

Recommendations for Architectural Design Contests (ADC)

**The Architecture Design Competition (ADC)
is a quality based and solution orientated
selection procedure.**

'ADC' means those procedures, mainly in the fields of architecture and engineering, urban landscape planning, which enable the contracting authority to acquire a plan or design selected by a jury after being put out to competition with or without the award of prizes.

ADCs provide the opportunity for a client to have the possibility to get a wide range of solutions of an project to choose between and with the help of a competent jury make a selection of a design that meets the criteria of client; as function, cost, durability and beauty. They are consequently the perfect source for innovative, economic and sustainable solutions, for everyday planning tasks as well as for particularly complex projects.

Due to the anonymity of participants, the design competition offers an ideal way of awarding service contracts in a retraceable manner, based solely on quality criteria published in advance. It provides an unique possibility to benefit from competition by exploiting the large quantity of know-how in the market.

During the assessment of an independent and qualified jury, the best design concepts can be selected in a concentrated and transparent procedure which provides a basis for further decisions by the organiser. Thus, the design competition provides a means to meet the economic, social and aesthetical aims of the builder/ the awarding entity and simultaneously boost quality of the built environment.

ADCs provide the opportunity for architects to compare their own creative power with that of other architects in a fair and targeted procedure. In view of the great intellectual efforts and economic investment by all parties involved, the design competition must be carefully prepared. Its results must serve to solve set tasks and must lead to the realisation of the winning project.

The competitive concept of the design contest is applicable whenever planning solutions are needed, regardless of nationality, political or administrative context or tradition.

The Architects' Council of Europe consequently promotes the design competition as a procedure perfectly tailored for the awarding of architects' services. To help exploit the full potential of the design competition and facilitate its application as a procedure, it is proposed to use the following 9 rules.

Introduction



La Borda - Logement Coopératif, Spain
Architects: Lacol

Two types of competitions:

The project competition and the ideas competition:

Project competition

Realisation competitions should show, based on a detailed programme and certain performance requirements, the conceptual options for the intended realisation of a project. In the case of a two-stage competition the jury has to be the same in both stages and the procedure is anonymous until the jury's final decision. The project competition aims at awarding the winning architect or team a commission to realise the project.

Ideas competition

Ideas competitions aim to gather numerous solutions without any further commission. An ideas competition may in particular serve for the preparation of later planning steps or for the preparation of a project competition. It may also serve for finding participants for a restricted competition. If the client wishes to use any of the results, such use must be compensated in accordance with copyright law (see also Rule 7) and the rules of the competition. The prize money for ideas competitions must be adequate and commensurate with the resources required. It must be considerably higher than the prize money of project competitions.

Competition Procedures

Open Competition

Any architect can participate

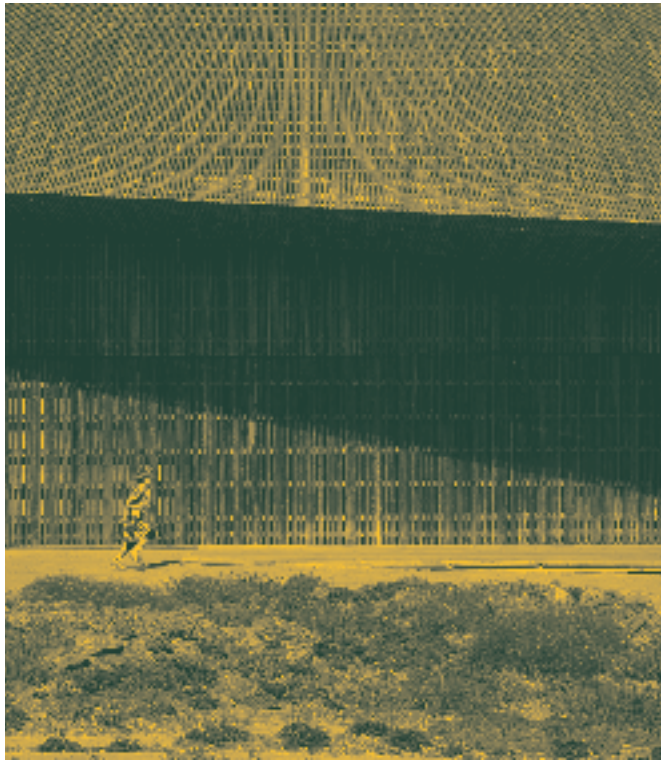
Approaches

1 stage

In a one stage competition the jury and the competitors must have a clear competition brief in order to have enough information both to being able to make adequate proposals and to make a fair assessment. The winners should be awarded prizes and in addition to that the first prize winner should be awarded both a prizemum and the following commission.

2 stages

In the first stage, participants submit small scale concepts or preliminary design proposals, preferably on one sheet. The jury selects an adequate number for the 2nd stage. The participants of the second stage are remunerated adequately.



Wadden Sea Centre, Vester Vedsted, Denmark
Architects: Dorte Mandrup A/S

Participants

There are two different types of competition procedures:

Open competition / Restricted competition

Participants are selected after an open call using pre-selection criteria (pre-selection).

Invited competition

Participants are directly invited by the client. Note, invited competitions are only possible below the EU threshold.

Recommendations

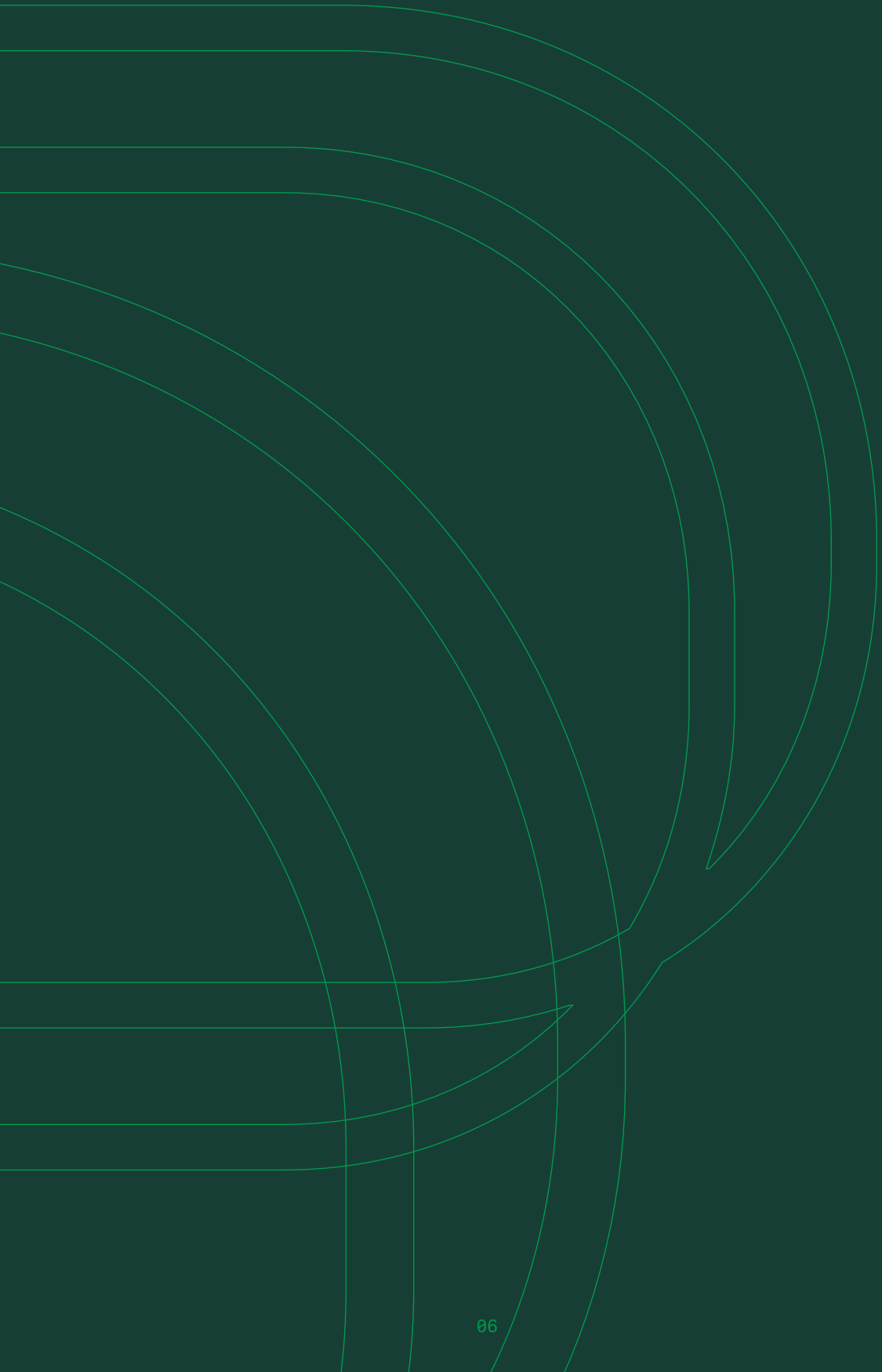
The following set of recommended rules and recommendations - the “toolbox” for holding a successful design contest - is divided into two parts:

A. The 9 rules, which are essential to respect in every design contest (colloquially: procedures referred to as “architects’ competitions”).

B. Legal Framework

DIRECTIVE 2014/24/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC

A. The 9 Rules



01

Equality of opportunity for all participants

This is called equal treatment.

The same level of information must be provided to all participants at the same time.

There must be no individual exchange of information between participants and jury members; questions about the brief are answered to all participants simultaneously.

Persons excluded from participation: the representatives, partners or employees of the promoter or of any jury member, or any person who has been involved in the preparations of the conditions of the competition, will not be eligible to compete or to assist competitors.

02

Transparency of the procedure

The summary of the jury's discussion and the decision-making process has to be drawn up in a report.

A jury report shall be published or distributed to the participants and the public.

There shall be an exhibition of all entries and/or digital publication. minimum required for a qualified decision of the jury. Any extra material shall be deleted or covered.

Independence of the jury

The jury shall be autonomous in its decisions or opinions.

The jury designates a winner and awards the prizes.

Where a particular professional qualification is required from participants, according to the Directive at least one third of the members of the jury shall hold the same standard of qualification as the participants and must be independent from the client.

The jury shall examine the proposals submitted by the candidates anonymously and solely on the basis of the criteria indicated in the Design Contest brief.

It shall record its ranking in a report, signed by its members. This report shall contain the merits of the projects and a clear recommendation on how to proceed with the result of the competition.

04

The Brief

The Design Contest brief must be clear and unambiguous. Design Contest requirements must be clearly specified. There must be a clear distinction between mandatory requirements and non-binding guidelines.

Mandatory requirements shall be restricted to the minimum necessary. Only proposals meeting these requirements are taken into consideration (cf. Vienna Declaration).

The jury must be named.

The evaluation criteria must be stated in the brief.

There must be a declaration from the client concerning the intention to commission the winning design.

The brief has to be accepted by the jury before launching the competition.

The material requested from entrants shall be limited to the minimum required for a qualified decision of the jury. Any extra material shall be deleted or covered.

05

Anonymity

Anonymity must be observed until the jury has reached its opinion or decision. The material requested from entrants shall be limited to the minimum required for a qualified decision of the jury. Any extra material shall be deleted or covered.

06

Prize money & remuneration

The prizes, the prize money or remuneration has to be fixed and announced in the competition brief. For the calculation of the prize money or the remuneration, there must be an adequate relationship between the required performance of the participants and the honoraria normally calculated for that task.

In the second stage of a competition, a remuneration, which is a part of the total prize money, is paid to each participant in that stage.

07

Copyright & author's rights

The copyright of the competition entry remains the property of the author.

The promoter is entitled only to make use of the winning entries under the conditions that are laid down in the brief or as agreed between the parties. (See also item 2).

08

Dispute resolution

It is recommended that any disputes concerning competition procedures are examined by the relevant national professional organisation before any recourse to legal procedures.

09

Participation of citizens

The public may be involved in the preparation of Design Contests, especially in the field of town planning and urban development (giving input regarding the needs, discussing alternatives, collaborating in the (general) definition of the programme).

The public opinion may be considered by the jury during its decision-making process. However, the final decision remains with the jury.

B. Legal Framework

Legal framework (most relevant provisions)

Article 2 (Definitions), Whereas (21)

Article 32 (Use of the negotiated procedure without prior publication), Paragraph 4

Article 78 (Scope)

Article 80 (Rules on organisation of design contests and selection of participants)

Article 65 (Reduction of the number of otherwise qualified candidates to be invited to participate)

Article 81 (Composition of the jury)

Article 82 (Decisions of the jury)

Legal framework (most relevant provisions)

Article 2 (Definitions), Whereas (21):

“‘design contests’ means those procedures which enable the contracting authority to acquire, mainly in the fields of town and country planning, architecture and engineering or data processing, a plan or design selected by a jury after being put out to competition with or without the award of prizes;”

Article 32 (Use of the negotiated procedure without prior publication),

Paragraph 4:

“The negotiated procedure without prior publication may be used for public service contracts, where the contract concerned follows a design contest organised in accordance with this Directive and is to be awarded, under the rules provided for in the design contest, to the winner or one of the winners of the design contest; in the latter case, all winners must be invited to participate in the negotiations.”

Article 78 (Scope):

This Chapter shall apply to:

- design contests organised as part of a procedure leading to the award of a public service contract;
- design contests with prizes or payments to participants.”

Article 80 (Rules on organisation of design contests and selection of participants):

1. “When organising design contests, contracting authorities shall apply procedures which are adapted to the provisions of Title I and this Chapter.
2. The admission of participants to design contests shall not be limited: by reference to the territory or part of the territory of a Member State; on the grounds that, under the law of the Member State in which the contest is organised, they would be required to be either natural or legal persons.

Where design contests are restricted to a limited number of participants, the contracting authorities shall lay down clear and non-discriminatory selection criteria. In any event, the number of candidates invited to participate shall be sufficient to ensure genuine competition.”



Scuola Enrico Fermi, Turin, Italy
Architects: BDR bureau



Primary school, Novak Ubović, Montenegro
Architects: Biro "81000", Ivan Jovičević, Dusan Durovic

Article 65 (Reduction of the number of otherwise qualified candidates to be invited to participate):

In the restricted procedure the minimum number of candidates shall be five. In the competitive procedure with negotiation, in the competitive dialogue procedure and in the innovation partnership the minimum number of candidates shall be three. In any event the number of candidates invited shall be sufficient to ensure genuine competition.

Article 81 (Composition of the jury):

"The jury shall be composed exclusively of natural persons who are independent of participants in the contest. Where a particular professional qualification is required from participants in a contest, at least a third of the members of the jury shall have that qualification or an equivalent qualification."

Article 82 (Decisions of the jury):

3. "The jury shall be autonomous in its decisions or opinions.
4. The jury shall examine the plans and projects submitted by the candidates anonymously and solely on the basis of the criteria indicated in the contest notice.
5. The jury shall record its ranking of projects in a report, signed by its members, made according to the merits of each project, together with its remarks and any points that may need clarification.
6. Anonymity shall be observed until the jury has reached its opinion or decision.
7. Candidates may be invited, if need be, to answer questions that the jury has recorded in the minutes to clarify any aspect of the projects.
8. Complete minutes shall be drawn up of the dialogue between jury members and candidates."

Recommendations for Architectural Design Contests (ADC)

The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) is the representative organisation for the architectural profession at European level : it aspires to speak with a single voice on its behalf in order to achieve its aims.

Its growing membership currently consists of 51 Member Organisations, which are the regulatory and professional representative bodies in all European Union (EU) Member States, Accession Countries, the UK, Switzerland and Norway, and 5 Observers Members - Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, Montenegro, RH of Macedonia). Through them, the ACE represents the interests of over half a million architects from 35 countries in Europe.



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