

Michael G. Meyers Scholarship Competition

2017 Design Program

Re-Imagine Architecture Center Houston

Architecture centers throughout the nation serve as gathering places of ideas and design. They are meant to bring together collaboration between design professionals and the community. Centers for architecture are designed to be functional as well as sustainable, showcasing the best design principles architects use in their own practices.

This year the program for the Michael G. Meyers Competition is to design the new home for Architecture Center Houston (ArCH).

The site is located at 902 Commerce in the heart of downtown Houston's Main Street and Market Square Historic District. With much of the surrounding area rapidly developing, this section of Houston's original downtown has still maintained its historic charm. It will be up to you to decide which path to take with your design strategies. Be sure to consider the context and surrounding landmarks in the area as well sustainable design strategies. With a light rail stop around the block on Main Street, the recently completed bayou trail and renovated Allen's landing across the street, and foot traffic from the university and growing residential population, there are many neighborhood elements to take into account. Don't forget this is foremost an ideas competition!!

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

The design for Architecture Center Houston (ArCH)

1. Include a comprehensive description of your building explaining the concepts behind your interior and exterior designs. See essay requirements. Give your project 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 for suggestions.
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 and general flow within the space, as well as the relationship between the sidewalk & street to the indoor spaces. Your solution should be pedestrian friendly.
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 this building is historic in nature and be aware of the context and uses of the surrounding buildings.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

SITE ELEMENTS

Although this design program is primarily an interior build out there are important exterior site and façade options to account for in your solution. Consider how you will approach the site as a pedestrian or vehicle.

How does one enter the building? What views into the building do you want pedestrians to see? What does the streetscape and landscaping look like, will you add any? What other elements accent your design and draw visitors into the space? What special features will enhance the visitor experience? Does your design fit the context of the surroundings or deliberately stray away from it?

EXTERIOR SPACE (Incorporate or Develop a minimum of 2 ideas)

Façade Development (Renovation and or restoration)

Connection between the two building spaces (storefront and boiler room)

Urban Green Space

Skylight (above boiler room)

Flood Prevention

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

Natural Daylighting

Energy Efficiency

Green Roof

Rain Water Harvesting

BUILDING ELEMENTS

5,400 SQFT (APPROX) STOREFRONT BUILDING

2,200 SQFT (APPROX) BOILER ROOM

When designing your indoor and outdoor spaces there are some critical issues to keep in mind. The space should be designed to be highly flexible and adaptable, consider uses for the ability to host events and rotating exhibitions for the architecture community. The space should serve as an educational tool for sustainability standards. How will you connect the outdoor space to the inside? How will you utilize the history of the site, restore the original façade, modernize/reinterpret the original architecture or both? With the proximity to the bayou, will you address recent flooding concerns? How will you use the garage above the space?

PUBLIC SPACES

Reception Area (seating/desk for 2 employees)	200 sqft
Exhibition/Classroom Space (flexible, in the main storefront space)	1500-2000 sqft
Restrooms: Men's and Women's @ 200sqft each or 400sqft of unisex	400 sqft
BoardRoom (seating for 20) Consider AV capabilities with large TV and lighting controls	600 sqft
Meeting Room (seating for 12)	250 sqft
Catering/Kitchen Area (for events & daily staff use)	250 sqft
Prominently Displayed Donor Wall	100 sqft (flat wall space only)

PRIVATE SPACES

2 Offices	200 sqft
4 work stations: 8'x8' each/ open office	250 sqft
Storage for chairs & tables	250 sqft
Office supply storage	100 sqft
Mechanical/ Electrical Space	300 sqft
Exhibit storage	250 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 architecture center will benefit the community.
- 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 one 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" = 50' scale **site plan**, showing outdoor features and site improvements and the roof of the shelter (and other buildings if applicable).
- 1/8" = 1' scale **floor plan** of the building showing walls, doors, windows, furniture, countertops, plumbing fixtures, room names, and other descriptive information that defines the space.
- 1/4" = 1' scale **exterior building elevation(s)** showing façade, roof heights, building materials, windows, and other descriptive information.

- **Building section:**
 - 1/8" = 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 transfer from main office area to the boiler room). 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*

1/8" = 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 April 21 2017 location to be announced
Delivery information will be delivered online and via email to all registered students and teachers.*

AWARDS:

MGMC reception and awards presentation will be held at 6pm on Friday April 28 2017 at ArCH (ARCHITECTURE CENTER HOUSTON)

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.

The Michael G. Meyers Design and Scholarship Competition is sponsored by the Architecture Center Houston Foundation in partnership with the Houston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

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



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



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 visitors and workers
 Think about the types of materials you use inside the building and how they could affect the health of the occupants