



**THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS USA  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER**

**COMPETITION  
Building A Sustainable World  
Life in The Balance**

**Initiative by:** California Chapter, The RIBA-USA:

Under the leadership of Caroline Davies: [photoartist@earthlink.net](mailto:photoartist@earthlink.net) and Tim Clark:  
[tc@anet.net](mailto:tc@anet.net)

**Contact:** Caroline Davies, General Secretary California Board, and Tim Clark, California Board member and Immediate Past Chair.

**Purpose:**

To generate model solutions, positive action, discussion and education on “The Global Warming Crisis”.

**Call For Concept Proposals: Deadline 12 noon Pacific Time, February 1st 2007**

**Prizes:**

First Prize: \$10,000.00

Second Prize: \$5,000.00

Third Prize: \$2,500.00

Bonus Prize: \$5,000.00 - To be awarded to the entry that has demonstrated the most imaginative use of one or more Autodesk CAD BIM (Building Information Modeling) products such as Revit and Civil 3D.

**Panel of Judges:**

Includes Thom Mayne of Morphosis, Ken Yeang of Lewellyn-Davies Yeang, AIA President Elect RK Stewart, RIBA President-Elect Sunand Prasad and a delegate from each of our sponsors, Autodesk and our publisher Gibbs Smith.

**The Competition:**

An open competition to develop a concept for a maximum capacity sustainable community or an urban subdivision to address shifts in global climate, that have been so vividly demonstrated by increasing numbers of flooding and drought catastrophes. The community must be “off the grid”, in other words as autonomous and self-sustaining as possible. And, beyond this, we would like to invite you to propose ways of making the community a positive contributor to the natural ecology. Alternative energy solutions need to be fully researched and integrated to identify advantages and to be realistic about risks and disadvantages. Our

premise is that the sustainable community should start to reverse environmental damage and not add to it.

### **Giving something back to the Environment**

The community can include new industries, which must be clean and considerate to the quality of life for future generations. We want to create healthy, vibrant, non-toxic communities with a positive relationship, respect and regard for nature and our natural resources.

### **Eligibility**

The competition is open to any individual from any country. However, an entrant who is not an architect, must team up with an accredited (licensed or registered) architect from the locality of the submitted project. We also encourage participants to engage in teamwork with and between architects whether the entrant is a member of the general public, a writer, visionary, movie maker, engineer, city planner, designer or from the construction industry at large. Each entry must name only one person as the representative of the work, who **need not** be the named architect.

### **Required Format for Entries:**

Illustrations and plans shall be presented on:

- 1.** One or Two A2 sized boards
- 2.** or Eight A4 boards
- 3.** In addition four A4 pages maximum are allowed for text, diagrams and explanations; the following aspects shall be **concisely** covered:
  - a.** What led the entrant/s to take an interest in the competition?
  - b.** How the submitted proposals sustainably respond to the challenge of Global Warming.
  - c.** How would the entrant/s go about realizing his or her concept?
  - d.** Describe the three largest obstacles to achieving the concept.
  - e.** Discuss how the concept could respond to different climatic and geographic circumstances.
- 4.** The above shall be expanded in an auto-presented powerpoint of up to 30 images.

**Required Format to become eligible for the Autodesk Bonus Prize:** As above (1-3) in required format for entries. Plus, at least 50% of the graphic material must demonstrate an imaginative and innovative use of Autodesk software products such as Civil 3D or Revit.

### **Its Up to You:**

We have intentionally left the competition open to the imagination and strength of each entrant. We suggest that proposals should be based upon a small community of approximately 1,000 people up to the size of a small city or subdivision of 50,000. However, depending on individual strengths and ability to address problems beyond this recommendation, we are setting no outer limits to the scale or depth of each submitted vision. As a global community we will need to address many different kinds of problems in the environment, from flooding, to drought, intensified earthquakes and hurricanes, to toxins and to war ravaged areas. The competition entries themselves are intended to become a vast resource and inspiration for future planning and, with due respect for each author's copyright, the organizers will work hard to support any idea or initiative to bring this resource to global attention. The winning entry will be based upon integrity, clarity, workability and strength of the submission. All submitted work will remain the copyright of its author/s while the judging panel shall have the right to publish and copy the material for uses consistent with the aim of promoting either the author or the work. In all such instances the name of the author/s in each case shall be clearly acknowledged.

## **Judging Criteria**

The Competition judging criteria will include:-

- the impact on the carrying capacity of nearby or distant natural resources, ecology and biomass
- the elimination of toxic building materials and the extent to which the proposals consume land or compromise other activities or communities.
- the ability of proposals to support the organic farming and healthy lifestyles, including swimming, cycling and walking where these can be locally sustained
- the intelligent planning of what the community produces, such as crops for multiple uses such as hemp (used for its nutritious oil, rope and fabric and is drought and insect resistant) and straw which can be baled for use as animal fodder or as a building material.
- the use of appropriate technologies to capture solar, wind and other ambient energies.
- the responsible management and recycling of waste or surplus material.
- innovative off-grid solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions that may provide new models for addressing Climate Change.

This is however, not a prescriptive competition, each set of ideas will be considered on its own merits.

## **Supporting Evidence:**

Entrants should bear in mind that considerable research and supporting evidence will be expected of them to substantiate their proposals. For example, Is there adequate wind for wind energy? Would wind turbines be visually and acoustically disruptive to the community and nearby wildlife? Is Bio-Diesel a permanent solution to the oil crisis? Is the project author thinking about greenhouse gases, reforestation and the recovery of damaged brown-field sites? Other forms of energy such as Nuclear energy and practices such as the import of cheap food and materials from far away are not, on the face of it, considered viable alternatives but candidates should please feel free to make a scientific case for the solution they believe will work best.

## **Addressing Related Issues**

We would also like to see entrants consider other factors that have contributed to our environmental problems outside of the immediate community too. Again, for example, planting new forests is imperative to the contribution of bringing life back into balance, as is cleaning up polluted waterways.

## **Deliberate Intentions:**

We are choosing to leave several conditions of the competition open. For example the type of environment the community would be based upon or even the size of the community. This will enable us to learn about possible solutions for other problem areas beyond a chosen environment. Even though the winner will of course be working on one environment, we will all benefit from the creative and expansive ideas of those who have valuable knowledge in other areas. We are also choosing to leave the size of the community relatively open for the same reasons. We want to encourage diversity and the architect's/designer's strengths and vision, as it will take many ideas and visions to bring life back into balance.

## **Is an existing or completed project eligible? Yes!**

Previously built works, or works in progress and/or development will be accepted for this competition. There is no limit to the age of the project, which may already be up and running as a model solution; however no project that has been the subject of a previous award or competition may be considered for this competition. The submission requirements for an existing project will be the same as for a new one.

**Symposium for Finalists:**

Shortlisted finalists will have their work exhibited by the competition organizers, included in a catalogue of entries and will be required to give presentations of work at a symposium before an audience and a panel of judges. This will also be filmed for educational purposes and may be the subject of media attention. The organizers consider the articulate and convincing presentation of viable proposals to be important, reflecting the merit of the proposals themselves. The first second, third and bonus prizes will not be announced until after the symposium at which selected works will also be exhibited.

**Special Benefits for Finalists**

Shortlisted candidates may describe themselves as such after the competition and will be entitled to economy class transport and full board accommodation in order to attend the finalists' symposium. Other than these expenses, no Honorarium will be payable. The competition organizers and sponsors will also make every effort to mount follow-up Exhibitions of the shortlisted work and to provide shortlisted candidates with opportunities to give Lectures and other presentations and to publish articles.

**Registration Deadlines and Fees:**

**The Competition Registration Fee: of \$100.00** must be sent with the completed **registration form** for the competition. Registration forms may be downloaded at The RIBA-USA web site. <http://www.riba-usa.org>

**We are accepting Registrations until December 31st 2006.**

The Registration Fee is non-refundable.

Mail \$100.00 (U.S. Currency) in Check, Money Order, or Bank Check (Overseas entrants will find assistance from their local banks) to:

RIBA-USA  
Building A Sustainable World  
P.O. Box 16043  
Beverly Hills, Ca 90209  
U.S.A.

**Please make checks payable to RIBA-USA**

**Correspondence**

Correspondence with registered participants will be by email wherever possible so each entrant should please make sure they indicate an email address at which they can be reached. We encourage every interested person to register now and make this commitment to **Building A Sustainable World!** Every single entry can make a difference that matters.

**REGISTRATION/ENTRY FORMS:** Download registration forms from <http://www.riba-usa.org>

**NOTE:** RIBA-USA, CA. reserve the unilateral right until the closing of the competition, to add to or alter the competition parameters as needed, according to the perception of the competition holders RIBA-USA, CA. Each registered entrant shall be notified in writing in such case.