

Corus Student Awards - Architecture Brief 2007/2008



The Twentieth Corus Student Awards is supported by the Steel Construction Institute (SCI), the British Constructional Steelwork Association Limited (BCSA), the Architect’s Journal, and RIBA Education

Introduction

The main purpose of this competition is to give architectural students a creative vehicle for learning about the use of steel in buildings. By taking part you will have the chance to explore the complex issues surrounding the theme of living with waste

The competition is, as usual, open to students of architecture in the European Union. For both UK and overseas students the competition brief is to address the theme of ‘Wasteworld’ – Living with waste

Steel has been one of the most important materials used in construction for the last 100 years or so. It has created a new architecture through its qualities of flexibility and strength. In your submission you are invited to explore the use of steel on both a domestic and industrial scale – a difficult balancing act between scale, weight and utility. Designing in steel on a mixed use scheme needs an appreciation of the material’s aesthetic qualities, as well as an understanding of the engineering involved.

‘Wasteworld’ - Living with waste

- 25.5 million tonnes of household waste was collected in England in 2005/06.
- 26.7 per cent of this waste was sent for recycling or composting.
- Household recycling rate has increased from 7.5 per cent in 1996/97.
- Green recycling (composting) rose from 1 per cent in 1996/97 to 9.6 per cent in 2005/6.
- Dry recycling has increased from 6 per cent in 1996/97 to 17 per cent in 2005/06

Source: DEFRA household waste recycling rates from DEFRA e-digest)

We are increasingly defined by what we consume. Today, in a culture that is increasingly obsessed with the trappings of success, newness and the latest thing are how society, or at least a significant proportion of society, measure themselves against others. As a result, the amount we throw away has also increased.

Western civilisation is rooted in this paradigm, it defines concepts such as the American Dream or Gordon Gekko’s ‘Greed is Good’ from the film Wall Street, it underlies the manufacturing industries of the globe, the advertising industry, all retail. We live to consume. Of course there is mounting concern that that phrase should be the other way around; we should consume to live and only allow ourselves that which we need to thrive, and some of the older concepts of continual growth should be radically revised. However, in the meantime we consume and we produce waste.

In India and China whole communities live and work on landfill sites, scraping subsistence lifestyles from other people’s (sometimes our) rubbish. Although the rubbish dump dwellers are largely victims of consumer culture some have created viable businesses from re-using the commodities collected. Rags are collected for papermaking. One secondary use of plastic bags after the bags are collected, washed and processed is their conversion into woven bags, jewellery and table mats. Some of these make their way back to western high streets.



Ragpickers in Delhi, India (photos from Cryptic Moth.com)



Plastic bags drying in the sun before conversion into woven fabric.

Most plastic bags and bottles etc. form a large component of domestic waste, there are waste streams for every sector in manufacturing, every aspect of human life. Construction's contribution is not insignificant in this respect.

The construction business in the UK is responsible for nearly a third of all industry-related pollution incidents. Construction and demolition waste alone represent 19% of total UK waste. The energy used in constructing, occupying and operating buildings represents approximately 50% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK.

Clearly there is a role for designers (some might say a duty) to think about how their proposals not only might reduce waste during manufacture (both factory and site activities) but also in designing systems and features which could help to manage waste during the building's lifetime. Whilst reduction of manufacturing waste is already a feature of many schemes and should be included in your proposal, we would like you to focus on waste management through the life of the building.

Your submission should be a housing scheme for an urban community, with a density in the range of 150 – 500 homes per hectare. You may masterplan the community but will need to consider in detail how individual housing units might work within the context of sustainable waste use and/or management.

Community spaces and a range of dwellings should be provided - from family to key worker accommodation. It is of great importance that, whatever you decide is the best way to deal with this community's waste, the solution is practical, elegant and able to be integrated into everyday life. **Steel, already one of the most readily recyclable materials, should feature in your designs.**

Your proposals should consider the way in which we use and dispose of domestic waste, and how dwellings and communities might be designed in such a way as to facilitate the sustainable use, either through reduction, recycling or reuse of waste or a combination of all three. You may decide that, like the ragpickers, waste produced should be re-integrated into the economic cycle by turning it into something else.

There are many existing systems on the market that cover one or more aspects of waste treatment and disposal and the judges will be looking for evidence of research into the methods and products available, however this should not preclude original thoughts on how we could innovate in our approach to waste and how this innovation might inform a new architectural idiom.

Form of submission

The submission will be required on 8 A3 Sheets or 2 A1 sheets.

- Drawings should include a location/site plan
- Floor plans, sections and elevations should also be provided at a scale to suit the submission.
- Landscaping details, items of street furniture etc. should be shown in an appropriate form.
- Models, although not acceptable in themselves as part of the submission material for the judging process, may be photographed.

Drawings and photographs must be mounted on lightweight board. Perspex or glass should not be used. Any entrant who is required to redraw design illustrations for publication must do so at his or her own cost.

In a change from previous years there is **no requirement** for a separate report. Text (if required) should be incorporated onto the **8 A3 or 2 A1 sheets mounted on lightweight board.**

In addition to this, you are required to hand in an electronic copy of your work on CD-ROM. **In a jpeg format.**

However, if you prepare any additional supporting material (such as fly-through, videos, CD-ROMs etc) you may place these in a separate envelope marked “For the attention of Ken Oliver” as this material may be used by the organisers at the award ceremony if you win first prize in the competition.

All submission items and packaging must be clearly marked with the entry reference number. The entry reference number will be sent to you following registration for the competition.

It will not be possible for the organisers to return your submissions

How to enter

To enter the competition you should complete the entry form and authorship declaration and send it to Ken Oliver at the address shown on the form by **29th February 2008**

On receipt of your entry form you will be issued with an entry reference number. This reference number should be clearly marked on all items forming your design entry and on the outside of the package in which your entry is submitted. **No other form of identification or distinguishing marks should appear on any part of your submission.**

Corus Student Awards – Architecture; ‘Wasteworld’ – Living with waste

Any question, which competitors wish to ask, should be addressed to Project Manager Ken Oliver and sent to arrive by 1st February 2008. The answers to the questions shall be published at www.corusconstruction.com/en/news_and_events/awards/corus_student_awards/architecture/faq/. This will then form part of the Competition Conditions. Verbal questions will not be accepted.

A successful competitor must be able to satisfy the assessors that he or she is the bona fide author of the design that he or she has submitted.

Competitors should retain copies of the design submitted. The promoter cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to drawings, which may occur, either in transit or during exhibition, storage or packing.

The promoters will notify the winners of the time and place of the awards ceremony. A design will be excluded from the competition if:

- The competitor does not meet the eligibility requirements
- The entry is received after the competition dates shown
- **The competitor in any way discloses his or her identity**
- The competitor attempts to influence either directly or indirectly the decision of the assessors
- In the opinion of the assessors, the design does not substantially meet the requirements of the brief or the accommodation asked for

Design entries must be received by 4.30pm Friday 16th May 2008

Each competitor's design is to be sent in a single package, carriage paid to:
Ken Oliver
Education Manager
Corus Construction Services & Development
Q, Block
Moorgate,
Rotherham
S60 3AR
United Kingdom

Do not forget to mark the reference number on each piece of work and on the outside of the packing.

More details of the event and copies of the brief and official registration form can be found on the website:

www.corusconstruction.com/en/news_and_events/awards/corus_student_awards/architecture/brief/

Assessors

The competition will be assessed by a team of internationally renowned architects and will include the following representatives:

- Bryan Avery of Avery Associates,
- Yasmin Shariff of Dennis Sharp Associates,
- David Bonnett, David Bonnett Associates
- Ruth Slavid, The Architect's Journal
- Christopher Nash, Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners
- Terry Raggett, Robert Bird Architects
- Dr Olga Popovic Larsen, University of Sheffield
- Steve Thompson, Architect Corus Construction Services & Development
- Winner of the 2007 Corus Student Architecture Awards

The Awards

There will be a total of £5,000 for the winners to share.

The Award Ceremony will take place in London at the Structural Steel Design Awards, where the winners of the competition will be awarded their prizes. The panel of competition assessors will be present at this event.

Eligibility for UK entrants

The competition is open to students at all British Schools of Architecture recognised by RIBA, who, at the time of application, are participating in courses leading to Part I and Part II examinations and also, to students who are doing courses at recognised British Schools of Architecture equivalent to Part I and II and are design orientated.

In exceptional cases, students who are not doing an architectural course, may if their entry is up to the expected standard and is accepted by all the competition judges enter the competition.

Team entries will be accepted provided that team members satisfy the requirements of the competition.

No member of the promoting body or the assessors, nor any partner, associate or employee of either shall be eligible to enter the competition or to assist a competitor.

Eligibility for overseas entrants

The competition is open to all students registered in a school of architecture in the **European Union** that is recognised by the professional body of that country. Both undergraduate (equivalent to RIBA Part I) and postgraduate (equivalent to RIBA PART II) entries are eligible to enter.

Ready to enter this competition?

To take part in the competition you need to register on the **official registration form** which must be sent to Ken Oliver, Education Manager, Corus Construction Services & Development, Swinden House, Moorgate, Rotherham, S60 3AR before **29th February 2008**. A registration form can be downloaded online from **www.corusconstruction.com/en/news_and_events/awards/corus_student_awards/architecture/registration/**

Good Luck!