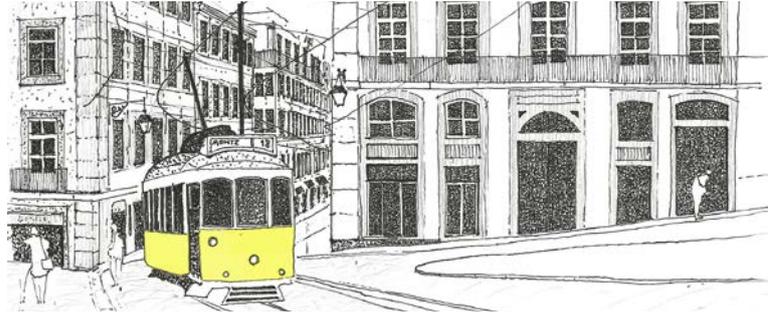


LISBON OPEN ROOM



1. INTRODUCTION

“An empty house. Many empty houses.”

Since 2008, the world has been going through a tough financial crisis, which has subsequently translated into a crisis of values. The big recession, which originated in the United States, has its origins in the real state bubble burst and the resulting financial and mortgage problems. The repercussions passed on firstly to the American financial system and later on to the international one, generating an economic crisis on an international level. Global pessimism was high and the stock markets were dropping daily. The consumer trust rate was the lowest ever seen in history and a remarkable rise in unemployment in the United States and other developed countries was produced.

The countries in the south of Europe were most affected by the world financial situation as well as their own internal real state bubble. At the beginning of the 21st century, the Spanish and Portuguese peninsula had become an open-air factory. Construction had become its most profitable industry and apartment values had risen exponentially. In Spain alone, more housing was built yearly than in France, Germany and Italy together. The local governments organised ambitious competitions which attempted to imitate the successful strategy of the Guggenheim by Frank Gehry in Bilbao. After the crisis started, numerous austerity measures and restraints on public expenditures were imposed - education and health services were among them. This caused citizen movements by different collectives, like the ‘15-M’ and the ‘Indignados’ movements.

One of countries most affected by the financial crisis was Portugal. In May 2011, the Eurozone leaders approved a rescue package of 78,000 euros to the Portuguese. Since then, one of the main problems has been unemployment and lack of opportunities for the youth.

2. PROPOSAL

“From crisis to opportunity”

The competition departs from the socioeconomic context of southern Europe, more precisely from the delicate situation in Portugal. The country is rich in culture, architecture and history but the cuts policies have reduced the call to carry out public construction. It is even understood that despite unfavourable context, it has not been permitted to produce good architecture for the people, as the great school of Portuguese architects has always done.

We propose a unique piece of architecture, which is described as a large container of activities. Public investment is reduced to public equipment and the expense is optimised by hosting as many events and creating as many uses for the building as possible. It is a hall open to the citizens, activating the surrounding public space and articulating good architecture with limited resources.

It is a container that aims to react to the magazine-cover-like architecture that has been generated, instead relating to the historical context of the place, the socioeconomic conditions and the moral sustainability of the proposal. It is an architecture of values that seeks its referents in history, in vernacular architecture and in the Portuguese masters.

2.1 The site

In the mouth of Río Tajo, seven hills shape the uneven city of Lisbon. One of the elevations is the historical neighbourhood of La Alfama, the oldest district in Portugal's capital. As a former fishing suburb, La Alfama forms dens and compact environments where different activities naturally intermingle.

The site's surrounding area is a space with large buildings of great heritage value. The zone is disorganised with the buildings being utilised for diverse activities, mostly ecclesiastical but also educational, residential and commercial. Twice a week La Feira da Ladra, an antiques market, takes place nearby the site.

Located inbetween the parish of São Vicente de Fora and the Panteão Nacional, the site is accessed through the street Campo Santa Clara by crossing through a small but significant entrance gate. Once inside, a tangential terrace to the parish frames the views to the city whilst also creating a suitable environment for the development of the Lisbon Open Room. The visual relation with 'el Tajo' symbolises Lisbon as a gate to access and exit Europe.

* Find more information and pictures of the site in the "Downloads" page on the ARCHmedium website.

2.2 Program

The competition programme is a polyvalent pavilion which allows multiple uses. We propose a structure capable of hosting diverse activities, and with intervention, rearranging the surrounding heritage buildings. The events and activities will be the engine that activates the surrounding public space and the people, the ones who activate it.

In order to carry out this function we suggest a unique, flexible space of approximately 600m² that is capable of hosting the various necessities of the programme, from the visitor's reception to one-time events such as receptions, exhibitions and presentations. Taking into account the limited dimensions of the pavilion and the flexibility of the proposed activities, it is up to contestants to generate the most suitable programme for its proper functioning.



3. Organization Criteria

3.2 Prizes

3.1 Eligibility

3.1.1 Students

This category will accept architecture and related fields undergraduate students who can prove their student status on the day the competition launches with some official document (student ID or enrolment papers).

Graduate, masters, and PhD students who are currently enrolled in some official course can also participate, but only if they obtained their undergraduate degree less than 3 years ago.

The 3 year rule applies to graduate, masters and PhD students who are CURRENTLY ENROLLED only!

3.1.2 Young Architects

This category will accept young professional architects who graduated less than 10 years ago (according to their degree expedition date) can also join the competition and opt to win the “young graduates” prize which will be awarded separately from the student prizes.

In both categories teams can be formed by just one member or up to six (6). Members of a team don't necessarily have to be students at the same university or live in the same country.

It is not necessary that all members of a team are architecture specialists. Having a photographer, artist, philosopher, etc. on a team can help to see the project in a new way, thus enriching the final result. However, it is recommended that at least one member of the team has some experience in architecture.

The registration fee is paid per team, regardless of how many members form it.

3.2.1 Students

1°	2°	3°
2.500€	1.000€	500€
	+	

- Considered for publication in the magazines Future and WA
- 1 year subscription to Detail magazine
- Displayed in ETSAB university in Barcelona
- Reviews in HIC and Taller al Cubo architecture blogs.

10 Mentions

- Considered for publication in Future and WA
- Displayed in ETSAB university in Barcelona
- Reviews in HIC and Taller al cubo architecture blogs

3.2.2 Young Architects

- 2.000€
- Considered for publication in the magazines Future and WA
- 1 year subscription to Detail magazine
- Displayed in ETSAB university in Barcelona
- Reviews in HIC and Taller al Cubo architecture blogs.

3 mentions

- Considered for publication in Future and WA
- Displayed in ETSAB university in Barcelona
- Reviews in HIC and Taller al cubo architecture blogs.

The Young Architects prize will be awarded separately from the student prizes. Students won't opt to win this prize in the same way that young architects won't opt to win student prizes. The projects submitted by these two groups will be judged separately.

*Depending on which country you live and pay taxes in, the cash prizes might be subject to some withholding to comply with the corresponding legal regulations.

3.3 Jury

The jury will be formed by the following members:
Presidente del jurado:

- **Teresa Batlle** (Pitch Architects) - President
- **Caterina Figuerola** (Aq4 arquitectura) - Invited architect
- **Pedro Rodriguez** - Local architect
- **Josep Ferrando** - Young architect
- **Carolina Garcia** - History of Architecture

*All members of the jury have expressed their willingness to take part in the voting process of this competition. However, their participation is subject to their professional commitments.

3.4 Calendar

Jul 28th 2014	Special Entry period starts
Sept 15th 2014	Special Entry period ends
Sept 16th 2014	Regular Entry period starts
Oct 15th 2014	Regular Entry period ends
Oct 31st 2014	Submission deadline
Nov 10-21st 2014	Jury meeting
Nov 27th 2014	Winners announce

3.5 Registrations

The entry periods will be divided as follows:

Special	Jul 28th – Sept 15th	50€ + IVA*
Regular	Sept 16th – Oct 15th	100€ + IVA*

*21% TAX must be applied to these prices (Special 60,50€, Early 90,75€, Regular 121€)

The registration fee is per team, regardless of how many members are on the team.

If a team wants to submit more than one proposal to the competition they will have to register each proposal separately and pay an additional fee for each proposal they wish to submit.

For a project to be accepted the team must be properly registered to the competition. All registrations will be done through the ARCHmedium website (www.ARCHmedium.com), where you will be asked to choose between several payment options.

After completing the registration form each team will be assigned with a registration code. It's important to keep this registration code in a safe place since it will allow your team to access the intranet where you'll have access to your registration status, payment tools, and the upload form to submit your project as we will explain in further sections of this document.

3.6 Payments*

All payments made through Bank Transfer or Western Union must be identified with the registration code of the team they belong to so that we can relate them correctly. If we receive a payment that is not properly identified we won't be able to relate it to your team and your participation will not be confirmed until you provide a proof of payment.

Accepted payment methods:

Credit or Debit Cards.

You may use any major credit or debit card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, etc.). All payments will be handled by PayPal to ensure the highest security standards on the web. ARCHmedium will never get direct access to your card details. Your registration will be confirmed automatically. We do not charge any extra fees for the use of this payment method.

Pay-Pal.

It is the fastest, easiest, and most secure way to pay online. Your registration will be received instantly. We do not charge any service fees when you use Pay-Pal, debit cards, or credit cards.

Bank Deposit

You must make a deposit of the stipulated amount (according to your registration period) to the account below. **

Bank: Caixa Catalunya
Account holder: ARCHmedium
Account: 2013 0405 94 0203925775
Concept: Registration Code (three letters)
IBAN: ES7420130405940203925775
SWIFT: CESCESBBXXX

* Once the payments are received and the registration is confirmed the fees won't be refunded or transferred to other competitions under any circumstance.

** The date that must be considered to identify which registration period you belong to is the date that ARCHmedium will receive the deposit and not the day that it is sent.

***Any bank fees that this operation might generate must be paid by the sender.

3.7 FAQ

During the competition, all participants are permitted to ask questions which help them better understand the project description and/or any other aspect of the competition.

Any questions that are not resolved in this document or in the FAQ section on our website must be made through the ARCHmedium's Facebook page. This ensures that all participants have access to the same amount of information.

3.8 Documentation

All the necessary documentation to develop the project, such as pictures of the site, videos, AutoCad drawings, etc. will be available at the ARCHmedium website so that anyone can download them before or after joining the competition. They may access and download the materials as many times as they need to. No additional information or working material will be provided to teams after registering.

Participants are free to use all this material in the context of this competition. They are also allowed to create their own graphic documents or to find new ones from other sources.

3.9 Presentation

Each team will submit only one din-A1 size (59,4, 84,1cm), landscape or portrait panel with their proposal.

This panel must be identified with the registration code of the team and the registration code ONLY; any panel including team names or personal names might be disqualified without refund.

Each team is responsible for choosing which information they include in their panel so that the jury may gain the clearest understanding of their project.

The representation technique is completely free (2D drawings, pictures of models, sketches, renders, collages, etc.). The jury will not only evaluate the quality of the project but also the clarity and quality of the presentation.

We do not recommend including large amounts of text on the panel. The project should be explanatory enough through the graphic material. However, certain notes might be acceptable. These notes must be written in English ONLY—any text written in a different language will not be taken into account and may lead to a team's disqualification.

3.10 Submission

Submissions must be done through the ARCHmedium's intranet only, before the date indicated on the competition calendar. You must log in with your username and password and follow the upload process. No submissions will be accepted by e-mail or any other medium. The submission page will be automatically closed after the submission date and time are reached, not allowing any modifications or aggregations after that, so please, try to upload your project 24 hours in advance so that you have time to solve any issues that might come up along the way (they always do!).

The panel must be no other size than Din-A1 and be in no other format than JPG. The maximum weight of the file is 12MB.

3.11 Evaluation Criteria

The jury will be in charge of establishing the key points that this project needed to address based on the site, brief, etc. and evaluate each project accordingly.

As part of the design process we recommend that each team takes the necessary time to research the working site as well as other case study projects that might relate to the brief in hand to determinate what aspects of the project are the most unique and therefore need to be addressed and successfully solved to achieve a good result.

Remember that this is an ideas competition, an opportunity for experiment and explore the limits of architecture. The jury reserves the right to award any proposal that fails at any of the parameters mentioned in these rules, as long as it justifies the breach of the rule in favor of the architectural design of the proposal.

3.12 Voting System

The voting system to choose the winning projects is as follows:

1. ARCHmedium team, following the jury's instructions, will make an initial selection of 50 projects in response to the above criteria.
2. The members of the jury will study both the pre-selected projects and all others privately and include, if they consider it necessary, any of the non-selected projects in the initial list of 50.
3. At the meeting, the jurors will discuss all the pre-selected projects (The ARCHmedium's selected 50 projects plus the projects added by the jury) to decide the winner, second and third prize and honorable mentions.

3.13 Intellectual Property

All the material submitted to the competition will become part of ARCHmedium's files. ARCHmedium will have full rights to publish and promote this material, always making proper mention of their authors. For any other purposes the authors of the projects will keep full rights over their design.

By submitting a proposal you are giving ARCHmedium the right to use the received material in both printed and on-line publications. ARCHmedium will also have the right to modify any of the mentioned material at its will in order to better adapt it to the different formats and layouts that different publications might have.

3.14 Additional Notes

- ARCHmedium reserves the right to make any changes to this document (dates, deadlines, requirements, etc.) as long as the changes benefit a majority of the competition participants. Any modifications will be announced on the ARCHmedium's Facebook page. It is each team's responsibility to check the ARCHmedium's Facebook page on a regular basis to follow and incorporate all changes.
- Under no circumstances will members of the jury, members of the organization, or persons with a direct personal or professional relationship with members of the jury or the organization be allowed to participate in this competition.
- The project of this competition is a fictitious job and will not be built. The provided documentation has been modified to better meet the goals of this competition and, as a result, the provided documents do not fully correspond with reality.
- This project is only an exercise, and therefore it will not necessarily follow any existing building or urban planning regulations.
- No one has hired or contacted ARCHmedium in order to organize this competition. The idea and program of this competition have been fully developed by ARCHmedium to serve solely as an academic exercise.
- ARCHmedium has no relation to the owners of the site where this exercise is proposed to be and therefore cannot guarantee that participants will have any access to the property.

3.15 Thanks

ARCHmedium wants to thank the collaborators that have contributed to the organization of this competition. We would also like to thank the jury members, without whom this project would not have been possible.

