Sponsored by the American Institute of Architects, Houston Chapter

Michael G. Meyers Competition

2016 Design Competition

"Animal House"

Animal shelters have evolved over the past few decades from the dismal dog pounds of the past to attractive civic destinations. Not only safe havens for homeless animals, animal shelters today are happy places that people want to visit, volunteer and adopt. Animals are no longer displayed in tight cages and dirty kennels, but are spotlighted for display not unlike high-end retail malls. Materials used in these settings are colorful and playful, often including animal iconography and whimsical animal shapes. The areas where people gather to view the animals are odor free with no sounds of stressful, barking dogs. They have good lighting and places to sit and visit with their future pets and each other. Outdoor spaces enhance the adoption experience with more opportunities to see dogs in their natural environments.

This year, the design problem for the MGMC is to design a new *adoption shelter for dogs and cats*.

The site is to be located in East Downtown, which is a rapidly developing area of Houston including a variety of commercial, residential, and industrial venues. The area's close proximity to downtown is sure to bring in a wide variety of visitors to the space from many forms of transportation including walking, biking, light rail, bus, and car. In designing the animal shelter, be sure to consider the surrounding community and the emerging developments of the area.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

The design for "Animal House"

1. Include a comprehensive description of your building explaining the concepts behind your design. See essay requirements. Give your building a name.

2. Develop a distinctive solution that is considerate of the established urban surroundings. Your design solution should integrate and accomplish at least (2) sustainable strategies- see last page of this document. Your solution should be pedestrian friendly.

3. Develop distinctive interior and exterior spaces that show an understanding of how these spaces are created with-in the required program elements. Consider the use and relationships of the programmed elements, as well as the relationship between the indoor and outdoor spaces, and the overall flow through the space.

4. Students should explore the use of interesting materials, structural components and environmental strategies. Your drawings should clearly illustrate these components. Consider the fact that materials used in animal areas must be extremely durable and easy to clean.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

SITE ELEMENTS

This portion considers items such as visitor circulation, volunteer and animal circulation, common use areas, etc. It also considers access to and from the site, both to the entry and to the service areas. One way to think about this is to picture the layout of the street, sidewalk and views. How does one enter the building? What views around your building do you want to emphasize, and what views do you want to avoid? What does the landscaping look like? What other elements accent your design and contribute to the experience of visiting the space? What special features will enhance the human/animal bonding experience?

Outdoor Shelter Spaces

Outdoor training area	5,000 sqft
Outdoor Adoption meet/Greet Space (6 units at 100 sqft)	600 sqft
Play/Exercise Space	10,000 sqft
Public Dog Park	10,000 sqft

Parking (5 spaces at 8'x19' each)

A larger parking lot will be provided off site (reference the site plan). Consider the relationship between the provided lot and your building and how people arrive to the building.

General Green Common area/circulation

BUILDING ELEMENTS

15,000 SQFT APPROX.

When designing your shelter building(s) there are some critical issues to keep in mind. Since people will be visiting the shelter for animal adoption and veterinary services, it is important that the Animal Areas are easily accessible from the Public Spaces or even incorporated into the Public Spaces. The Employee Areas, on the other hand, should remain private from the Public Spaces while still having accessibility to and from the Animal Areas. Also keep in mind that dogs and cats do not always get along; it will be a much more peaceful atmosphere if the dog areas and cat areas have some separation so that the animals are not constantly on edge. Finally, the outdoor Meet/Greet and Dog Park areas will be used by the Public, so easy access to and from the Public Spaces inside to those outside spaces should be considered.

Public Spaces

Lobby/Reception	400 sqft
Learning Center / Indoor Training Center	1,200 sqft

Adoption Viewing Pathways	1,200 sqft

All of the dogs and cats will need to be easily seen by any potential adopters. Consider pathways by/through/over the spaces, windows/openings into the spaces, and anything else that will allow potential adopters to interact with the animals.

Veterinary Clinic	1,200 sqft
Grooming	400 sqft
Public Restrooms (mens and womens at 200 sqft each)	400 sqft

Animal Area

These are the spaces where the animals will live while they are waiting for adoption. It is important to remember that these spaces be comfortable and inviting; the happier and healthier the dogs are the more likely it is that they will get adopted. Do the rooms have pet furniture? Do they have outdoor access? Do they have more than one level? Be creative with ideas for how these animals can live.

Large Dog Spaces (50 dogs)	2,000 sqft total

A good rule of thumb is 40 square feet of space per dog; however, the spaces do not all have to be the same. Keep in mind that some dogs do better by themselves while others do better in pairs or groups.

Small Dog Spaces (40 dogs)	1,600 sqft total

All the same notes for the Large Dog spaces apply here.

Dog Adoption Meet/Greet Rooms (6 units at 100 sqft)	600 sqft total

These are rooms where the dogs will get to meet people who are interested in meeting the dogs one-on-one.

Cat Spaces (60 cats)	1,500 sqft total

A good rule of thumb is 15 square feet of space per cat, but just like the dog spaces, the cat spaces do not all have to be the same. Also, it is even more likely that multiple cats can be together in one space, so do not be afraid to group multiple cats together.

Cat Adoption Meet and Greet Rooms (3 units at 100 sqft)	300 sqft total
Animal Care Stations	200 sqft

Employee Area (Keep Separate from Public)

Offices (2 offices at 200 sqft each)	400 sqft
Employee Locker rooms (mens and womens at 500 sqft each)	1,000 sqft
Employee break room	400 sqft

Maintenance and Mechanical rooms	1,000 sqft
Storage	500 sqft
Laundry Room	200 sqft

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

1 - essay (should be firmly affixed to the front of one board)

Your descriptive essay should include some detail to explain your design. Please limit your essay to one 8 ½ x 11 sheet @ 12 point Arial font, approx. 500 words

Suggestions of what to include in your essay:

- Describe your sustainable strategies and how the shelter and community will benefit, and enjoy them.
- Describe how the surrounding context influences the design of your building.
- Describe the adoption experience at your building and its surroundings
- What makes your building unique, what will make your users excited to spend time in your building.
- Describe how your building is designed to keep the animals as healthy, stress-free and safe as possible, while at the same time showcasing them for their future adoption.

2 - drawings

The following **minimum** requirements should be mounted on two 24" x 36" or 30" x 42" **foam core** *(do not submit more than two boards)*: (*Winning entries will be exhibited @ the Architecture Center Houston, therefore to facilitate display, boards **must be foam core**, and must not exceed the allowable sizes)*

- 1" = 100**'** scale **site plan**, showing outdoor features and site improvements and the roof of the shelter (and other buildings if applicable).
- 1" = 30**'** scale **floor plan** of the building showing walls, doors, windows, dog kennels, cat cages, countertops, plumbing fixtures, room names, and other descriptive information that defines the space.
- 1" = 30**'** scale **exterior building elevation(s)** showing façade, roof heights, building materials, windows, and other descriptive information.
- **Building section**:
    - 1" = 30**'** **building section** of the building showing spaces and how they are connected or divided walls and exterior wall material

      Or

    - 1"=1/4" **enlarged section** of a particular space of interest (I.E.: the animal rooms/spaces, the entry, or play spaces). Be sure to show materials.

- At least one accurate **perspective** drawings at any scale of an interior or exterior view of your project.
- Any **hand sketches** that document your design process.

3 – model*

1/16" = 1'-0" **scale model** of the project *(building only, no site model)* is required for team projects

Models are not to exceed a 36" x 24" base, and should fit in front of the participants' mounted presentation boards.

**Models are optional for individual participants, but all are encouraged to experiment with models to help answer questions about their designs.*

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Entries are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, 29 April 2015 at the AIA Houston offices at ArCH (ARCHITECTURE CENTER HOUSTON) 315 Capitol Street, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77002 [phone 713-520-0155].

AWARDS:

MGMC reception and awards presentation will be held on Friday, 06 May 2015 at ArCH (ARCHITECTURE CENTER HOUSTON) 315 Capitol Street, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77002 [phone 713-520-0155]. Winning entries will be displayed in an exhibition through 20 May 2015.

Design is a creative process, and this is an ideas competition. Engineering calculations are not required for mechanical, electrical, or structural systems. All participants will receive a certificate of recognition from the American Institute of Architects. There will be a balanced evaluation by jurors from architectural, academic, and other relevant fields of expertise. Awards include college scholarships and scholarships to the UofH Architectural Summer Discovery Program. While the quality of presentation is important, any contestant of any ability may receive an award based on the strength of a concept or inventiveness of an idea.

Sustainable design strategies

Site

Preserve green space or return developed land to more natural state
Be aware of drainage, minimize potential erosion
Be smart about transportation
Be aware of extent of impermeable surfaces, eg; roads and paving
Be aware of the affect of your site on adjacent properties

Water

Animal habitats require cleaning every day with high water usage.

Be smart about how much, and how you use and or reuse water.
Think about ways to conserve water.
(Use native and adaptive plants, and minimize use of potable water.
Adopt water technologies that reduce amount of water used.

Energy

Animal areas require more conditioned air exchanges than humans for odor and disease control.

Be smart about how much, and what type of energy is used.
Think about ways to conserve energy.

Materials

Consider the impact of products used in the construction of the Building;
this would include materials with recycled content, salvaged, rapidly renewable and local materials.

Indoor Environment

We spend the majority of our time indoors and we should optimize the quality of that environment.
Think about ways to bring lots of daylight into the building for humans and animals.
Think about the types of materials you use inside the building and how they could affect the health of the occupants