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Round Table

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# CIRT National Design & Construction Competition

2019 Competition Packet  
[cirtcompetition.org](http://cirtcompetition.org)

*“Ability is what you’re capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.”*

– **Lou Holtz**, Legendary Football Coach, Author

A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT WITH THE  
ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF AMERICA  
AND  
CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

# About the Competition

The 2019 CIRT National Design & Construction Competition invites ACE Mentor Affiliate teams (student and mentors) from across the country to design solutions for one of three challenges: a playground or playscape, alleviate urban transportation congestion, and a community health clinic.

The competition is maintained, coordinated and juried by the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT), in coordination with ACE Mentor National and the Chicago Architecture Center. The 2019 theme celebrates the innovations and contributions the design and construction community make to the quality of American life, while understanding the issues and challenges the industry faces to deliver on this legacy.

The true goal of the competition is to judge the ability of the students to make a reasoned, coherent, well thought out, clear presentations on their team's design and construction approaches within the project's objectives and/or constraints.

## Eligibility

To be eligible to compete, applicant must be a participating ACE Mentor Program student and enter with a team of three or more students and ACE Affiliate(s).

## Teams

Any ACE Mentor Affiliate/Chapter can volunteer to participate in the Competition. Teams must be comprised of three or more students. The intent is to encourage group dynamics requiring assignments, compromise, and/or consensus building.

CIRT strongly requests and recommends that Affiliates with more than one team consider submitting entries in the different challenges rather than multiple entries in the same category. It would greatly increase the value of the competition and improve the odds of having one of the teams among the recognized entries.

## Competition Timeline

<b>September 7, 2018</b>	Competition Announced
<b>January 1, 2019</b>	Submission platform open
<b>March 14, 2019</b>	Final submissions due
<b>March 29, 2019</b>	Finalists notified/Preliminary Results Announced
<b>May 14, 2019</b>	Finalist Presentations in Washington, D.C.

## Project Submission

All work must be submitted to the competition portal at [CIRTcompetition.org](http://CIRTcompetition.org) by 12:00am (midnight) EST on March 14, 2019 to qualify for jury review. The CIRT National Design & Construction Competition is free to enter. See Project Submission section for details.

## Winners + Prizes

A professional jury will review eligible entries in the preliminary round. Then top finalists will compete for first, second or third place in the Final Round in Washington, D.C. Winning teams, on behalf of their Affiliates, will receive a monetary award that can be used for any purpose to support the operations, programs, grants, and/or needs of the Affiliate.

<b>First Place Team</b>	\$5,000 + stipend for travel expenses
<b>Second Place Team</b>	\$3,000 + stipend for travel expenses
<b>Third Place Team</b>	\$2,000 + stipend for travel expenses
<b>Runner-Up Teams</b>	Additional prizes

## Competition Schedule & Awards

The annual competition is announced in the early fall and officially begins in January concluding with a presentation round, which is usually held in late April or early May, where the winner(s) will be selected and announced. CIRT will present prizes for the top three national finalists, plus prizes for runner-ups, in addition to providing a travel expense stipend (approximately \$1,000 per team) to put towards the costs associated with attending the final round as the Affiliate/Chapter best determines.

# Challenges

## PLAYGROUND or PLAYSCAPE

This challenge seeks to find exciting proposals to transform neglected parts of urban areas/cities into interactive landscapes, encouraging public engagement, community involvement, and sustainable adaptive reuse. It asks teams to provide a design/construction solution, which advocates creativity and promotes outside activity, increasing socialization, and interaction. Teams should site their proposals in an abandoned or forgotten urban site, and develop a new era playground or playscape that creates opportunity for interaction and play for citizens of all ages.

Teams must demonstrate specifically how using construction elements (including work flow/time lines, etc.) will achieve the challenge's goals. Site selection is critical; it must be fully explained and show a before and after.

In addition, the dimensions, size, costs, etc. must be determined by the team, but all decisions should be explained and warranted based on the resources likely to be attracted to such a proposal. A square foot cost estimate must be provided.

Use of materials, building techniques, structural elements and approaches should emphasize sustainability, energy efficiency, and recyclable eco-friendly products.

## ALLEVIATE URBAN TRANSPORTATION CONGESTION

This option asks teams to tackle the task of alleviating transportation congestion in urban settings. Moving large numbers of people in relatively small or restricted urban areas is an all too commonplace problem in modern societies. The challenge involves identifying the various assets or means of transportation, their relative importance, limitations, and potential to alleviate the congestion. Once identified, Teams propose a single element to be addressed with a cohesive design and CONSTRUCTION solution that has the greatest potential to alleviate the problems.

The team must prioritize or select what aspect or asset among the many transportation elements to either enhance, change, replace, or augment, as well as how it will be integrated to impact other elements. For example, replace a bridge or put a new one in to vastly improve flow of vehicle traffic; propose high-occupancy toll lanes; enhance or install a mass transit system; improve intermodal points to improve flow; or any other number of possibilities.

Teams should be creative and inventive. Whatever they decide, it must be supported as the "best" or highest priority to address the problem.

Teams must demonstrate specifically how using construction elements (including work flow/time lines, and traffic routing, etc.) will achieve the challenge's goals. Decisions must be fully explained and show before/after.

In addition, the dimensions, size, costs, etc. must be determined by the team, but all decisions should be explained and warranted based on the resources likely to be attracted to such a proposal. A square foot cost estimate must be provided.

Use of materials, building techniques, structural elements and approaches should emphasize sustainability, energy efficiency, and recyclable eco-friendly products.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

Create a meeting point for individuals, families, and visitors, in need of medical treatment, checkups, and therapy that will present a whole-life feeling and reduce or eliminate the fear, anxiety, and boredom often associated with visiting medical clinics. The construction features of this facility must be the key to create a place where openness and diversity prevail -- where children, young people, and adults all feel at ease, whether they are the patient or just accompanying such a person. This challenge envisions an integrated clinic serving a local community, therefore should reflect “the style” of the area it will serve.

Vital to this option is site selection and use or reuse of the available assets in the community (vs. new construction). Central to any solution should be the incorporation of elements that help facilitate the medical interaction (enhance flow, comfort, and recovery), as well as address the needs of accompanying individuals regarding waiting times, diversions, and entertainment. The underlying goal of the design/construction proposal: find innovative ways to make something that is in general done with “dread” into something that has some enhancing aspects.

Use of materials, building techniques, and approaches that emphasize sustainability, energy efficiency, and recyclable eco-friendly products as well as being equipped with the latest smart building and security technologies should be integral to the proposal.

The structure should be identified, and then any changes, rehab, or enhancements should be shown (before/after) to facilitate the option’s goals. These decisions **MUST** be fully explained and in keeping with the overall budget and resources that are likely to be attracted to such a project. To that end, a budget based on a price per square foot **MUST** accompany your proposal.

# Project Submission

**All work must be submitted to the competition portal at [cirtcompetition.org](http://cirtcompetition.org) by 12:00am (midnight) EST on March 14, 2019 in order to qualify for jury review.**

## Submission Requirements

**Teams must submit 1-2 digital presentation boards for their chosen challenge** (up to 2 single page/image files). All final submissions must be uploaded as a JPG or PDF to the competition platform at [cirtcompetition.org](http://cirtcompetition.org).

A brief written explanation describing the context and thinking behind the scheme should be included on the board(s). Photographs (of the site, 3D model, etc.), drawings, photograph of physical models, or exported views of your 3D digital model can be scanned/uploaded to include on the displays. No specific drawings or scales are prescribed, but the presentation must convey the ideas underlying the design, its overall forms and spaces, its character and atmosphere. A narrative addressing the design process should be on or presented as part of the boards.

Multi-page proposals, slideshows, or presentations will not be accepted. Supporting text documents may not be reviewed by the jury; all content must be on the competition board.

## File Name Requirements

Files must be labeled in the following format:

ChallengeName\_City\_AffiliateFirstInitialLastName\_#of#.jpg

**Example:** “FlexibleHome\_Chicago\_JSmith\_1of1.jpg” “FlexibleHome\_Chicago\_JSmith\_2of2.jpg”

## Finalist Board Submissions

Teams selected as finalists are required to create “physical” boards from their “digital” submissions, to be printed and mounted on 1 or 2 boards for the final presentation round, to be held in conjunction with a national conference in Washington, DC. Boards must be:

- a maximum of two, approximately 841mm x 594mm
- mounted on A1 lightweight boards.

These “physical” boards **MUST BE IDENTICAL** to the “digital” ones submitted in March to be evaluated during the presentation round for the finalists.

## Local printing options include:

ABC Imaging	ARC
1120 20 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW	8245 Boone Blvd.
Suite 102-103	Vienna, VA 22182
Washington, DC 20036	
703/848-2997	703/893-0335(o), 703/893-0336 (f)
<a href="http://www.abcimaging.com">www.abcimaging.com</a>	<a href="http://www.e-arc.com">www.e-arc.com</a>

*Additional details about boards, printing, travel and the final presentation round will be sent to finalist teams in April 2019.*

# Jury Criteria

The judges are looking for overall clarity, understandability, constructability, completeness, flow of ideas and how the proposed solution realistically and fully meets the precise elements of the challenge. Submissions should be clear, concise, complete and well thought out with sufficient information to stand independently from any written narrative or report. Teams must demonstrate their use of the design AND construction process.

## Submission Process

**Jurors will carefully consider your submission concepts, renderings, etc. in addition to how you address the following components of the process:**

### Question A:

Define and/or describe the problems and challenges you faced when deciding on the project you chose to do for the competition.

### Question B:

Thoroughly describe your design process, in writing and through visuals (e.g., sketches, renderings, stepped process, before and after, budgets, timelines, workflow, etc.) that specifically and realistically meets the precise or exact nature of the challenge and/or the client goals/needs.

### Question C:

Explain how your approach is an appropriate, innovative solution that realistically responds to the precise project challenges (including use of material/construction methods, etc.). Explain how your entry is different from other approaches or processes, if such is the case; and/or meets budgetary constraints, timeline issues or other construction challenges.

### Question D:

Describe any social, ecological or otherwise beneficial qualities of your design solution. For example, is it a universal design? How so? Is it environmentally friendly? Does it use cost-effective or recyclable materials?

### Question E:

Describe and/or demonstrate what you learned from this competition.

## Evaluation Criteria

The following design AND construction aspects will be jury evaluation criteria, and should be explained where appropriate:

- site selection and its context (built and/or natural)
- constructability (structural challenges, materials, schedules, textures, colors, etc.)
- strategy for sustainability
- surrounding landscape/external spaces
- life and activities, in and around the building, including the qualities of enclosed spaces showing furniture, fittings and finishes (where needed or appropriate to the challenge selected).

# Jury Review

## Judging Approach

The overall theme or evaluation criteria for the competition is one founded on the practical aspects of the profession, particularly with respect to constructability, use of materials, meeting deadlines, workflow, and establishing realistic/reasonable expenses or budgets. ***More important than the actual solution, is the methods and processes used to arrive at a solution. Fundamentally, the spirit of this competition is one of design AND construction.***

During the final round, great weight will be given to the ability of the ACE students (i.e. their selected representative) to articulate a clear, comprehensive, coherent, and cogent presentation that persuades the judges as to selecting his/her team as the winning entry. Preparing the student representative is part of the overall process that the other team members will receive benefit from as well.

## Judging Process

All entries must be submitted to the platform and meet the submission and student eligibility requirements to be judged.

The preliminary rounds will be determined by what is submitted to the platform. Each of the challenges will have their top entries determined as part of selecting the national finalists. However, only three teams will move onto the presentation round in Washington D.C. to determine the National Champion.

If none of the design entries meet the requirements, the panel reserves the right not to award a winner. There is no requirement that each option/challenge has a representative among the three finalists. All decisions made by the panel are final.

## Jurors

The panel of judges will be mainly comprised of CIRT member CEOs of the leading design and construction firms in the United States. A jury will be selected for the preliminary and final presentation rounds of the competition.

# Additional Information

## PLATFORM

The competition will be hosted on an online competition platform:

- Competition main page: [cirtcompetition.org](http://cirtcompetition.org)
- DiscoverDesign Competition Challenges: [discoverdesign.org/competitions](http://discoverdesign.org/competitions)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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*\*Contacts for any technical, competition platform (registration or submission-related) questions.*

**CAC Helpdesk**

Chicago Architecture Center  
111 E Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60601

[eduweb@architecture.org](mailto:eduweb@architecture.org)

## TEAM RESOURCE: COLLABORATE ON DISCOVERDESIGN

Teams may collaborate digitally using the Chicago Architecture Center’s online learning platform, [DiscoverDesign.org](http://DiscoverDesign.org). Teams can select any of the three CIRT challenges, leave comments, share and upload images, links, and other resources as they work through the design process. Mentors can set project timelines and deadlines, and remix a challenge to suite your unique project goals. Create an account to start. Contact CAC’s Helpdesk at [eduweb@architecture.org](mailto:eduweb@architecture.org).

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The project options for the CIRT Design & Construction Competition may have been derived from actual competitions that are underway or have been recently completed. The information furnished has been edited and/or modified so as to meet the needs and form the basis of the CIRT competition.

If for any reason you believe a key piece of information is missing or you are unclear as to a specific reference in the information provided – please make an educated guess or assumption that would further your proposal (and simply indicate what that assumption was and why you made it). Please do not let a geographical reference or other individual piece of information prevent you from completing the CIRT design competition submission!

There is no cost to enter this competition.

Mail-in submissions of final projects will not be accepted for the preliminary round. Finalists will be asked to provide boards for the final panel.

By participating, you agree to comply with all competition requirements.

**Applicants may be disqualified if they:**

- Are not a member of a qualified ACE Mentor of America Affiliate team.
- Do not upload content (text and/or images) onto the competition platform.
- Do not adhere to the design, writing and presentation requirements.
- Plagiarize or violate copyright rules by submitting non-original material—whether student or professional, built or unbuilt.

**Permissions**

By submitting to the CIRT National Design & Construction Competition you grant permission to the rights of your image(s) to be used for educational purposes such as conference presentations, advertising and promotional materials, exhibitions, informal presentations or online. Images may be edited, copied, exhibited, published or distributed.