

HUMAN CITIES

Human Cities Festival : Places To Be – 3rd Edition,
Brussels Spring 2012

GENERAL CONTEXT

1. This International Call for Projects 'Upcycling Public Space' is organized as part of the second festival of the Human Cities network called: "Reclaiming public space", to be held in Brussels from 15 until 31 March 2012. Human Cities is a European network that groups scientific and cultural partners involved in research and information on spatial, social and political innovation related to the production of public space in contemporary cities. The partners in this network are:

ULB, Faculty of Architecture La Cambre-Horta, Brussels, BE – Pro Materia, Brussels, BE – Strategic Design Scenarios, Brussels, BE – Politecnico di Milano, Faculty of design, Department INDACO, Milan, IT - Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (UIRS), Ljubljana, SLO – La Cité du Design, Saint-Etienne, FR – Time Circus, Antwerp, BE – Esterni, Milan, IT – Prostoroz, Ljubljana, SLO – Clear Village, London, UK.

For further information, please consult the site: www.humancities.eu

2. Human Cities offers innovative perspectives of and contributions to the public space, which is emerging as a realm of creative intervention and collaboration between artists, designers, architects, sociologists, writers, philosophers, urban planners and landscape architects. This interdisciplinary approach of the Human Cities hub, researches and action program has contributed to the emergence of creative cities, laboratory for informal, temporary, creative performances and installations of static or moving forms and objects challenging our existing art, architecture and design stereotypes. Its bottom up approach set up a bi-annual Human Cities Festival: an European research project which presents a series of activities to celebrates and reclaims the public space: an international symposium (15-16 March 2012 on Reclaiming Public Space), conferences, exhibitions, public space's activities and workshops.

THEME OF COMPETITION

Theme: Upcycling - Urban Readymades

Deadline: 30 October 2011

The term Upcycling was first used by Reiner Pilz who described recycling as a system where everything is smashed. He used the term Downcycling to describe this and called for what he referred to as Upcycling, a practice where old products are given more value and not less. In this sense, Upcycling is about the way we remake things.

If we consider reinventing or remaking public space, we do not speak about reinventing the wheel or total erasure of what exists, but of how to work with existing environments, objects and materials.

Projects will be analyzed on their use of the Upcycling concept and cross-disciplinary approaches to public space as well as their interpretation of Readymade design, referencing Duchamp's description of 'found art,' or objects which are slightly modified to take on a new social function.

Why? To rethink, re-use and reinvent public space by exploring human creativity and existing materials through co-creations, performances, installations and hands-on experiments.

What fields of transversality? Light/temporary architecture, furniture, lighting, sound, public visual art and performances, storytelling, food, scent & taste...



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Who? Designers, architects, landscape architects, anthropologists, philosophers, storytellers... Professional and students are welcome to introduce their projects.

How? Creative and interactive Human Centered Design approach, Do It Yourself...

Where? Context of Brussels City and other European cities part of HC Network aiming at a socio-cultural impact in selected places in town.

2. PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

The competition has been created with the following purposes:

'Reclaiming public space': develop a public design project which enable citizens to re-invest, re-appropriate, re-use public spaces as an open, rich and convivial common good.

- To make the public opinion more aware of the public space as a context for projects;
- To develop, support, and establish a public-space-centred approach to the city;
- To offer the city of Brussels public design projects that can become permanent;
- To offer designers the opportunity to present their ideas during the Human Cities Festival 2012.
- To increase the participation of all citizens into public life.

3. VENUE

Places To Be will feature site-specific projects developed on the base of the actual needs of some specific city areas. These areas will provide the setting for interventions selected through this Call for Entries, as well as other interventions stemming from the organization's research and design work.

The areas chosen to host the third Human Cities Festival are areas around train and metro stations.

All details will be available soon on: www.humancities.eu

In order to take part in the competition, you can submit a site-specific project or a project not specifically meant for train or metro station area, in which case the location will be assigned by the organization.

4. GUIDELINES

The organization will only evaluate the submitted projects that meet one or more of the following requirements:

A) the improvement and enhancement of public spaces or urban furniture items that have been misused or left unused, with the aim of increasing the occasions to use them and the number of their users;

B) the designing of services and infrastructures for a 24/7 open and liveable city;

C) the designing solutions that could represent a functional, sustainable alternative to the actual politics of citizens, administrations, private and public bodies;

D) the designing of urban furniture items or structures that offer or complement a public service, also by enhancing structures already present in the chosen areas (such as nursery schools, elementary schools, cultural associations, bars, restaurants, etc.). The aim is to improve community life in a useful and functional way;

E) the designing of outdoor communication items that are considered innovative according to present-day advertising communication and fit into the environment thanks to a responsible exploitation of shared spaces.

The Committee will favour projects meeting the following requirements: economic sustainability;

that somehow interact with the audience;

the use of recycled materials, or the creative and innovative use of everyday materials;

a low environmental impact.

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5. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

a) New Projects these terms will result in the immediate exclusion from the competition, or – should the non-compliance be established at a later stage – in the revocation of conferred awards by unappealable decision of the jury, as well as in the repayment of received prizes.

b) Deadlines

Deadline for submission October 30th, 2011 –

End november : publication of the results Spring 2012 Human Cities Festival – 3rd Edition

c) Eligibility Criteria

The competition is open to people over 18 years old: they may be professionals, artists, or students from art, design, or communication schools or academies. Work groups are also admitted, provided there is a group leader and at least one member is over 18.

d) Requirements for Project Submission

The projects shall be submitted as follows:

- in digital format only. No other formats will be accepted;
 - the PDF file submitted shall be named after the designer or group leader, using the form available on our website;
- any video shall be in Quicktime format;

The size of the submitted file shall not exceed 8 MB.

e) Required Materials

The CV of the designers, studio, or collective submitting the project, or of all group members;
a photograph of the designers, studio, or collective submitting the project (300dpi);
a project description, indicating the chosen area, the project's purposes, and the specific techniques used to complete it;

Project rendering, illustrations, and 300dpi photo images;

The budget required to complete and manage the project, with single entries;
a list of possible sponsors the designer or group could most likely involve.

f) Competition Entry

You can only enter the competition by following the instructions and criteria mentioned in this call for projects.

g) Selection Committee

Mid-November 2011, a technical scientific committee will meet to select the projects.

h) Selection Process

Among all submitted projects the Committee will select an unset number of projects that will be completed and presented in Brussels during the 3rd edition of Human Cities Festival 2012. The organization will be responsible for obtaining the permits for the occupation of public land. The Selection Committee may at its discretion decide to cover production expenses up to a maximum of € 1,500 (VAT included). The remaining production expenses shall be covered by the designers. The Selection Committee may further decide to individually contact the designers, who will submit the following additional materials within 1 week of the Committee's demand:

- stability assessment signed by architects or engineers;
- signed disclaimer (downloadable from the website);
- materials' technical details;

final rendering and photographs for communication and press office purposes (300 dpi).

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i) Reimbursement of Production Expenses

Should the Selection Committee decide to reimburse production expenses, this will happen under the following conditions:

- invoices and receipts will be required in order to receive reimbursement;
- expenses will be reimbursed within 30 days from the presentation of the invoices;
- should the previously communicated budget vary, the organization shall be immediately informed, so that the new budget can be analysed again in order to confirm the reimbursement of expenses;
- eligible expenses are: project production and transportation expenses, cost of materials, maintenance and disposal expenses;
- non-eligible expenses are: communication materials (customized leaflets), designers' travel expenses, board and lodging.

l) Partnerships

The designers of the selected projects may autonomously find technical and non-technical sponsorships. Any sponsorship shall be evaluated by the organization, that will decide whether or not the company is compatible with the festival's image and will retain the right of veto.

m) Project Realization *

-The organization will individually inform the designers of how and when their selected projects will be on display. The designers shall comply with the schedule communicated by the organization.

-Selected projects, once completed, shall exactly match their rendering on paper. Any changes shall be agreed with the organization. Otherwise, the organization may exclude the project from the competition.

Designers will entirely carry out unpacking, assembling/disassembling, design, management and maintenance, set-up and tear-down on their own responsibility.

Designers will have 2 days each to set up and tear down the project. Any changes to the schedule shall be agreed with the organization.

-The organization is responsible for obtaining the permits for the occupation of public land.

-Once the project has been selected, it will be included in the festival programme and communication plan.

Things you should be aware of before designing your project:

-The organisation does not guarantee any guardianship during night hours, it will have to stand all weather conditions; designers will be directly responsible for any damage on their work.

n) Use of Photographic Materials

The organization is free to use all images of the selected projects for communication and press office purposes, with the only obligation of quoting their authors.

o) Production Rights

The participants in the competition will retain the property and the exploitation of rights of their works.

p) Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

Participants in the competition shall fully accept the terms and conditions contained in this call for entries.

Competition's Organization Offices

For further information please contact:

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