1. INTRODUCTION

The sun had yet not risen when the sirens began to sound. It was the morning of Wednesday, April 18, 1906 and the city of San Francisco was shaken awake by an earthquake measuring 8.25 on the Richter scale.

Having received the strong quake shocks for over a minute, the city was badly damaged and the residents rushed out to check the condition of their property, to protect their families and control the damage. But the worst was yet to come.

More than 30 fires were reported throughout the city as a result of gas leaks caused by the earthquake. San Francisco began to burn, and would continue to do so for four days and four nights.

The water network had also been seriously damaged by the quake, preventing firefighters from controlling the fire by the usual means. Yet this did not prevent them in their attempt to save the city, and they resorted to using all the tools at their disposal. They dynamited entire blocks in hopes of creating a firewall, fought the flames with hoses where the supply hadn’t been cut and installed water pumps to use water from the bay to control fires closer to the coast.

As we all know the firefighters’ attempts to save the city were unsuccessful and 80% of the city was reduced to ashes before the fire was extinguished. After the disaster and over the subsequent years, some of the measures taken by firefighters were strongly criticized, but what nobody forgets is that they remained active during the four days of the tragedy, risking their lives at all times to try to save the city and citizens they served.

Many a survivor have told their story of a law enforcement officer entering their homes when they were about to collapse and taking them to open areas or guiding them to safe shelter from the flames that kept advancing.

The American people will not forget the courage of all those men who faced what even today, after 100 years is remembered as the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

2. PROPOSAL

San Francisco today has one of the most prestigious and well equipped fire departments of the United States and the world. Every day it responds to dozens of calls and acts quickly in all its interventions to prevent the catastrophe from happening again.

This elite group ensures the safety of the city and more than 800,000 of its residents through 51 different stations scattered throughout the city to ensure quick arrival at any place where an incident may occur.

However, the department misses a central station from where one can coordinate all operations and act on those operations which require special equipment that are not available at every station, such as helicopters, boats, hydraulic presses for release victims of traffic accidents, etc.

ARCHmedium proposes the creation of this fire station for the city of San Francisco that serves not only to centralize and improve the service but also as a gift and token of appreciation from the city to this department.

The new center should not only be a practical space designed to respond to the needs of firefighters, but must become an icon of the city which rose from the ashes and a reminder of the tragedy, a building that not only the people of San Francisco but the
entire world associates with the image of the fire department.

2.1 The Site

The site chosen to locate the project is situated on the currently unused docks 30-32 of the bay of San Francisco.

This is a particularly suitable location for this use because it is uniquely linked to the main roads of the city, allowing fire trucks to move quickly and effectively to almost anywhere in the city. At the same time it is located on the bay, near the water and away from tall buildings, allowing the firefighters to act via sea and air when needed.

From a social point of view, the site is fully integrated with the skyline of the city, on the southern end of the seafront and has a dominant presence when entering the city through the San Francisco Bay Bridge, the main access route for traffic to town. In this sense the building planned here will not go unnoticed and will be present in the daily lives of thousands of people.

The dimensions of the site are very generous, and although the proposed program is extensive, and requires plenty of outdoor space, this may not cover the entire area of work. It is, therefore, at the discretion of the participants to choose the specific point to place the building. It's also allowed to “cut” the area of the dock to best fit each project.
2.2 Spaces

**RESIDENCE**
- Hall/reception \(^1\) 25m\(^2\)
- Kitchen 45m\(^2\)
- Dining Hall 150m\(^2\)
- Lounge \(^2\) 250m\(^2\)
- Duty Kitchen 20m\(^2\)
- Dormitories
  - 4 people. 2un x 35m\(^2\)
  - 2 people. 10un x 20m\(^2\)
- Bathrooms 2un x 20m\(^2\)
Total (aprox.) 800m\(^2\)

**FIRE STATION**
- Interior Garage (12 trucks) 1080m\(^2\)
- Outfits Zone (for 50) \(^3\) 150m\(^2\)
- Equipment rooms \(^4\) 5un x 20m\(^2\)
- Infirmary 15m\(^2\)
- Presentations Room 250m\(^2\)
- Loocker Room 2un x 75m\(^2\)
- Gymnasium 300m\(^2\)
- Swimming pool area 500m\(^2\)
- Control Tower \(^5\) 75m\(^2\)
- Offices 2un x 15m\(^2\)
Total (aprox.) 2600m\(^2\)

**EXTERIOR**
- Civilian Parking \(^6\) 40 plazas
- Exterior Parking \(^7\) 1080m\(^2\)
- Multipurpose sports court \(^8\) 1000m\(^2\)
- Helipad 3
- Harbor 5 amarres
- Training Tower \(^9\) 10 pisos

Total (aprox.) 2600m\(^2\)

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*Since this is an ideas competition, the proposed areas must be understood as a good starting point for what could be a complete and properly proportioned project, but does not imply that participants can not suggest new areas, or eliminate or combine some of those already mentioned above.

1. Entrance area to the building. This is not an area where public or clients are received but a private area for use of facility workers.

2. Area where firefighters can rest, study, watch TV, play cards, etc. during their duty hours.

3. Storage place for firefighter outfits. Must be easily accessible as on receiving the order to leave, the firefighters should be able to change and get on the truck in a matter of minutes.

4. Rooms where specialized equipment is stored, such as oxygen cylinders for underwater activities, hydraulic presses for traffic accidents, etc.

5. Historically, fire stations had a high point from where they could spot potential sources of fires. Today, it is still a useful tool (although not indispensable) which also houses the control units and monitors which are responsible for receiving and coordinating emergency calls.

6. Parking area where the station workers park their private vehicles.

7. Fire trucks need to be washed, hoses checked regularly, etc. so it is necessary that each truck should be provided with both indoor and outdoor space to carry out all these tasks.

8. Outdoor Track for exercise where one can practice various sports like football or basketball and other less specific physical activities.

9. The training tower is a vertical structure where firefighters can perform simulations on stairs, elevators, perform descents on vertical planes, etc.
3. Organization Criteria

3.1 Eligibility

This competition is public and open to all architecture and related fields undergraduate students that can prove their student status 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.

Participants are required to meet the eligibility criteria during at least one day of the competition calendar.

Young professional architects who graduated less than 7 years ago (according to their degree expedition date) can also join the competition and opt to win the “young professionals” prize which will be awarded separately from the student prizes.

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.

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.

3.2 Prizes

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<th>1º</th>
<th>2º</th>
<th>3º</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.000€</td>
<td>1.500€</td>
<td>500€</td>
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</table>

• Publication in architecture magazines ArchiWorld and WA

• 1 year subscription to a magazine of your choice: FRAME/MARK/ELEPHANT, Domus, Architectural Review, Architectural Record, Arquitectura Viva, Arquine, Detail, Future arquitecturas

• Exhibition at the Architecture School of Barcelona (ETSAB) and the University La Salle

• Reviews in several architecture webs and blogs.

10 Honorable Mentions

• Exhibition at the Architecture School of Barcelona (ETSAB) and the University La Salle

• Considered for publication in architecture magazines ArchiWorld and WA

• Reviews in several architecture webs and blogs.

Young Graduates Prize

• 3000€

• Publication in architecture magazines ArchiWorld and WA

• 1 year subscription to a magazine of your choice: FRAME/MARK/ELEPHANT, Domus, Architectural Review, Architectural Record, Arquitectura Viva, Arquine, Detail, Future arquitecturas

• Exhibition at the Architecture School of Barcelona (ETSAB) and the University La Salle

• Reviews in several architecture webs and 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.
Publications

ARCHmedium is in constant contact with some of the major architecture magazines and publishers around the world. For each competition, we agree to publish with the magazines that best match the theme of the particular contest. Depending of the final result, other publications might be interested in publishing the content as well.

We also keep very close contact with the most visited architecture blogs and websites on the internet, where the content of the competition will be reviewed. It's hard to estimate how many websites will publish the competition since many of them find inspiration for their content in magazines or other blogs of reference.

Exhibitions

Exhibitions will be free and open to the general public. The exhibition might become a touring exhibition depending on the interest that other universities and cultural centers show for it.

3.3 Jury

The jury will be formed by the following members:

Presidente del jurado:

- President: Francisco Mangado
- Andreu Arriola (Arriola&Fiol)
- Alex Gimenez
- Emiliano López
- Jordi Garcés

*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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 18th 2013</td>
<td>Special Entry period starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19th 2013</td>
<td>Special Entry period ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20th 2013</td>
<td>Early Entry period starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 16th 2013</td>
<td>Early Entry period ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 17th 2013</td>
<td>Regular Entry period starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 15th 2013</td>
<td>Regular Entry period ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 31st 2013</td>
<td>Submission deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 2-6th 2013</td>
<td>Jury meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 10th 2013</td>
<td>Winners announce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.5 Registrations

The entry periods will be divided as follows:

- **Special** Mar 18th – May 19th 50€ + IVA*
- **Early** May 29th – Jun 16th 75€ + IVA*
- **Regular** Jun 17th – Jul 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 were 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:

**Pay-Pal, Debit or Credit cards.**

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: CESCEBXS

**Western Union.**

You must send a money order of the stipulated amount (according to your registration period) to the beneficiary below. After sending the money order, please send your name, country, and transaction ID by e-mail to gaston@ARCHmedium.com. Any transaction fees that Western Union or the intermediary you are using might charge must be paid by the sender.

- Beneficiary: Gastón Saboulard
- Address: Duran i Bas 1, 3º1ºA. 08002 Barcelona. SPAIN

* 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 determine 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.
- 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.
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.