (1 meter) below ground (11' below the boardwalk level).

5. Will the Parachute Pavilion have to be raised from ground level to protect it from flooding?

For the purposes of this competition, you should design the pavilion to sit directly on the ground level (or up to 3' below ground). The flood line of the site has not yet been determined.

6. Do we need to address parking layout in this project?

No, you do not need to address parking. You should not be changing any of the existing parking in the surrounding area.

7. Are there any height/site coverage restrictions?

There are specific height and site coverage restrictions. These are all clearly specified in "rules" section of the competition website: <http://www.vanalen.org/competitions/ConeyIsland/rules.htm>

8. Does the thirty feet high height limit restrict the ability to extend a mast or other such non habitable volumes above?

No physical objects are allowed to exceed the 30' height limit, but the roof may be designed as a programmable space.

9. Can we remove the boardwalk portion located east of the site? Are we allowed to modify the boardwalk itself?

You may not remove or modify any part of the boardwalk.

10. can we establish the pavilion entry on the side that faces the boardwalk

Yes, you may.

PROGRAM

1. What kind of restaurant is required and who will it serve? What are the activities that are planned to take place in the multi-use/exhibit space?

An important part of this competition is for the participants to generate ideas for the restaurant type and style. There is freedom to suggest what you feel is most suitable for the site and area, keeping in mind that the pavilion will be adjacent to an important NYC landmark and is meant to help generate year-round activity. Please read the competition brief thoroughly, and sensitively respond to the requirements.

2. Can we add additional program elements that we feel would enhance the pavilion design? Can we provide additional lobby/reception spaces?

Yes, you may. We have deliberately provided only basic programmatic guidelines. You should feel free to propose any additional/alternate space that you feel work best with your overall proposal.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Is there a projected budget?

No, there is no budget for the pavilion yet.

2. Is the project required to be ADA compliant?

The Parachute Pavilion will be a public amenity and must be accessible to all people.

3. Will the jury be strict on fire, health and safety requirements and correct detailing?

Your proposal has to be buildable, inhabitable, safe and accessible to all. You are required to provide one drawing that illustrates the detailing (as specified in the brief).

4. I did not receive any confirmation from you. Will I receive one?

All registrants, upon processing their payment, receive an automated email response from us. If you did not receive such an email, please check your email settings. Some email service providers (such as HOTMAIL) may have filters set that identify our emails as SPAM and prevent our emails from reaching you. Please be sure to remove such filters, or at least allow email from us (coneyisland@vanalen.org)

5. Am I going to receive the Competition Packet from you?

There is no competition packet like the one we had in past competitions. There is, however, a competition brochure that will be mailed to all registrants in January 2005. This brochure includes all the information that appears on the competition website, but does not include the high-resolution images.

6. What the chances are that this pavilion will be built in the near future?

The winner of the competition will be given the opportunity to work with the CIDC/EDC in exploring the possibility of implementing the project.