



# **Construction Industry Round Table**

**2023**

**NATIONAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION  
COMPETITION**

**PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKAGE**

**A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT WITH  
THE ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF AMERICA**

# ABOUT

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*“Believe you can, and you’re halfway there.” – Theodore Roosevelt, 26<sup>th</sup> US President*

## AN AWARDS PROGRAM

The CIRT National Design + Construction Competition is maintained, coordinated, and judged by Construction Industry Round Table is intended for ACE Mentor Affiliate team entries. 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.

## PROGRAM SPECIFICS

**FOUNDED** - Construction Industry Round Table created in 2007/20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legacy Program.

**COLLABORATION** - The program is coordinated with the ACE Mentor Program of America (ACE).

**THEME FOR THE PROGRAM** - Celebrating the innovations and contributions the design/construction community makes to the quality of American life, while understanding the issues and challenges the industry faces to deliver on this legacy.

**AWARD APPROACH** – Teams from any ACE Mentor Affiliate/Chapter can volunteer to participate in the CIRT National Design & Construction Competition, which uses project challenges adapted and/or modified to accommodate the competition’s parameters. The true goal 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 that are *realistic and responsive* to the project’s objectives within time, budget, constructability constraints, etc.

**PROGRAM AWARDS** - CIRT will present prizes for the top three national finalists (\$5/3/2K) plus prizes for runner-up entries. In addition, CIRT will provide a logistical/travel expense stipend (approximately \$1,000 per team) to apply to costs associated with attending the final round as the Affiliate/Chapter best determines.

**DEFINITION OF A TEAM** - Entries to the competition must be from ACE teams comprised of at least three or more students. The intent is to encourage group dynamics requiring assignments, compromise, and/or consensus building.

**MULTIPLE TEAMS FROM ONE AFFILIATE** - CIRT ardently requests and recommends that Affiliates with more than one team contemplate submitting entries in the different challenges rather than multiple ones in the SAME category. This will greatly increase the value of the competition and improves the odds of having one of the teams among the recognized entries when spread amongst the various challenges. [Conversely, we strongly discourage one team submitting multiple entries].

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE** - The annual event is announced in the early fall and officially begins in January concluding with the final round in late April or early May: where the winner(s) will be selected and announced. [Interim milestone and final submittal dates are included in this competition package].

# TIMELINE + LOGISTICS

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## TIMELINE

There are two rounds of judging in the CIRT Competition. The Preliminary Round involves an online review of all submissions. The Final Round will be held in conjunction with the CIRT Spring National Conference in Washington, DC. Teams from ACE Affiliates/Chapters that wish to participate in the national competition must comply with the following time schedule:

### January 2023 | REGISTRATION OPENS

### March 15, 2023 | SUBMISSION DEADLINE

All registrations and final entries must be officially submitted and complete by **midnight in your time zone** on March 16 (11:59:59 p.m.)

### March 27, 2023 | PRELIMINARY RESULTS ANNOUNCED

A preliminary jury round will determine the Finalists and Runners-Up in each challenge. Finalists are notified and plans made to bring a representative(s) from each team to Washington, DC.

### April 7, 2023 | FINALIST HOTEL RESERVATION DUE

Finalist teams will need to have made their hotel reservations in DC. Finalists will be provided precise hotel/logistical information upon being selected. The stipend will be available for each team to be used to help cover cost to attend the final round based on need, etc. from the requests of the teams.

### April 24, 2023 | FINALIST PRESENTATIONS

Finalists present to the CIRT Panel of Judges. Exact information on time and place will be provided.

## PROGRAM LOGISTICS

All competition information is available at [www.cirt.org/competition](http://www.cirt.org/competition) including the link to register and submit your work at [cirt.slideroom.com](http://cirt.slideroom.com).

The national competition will use a dedicated digital platform, Slideroom, to conduct the process. **All forms and materials must be submitted via Slideroom with an official entry to be judged.**

The preliminary rounds will be determined by what is submitted to the platform as summarized on a **maximum of two** “virtual boards.” Each of the options or challenges will have their top three entries identified as part of selecting the national Finalists. However, only three teams will move onto the final “presentation round” in Washington D.C. to determine the National Champion. [There is no requirement that *each* challenge has a representative among the three finalists].



# REGISTRATION + SUBMISSION

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## ONLINE ENTRY

To officially enter and compete in the Competition, all teams are **required** to complete and submit the following at [cirt.slideroom.com](https://cirt.slideroom.com):

1. **Create an account** at [cirt.slideroom.com](https://cirt.slideroom.com) [available January 2023]
  - a. Note: If you have multiple teams per affiliate, multiple accounts will need to be made (one account per submission).
2. **Completed required “Registration Form”** online at the time their entries are officially submitted. The registration form is critical for the competition to maintain contact with the teams and to establish identification of the various entries with their authors. Thus, the forms must accompany the entry.
3. **Upload Competition Entry in the form of 1-2 boards.** Additional details below. PDF is the recommended file type.
4. **Hit SUBMIT to complete your entry.** Once submitted you cannot go back to change your entry.
  - **PLEASE NOTE:** The name of your Affiliate/Chapter is the ACE recognized entity for your area – NOT the name of your sponsors, mentors, firms, student group or school.

## WHAT TO SUBMIT

In addition to submitting information in the required forms, the **MATERIALS submitted for the competition are 1-2 ‘virtual boards’ summarizing your proposed design solution** to one of the challenges.

The Boards are extremely important as **THE basis to make the initial cut to the three finalists**. The entry therefore must be clear, concise, complete, and well thought out with sufficient and compelling information to stand independently from any written narrative or report.

“**Virtual Boards**” (limited to two) can include: a brief written explanation describing the context and thinking behind the scheme; as well as photographs (of the site, 3D model, etc.). No specific drawings or scales are prescribed, but the presentation must convey the ideas underlying the design (whether a building or not), its overall forms and spaces, its character and atmosphere. Narratives addressing the **design process** (as described below) should be on or presented as part of the boards to the degree it helps clarify and enhance the entry.

**The judges are looking for clarity, understandability, constructability, completeness, flow of ideas and how the proposed solution realistically and fully meets the precise elements of the challenge.**

### TECHNICAL NOTES:

- **File Type:** PDF; Maximum of 2 single-page “virtual boards”
- **Size:** Boards should be created as “print-ready” for a standard poster or A1 board. (approximately 841mm x 594mm)
- **Quality:** The jury will review boards digitally; Please ensure all content is clear, in focus, and an appropriate size. If they cannot see/read details they cannot consider it in the overall scoring.
- Additional materials or links will not be reviewed by the jury. Digital files will be retained by CIRT.

## DESIGN PROCESS

The following questions are representative of the type of information that would be expected along with the design concepts, renderings, etc. (**Please note:** Jurors will consider the summaries of your replies to these questions when presented as part of your “virtual board” entry.)

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

Question B: Thoroughly describe your 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 materials/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 solution. (For example, is it universally applicable? Is it environmentally friendly? Does it use cost-effective or recyclable materials? Etc.?)

Question E: Describe what you learned from this competition.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA:

### DESIGN ASPECTS/CONSTRUCTION ELEMENTS

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

- ☐ site selection and its context (built and/or natural) – before and after
- ☐ constructability (structural challenges, materials, schedules, textures, colors, etc.)
- ☐ strategy for sustainability (resulting from design and construction decisions)
- ☐ surrounding landscape/external spaces, etc.
- ☐ 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 design competition selected).

## JUDGING

The panel of judges will be mainly comprised of CIRT member CEOs of the leading design and construction firms and groups in the United States. As such, 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 design 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 presenting ACE student (each team selects ONE representative) to articulate a clear, comprehensive, coherent, and cogent presentation that persuades the judges that his/her team has the winning entry most responsive and complete with respect to the challenge goals. (Preparing the student representative is part of the overall process that the other team members will receive benefit from as well).

## FINALIST LOGISTICS

If your team becomes a Finalist:

- **Physical** Boards MUST BE CREATED from your original submission and mounted on two A1 lightweight boards for your presentation (maximum of two boards, approximately 841mm x 594mm).
- These boards MUST BE identical to what was submitted online as “virtual boards.” Any change is potential grounds for disqualification.
- The Finalist will also be required to provide a hi-resolution digital copy of their entry.
- Finalists will choose one representative to give a 20-minute presentation and Q+A with the jury. Additional details will be shared.

# RESOURCES + INFORMATION

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## WEBSITES

Competition Information: [www.cirt.org/competition](http://www.cirt.org/competition)

Registration + Submission: [cirt.slideroom.com](http://cirt.slideroom.com) [opens January 2023]

## KEY CONTACTS

**Mark A. Casso, Esq.**

**President**

Construction Industry Round Table  
8115 Old Dominion Drive, Suite 210  
McLean, VA 22102  
202.466.6777 (Office)  
[mcasso@cirt.org](mailto:mcasso@cirt.org)

**Monica Worheide**

**Director of National Programs**

ACE Mentor Program of America  
[MWorheide@acementor.org](mailto:MWorheide@acementor.org)

## PRINTING + BOARD RESOURCES

### Local to CIRT

ABC Imaging  
1120 20<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 102-103  
Washington, DC 20036  
703/848-2997  
[www.abcimaging.com](http://www.abcimaging.com)

ARC  
8245 Boone Blvd.  
Vienna, VA 22182  
703/893-0335(o), 703/893-0336 (f)  
[www.e-arc.com](http://www.e-arc.com)

## MULTIPLE TEAMS FROM ONE ACE AFFILIATE/CHAPTER

CIRT STRONGLY requests and recommends that Affiliates with more than one team consider submitting entries in the different challenges rather than multiple ones 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.

## PLEASE NOTE

*The project options for the CIRT Design 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!*



# 2023 CIRT COMPETITION CHALLENGES

SPECS for Project Options/Challenges | Select one RFP for the competition



Photo Credit: Architect Magazine

## SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE

This competition's objective is to envision and reimagine a sustainable, *net-zero*, viable design/construction solution for a school of the future (elementary, secondary, or college levels). To succeed the team should consider all the elements in such a project, from site selection to construction materials, methods, timelines, and budgets, etc. Outside of the box approaches and thinking should take into consideration: meeting the educational, health, safety, food service, technical application, security, and social needs/norms through use of design and construction techniques. In this spirit, the entry must use construction materials and approaches that will provide spaces that will balance, all the competing needs with in-person **and/or** remote educational instruction, as well as the other ancillary valuable social exchanges critical for mental health and wellbeing can transpire and be achieved. The team entries *must* demonstrate: (1) the precise aspects of your site selection, (2) how use of materials and construction solutions address the challenge, (3) balance of functionality and design to achieve the project goals, and (4) provide a cost estimate (per foot) to accomplish the needs in a realistic and doable way consistent with the resources/financial support likely available in the locale. [The proposal **MUST** also include the precise CONSTRUCTION timeline, steps, stages, and remedies for this challenge, with any demolition or other pre-retrofit work described and detailed].





Photo Credit: Urbanism Next

## CITY PARK / OPEN SPACE

With the recent experiences from COVID, urban dwellers are seeking alternatives to their dense, tight living conditions (causing some to flee urban centers). This challenge asks the teams to provide another alternative by creating sustainable, inviting, secure open spaces that will provide relief, activities, to a welcoming useful area. Site selection is critical; however, the space may be an empty lot or formerly occupied by a series of office buildings, storefronts, or even housing that is abandoned, in ill-use and repair, or otherwise prime for reuse or demolition. The open space can also be designed/constructed for special events/occasions etc. (e.g., multi-purpose surface for parking or staging ground for parades, flower-plantings, car shows, road races, and almost every sort of public event that draws large crowds). The spaces can be designed and built with landscaping, innovative temporary structure that provides shelter, shade, and seating for a wide range of public events, **and/or** permanent buildings to facilitate and enhance the area overall. The team entries *must* include: (1) the precise site selection reasoning (before and after images), (2) what multi-use elements are included and purpose, (3) balance of functionality and design to achieve the project goals, and (4) provide a cost estimate (per foot) to accomplish the needs in a realistic and doable way consistent with the resources/financial support likely available in the locale. [The proposal **MUST** also include the precise CONSTRUCTION timeline, steps, stages, and remedies for this challenge, with any demolition or other pre-retrofit work described and detailed].



Photo Credit: ArchDaily

## HUMANITARIAN CENTER OR FACILITY

Every day thousands, if not more, of people arrive along the border of the United States, overwhelming even the most basic humanitarian support from health care, hygiene, food supplies, to temporary housing as they await disposition and legal processing. Teams are challenged to address this urgent need through use of design and construction techniques that will help direct the flow to centers envisioned and created to handle the multitude of needs while dealing with the difficulties of security, safety, language, gender, ages, **varied timelines and comfort** of the influx of people. Your solution should be done as a prototype or model that can be replicated along the 1,000-mile border in various hot spots or heavily traveled corridors. The proposal *must* include: (1) what if any existing structures or elements are included and repurposed, (2) balance of functionality and design to achieve the project goals, (3) specific elements to address security/safety, and (4) provide a cost estimate (per foot) to accomplish the needs in a realistic and doable way consistent with the resources/financial support likely available in the locale. [The proposal **MUST** also include the precise CONSTRUCTION timeline, steps, stages, and remedies for this challenge, with any demolition or other pre-retrofit work if needed described and detailed].