“As stewards of God’s creation, we are called to make the Earth a beautiful garden for the human family”

Pope Francis

NextLandmark International Contest 2020

Floornature (www.floornature.com), the architecture and design portal published by IRIS CERAMICA GROUP, promotes the ninth international contest for architects and designers. The 2020 contest is entitled “AN EDUCATIONAL GARDEN IN FIORANO MODENASE”.

Definition and Theme of the Contest

The contest is in the form of an anonymous “Ideas Contest” with open procedure (under Art. 156 of Legislative Decree No. 50/2016). It is aimed primarily at recent graduates and young professionals in the fields of design, architecture, urban design and landscaping.

By means of the most effective and appropriate methods, participants should submit a design proposal in respect of new outdoor areas for “Casa Coccapani” nursery school in Fiorano Modenese (MO).

Aims and Objectives

The redesign of external areas adjacent to “Casa Coccapani” nursery school to complete the restoration and seismic upgrading works recently carried out on the building. The ideas contest will provide us with innovative solutions to rethink areas used for the little ones’ outdoor activities and construct a real “EDUCATIONAL GARDEN”. The project should not only introduce innovative aspects relating to designing areas for growth and learning, but also create a new, more integrated relationship between the individual, community and green space. The project has the ambitious objective of guiding children from a young age in a way that promotes awareness of the importance of individual and collective actions in the care and conservation of all living creatures.

Vision and Principles

Designing spaces for growth and learning is an act of social responsibility. When we devise and put forward design solutions for places where future generations will be educated, we must be aware of laying the foundations for the development of individuals and the community. The quality of the area is fundamental to a child’s growth from their formative years since the message a child receives from the physical environment
influences their social and cognitive behavior. Children have a much more intense sentimental and emotional attachment to a space than adults, because they experience it with their entire body and attribute value to it through odors, sounds and visual stimuli. William Glasser (Control Theory in the Classroom, 1986) states that 80% of what you learn is through personal experience, while only 20% through listening. In education there is also a need to put in place various measures which help to develop critical thinking and the ability to learn to interact with others. Other aspects essential to the design of innovative educational areas relate to the principles of co-operation, inclusion and diversity.(Hack the School). Inclusion in the classroom is also promoted within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals, where a whole-life approach for students (lifelong learning) is promoted, above all supporting wider community engagement. The principles which guide the design of learning spaces go hand in hand with those of urban regeneration. Re-imagining under-used, run-down or disused spaces in our cities, via sustainable design solutions based on the needs of the environment, has a direct impact on the residents’ lives and their sense of belonging. When the school space becomes a de facto “community space”, its redevelopment ultimately leads to social cohesion.

Program and Guidelines

The exterior courtyard at “Casa Coccapani” nursery school shows visible shortcomings in terms of quality, comfort, reduced accessibility and inadequate use of green space. The most problematic aspect is the separation between external areas and the inside rooms of the building, exacerbated by a driveway which divides the courtyard in two. In addition, the children’s garden covers less than half the total space available. The new play space should be an ecosystem that provides its young users with countless opportunities to learn by experimenting, exploring, and discovering the surrounding world in a comfortable and safe environment. This new “educational landscape” project should ensure the following qualities and properties:

- **Beauty and simplicity**
- **Physical and mental well-being**
- **Inclusion and accessibility**
- **Sharing, acceptance and diversity**
- **Flexibility and adaptability**
- **Cost-effectiveness**
The quality of the spaces directly depends on architectural aspects, such as shape, organization and overall effect in relation to light, colors, sounds, and tactile sensations. While providing unimpeded vehicular access to the courtyard for emergency vehicles only, the functional layout should include the following types of spaces:

- **COMMUNITY ZONE**: Plaza/Agora, an area free of obstacles for the free movement of users
- **OUTDOOR ZONE**: A small garden, an area for exploring nature including various types of plants suitable for little ones

Other areas may also be included/integrated such as, for example:

- **DISCOVERY ZONE**: Educational garden, a workshop where they can experience nature
- **ACTIVE BREAKOUT ZONE**: Play area/gym, an area equipped for fun and movement
- **DISPLAY ZONE**: Small theater, to organize outdoor performances
- **QUIET ZONE**: Relaxation area, to sit and interact with others
- **PROJECT ZONE**: Outdoor teaching area
- **ACTIVE STORE**: Space to take out and store teaching and recreational materials

**Specific Requirements for the Area**

The proposal must provide solutions which do not involve substantial changes to the layout of vehicular access or removal of existing vegetation. Particular attention must be paid to the quality of the surfaces for the project by reassessing the materials and appearance of current finishes, whether floor coverings, paving or vertical surfaces. Designs which propose less invasive work are preferred, with demolition and structural modifications limited as much as possible. Participants are encouraged to assess the relationship between space and activity, to offer flexible, multi-purpose design configurations which stimulate the children’s curiosity and sensations. Designers are encouraged to take into account the predetermined budget available to implement the proposed works, which should not exceed 40,000 Euros. Recommendations for products intended for games, and fixed and/or mobile furnishings to complete the project should be considered as an additional cost to the budget indicated.
Information Documentation

Detailed site inspection, photographic and video documentation in respect of the project area can be downloaded inside your personal area.

Criteria for Evaluating the Proposals

Based on the program outlined above, priority will be given to those designs which fully satisfy the required function and which provide not only spatiality but also a cohesive, pleasant and well-balanced design compatible with the project.

Proposals will be evaluated in line with the following criteria:

a. Originality of the design
b. Relationship between children and space
c. Functional, aesthetic and conceptual innovation
d. Technical and economic feasibility

Documentation Required

Entry drawings are required as follows:

- 3 submission drawings containing plans, sections and elevations of your choice in jpeg format, 1280 x 1024 pixels 300 dpi image resolution
- 3 images of your choice as deemed necessary to best describe the proposal (rendered images, photographs of models, sketches, schedules, etc.) in jpeg format 1280 x 1024 pixels 72 dpi image resolution.
- Project summary in English (maximum 1800 characters)

Participation and Registration

The contest is open to all young creative designers from architecture and design disciplines who graduated from 2010 to the present day. Only individuals may take part.
Receipt of Entries

In order to ensure equal opportunities and for the purpose of subsequent publication, participants must comply with the following when submitting entries. Participation in the contest is anonymous.

To ensure anonymity, an alphanumeric code identifying the project will be assigned by the system when completing the registration form.

All materials must be uploaded by clicking on upload in the reserved area on the following link http://www.floornature.com/nextlandmark/subscribe accessed following registration. Once accredited, the requested materials can be uploaded anonymously. All files in the format requested will automatically be renamed by the system, with a code assigned in order to ensure anonymity in respect of the jury.

Once uploaded, no further changes may be made to the entry.

All entries must be uploaded by May 30, 2020

All entries in accordance with the guidelines referred to in this document will not be returned.

Prize

The jury will award the following prize

- Scholarship for Masters Degree in Sustainable Design at SOS - School of Sustainability, Bologna, Italy http://www.schoolofsustainability.it
- Outward journey to the city of Bologna
- Online sharing of the project on all the Group’s media
- NEXT LANDMARK INTERNATIONAL CONTEST 2020 Winners Certificate

Jury Panel

The jury, whose decision is final and absolute, is nominated by the organizations and institutions promoting the contest, and comprises five members:

- Mario Cucinella, Architect & Proprietor, MCA ARCHITECTS, President of the School of Sustainability
- Massimo Imparato, Architect & Director of SOS - School of Sustainability
- Don Antonio Lumare, Parish Priest, Fiorano Modenese & President of Fondazione Coccapani
As stipulated by Legislative Decree 196/2003 and General Data Protection Regulation UE 2016/679, all personal data submitted by candidates with the application form will be processed for the purposes of managing this contest.

The following are not permitted to participate in this contest: members of the jury or their spouses, relatives or similar, likewise employees of the contest promoters, Building Green Futures, or SOS – School of Sustainability and MCA Architects. Entries that do not comply with the required terms of anonymity will be excluded from the contest.

The jury will reach their conclusion by June 5, 2020. Results will be published on the www.floornature.com/nextlandmark/contest website on June 12, 2020. The jury will publish a final report outlining the evaluation criteria and motivation in respect of the winning entry. The organizers reserve the right to publish all entries submitted, including creating a catalog of entries intended to encourage professionals and in the general interests of the community.

By submitting proposals, contest participants expressly consent to the use of their designs for the purposes listed above. The organization reserves the right to use the ideas and adopt solutions proposed by the winning design in addition to those of other entries, for the purpose of implementing the project without any obligation to participants in respect of the above use, if not provided for in the points outlined under the aforementioned “PRIZE” section. Participants agree to the sharing and promotion of submitted entries, granting perpetual and exclusive use for commercial exploitation by the promoter without geographical limitation.
Any collaboration arising between the participants and promoters will be regulated at a later date, and separately between the parties. Participants declare, under their own responsibility, that they are the authors of the submitted entries, and sole owners of the related copyright. Competitors therefore assume all responsibility and liability for any disputes that may arise in respect of originality of the work and/or ownership of the aforementioned copyrights.

Participants also declare that they are responsible for the content of their work, exempting and indemnifying the promoter of the contest against any claim and/or action whatsoever by third parties and are required to compensate the promoter for any detrimental consequences, including any legal expenses and out-of-court expenses they may suffer as a result of infringement of the foregoing.

**Rules**

The organization accepts no liability for any technical problems, errors, cancellations, and/or malfunction/failure of lines of communication that may occur in the transmission of files. By submitting entries, the participant implicitly declares that he/she is the author and lawful holder of all rights.

The organization reserves the right to suspend, extend, postpone or cancel this contest at any time and for any reason.

The winners are chosen by the jury and their decision is final.

The jury reserves the right, at its discretion, to exclude any project received that is not in line with the requirements indicated in the rules, even if previously uploaded to the website.

Participants nevertheless exempt the organizers from any liability to third parties deriving from use of the entries under the terms and for the purposes described in these rules.

The Jury will evaluate the entrant’s ability to interpret the theme, creativity and the technical content of the images submitted.

**Exclusion Criteria**

The following submissions will be excluded:

- Any entry which infringes common decency.
- Designs which are not in accordance with contest requirements.
- The Jury may also exclude, at their discretion, those whose conduct is not consistent with fair competition.
Consent

By submitting an entry, participants accept, without reservation, the conditions outlined in the call for submissions and consent to be bound by the Jury’s assessments, both for interpretation of the call for submissions and evaluation of the competing designs.
The Promoter accepts no responsibility for any problem or circumstance that could impede the running of, or participation in, this contest.
The authors of entries guarantee that they are exclusively their own work and ingenuity and meet the requirements of innovation and originality.
All matters not expressly provided for in the rules, will be governed by the general provisions of applicable community, national and regional legislation. If the organizers find any infringement of the rules by participants, they have the right to disqualify the entry at any time without liability.

Information

Jury members are prohibited from disclosing information to participants.
Any request for information should be directed to the contest organizers via email at: contest@floornature.com

Next Landmark 2020 is a joint collaboration with:

• SOS – SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY.
• BUILDING GREEN FUTURES.
• DIGITAL MIND GROUP

GDPR Compliance in respect of the protection of personal data – Information pursuant to Art. 13 of Legislative Decree No. 196/2003
In line with the provisions established in the aforementioned document regarding the participant registered on the online platform www.floornature.com/nextlandmark/contest the following information is provided:

Dear Participant,
We wish to inform you that Legislative Decree No. 196 of 30 June 2003 (protection of personal data) provides for the protection of individuals and other subjects with regard to the processing of personal data. In accordance with the aforementioned legislative decree, processing will be handled in line with the principles of accuracy, lawfulness, relevance and transparency, protecting confidentiality and rights as required under Art. 2 and 11 of this Decree.
Pursuant to Art. 13 of the aforementioned Decree, we provide the following information:

1. Purpose and methods of processing:
The processing of personal data is required solely to expedite the contest procedures provided for in this document “Contest Notice”, in addition to Appendix C “Assignment of copyright form”. Data will be processed in the following ways: processing with electronic and IT devices.

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2. Failure to provide mandatory data:
Failure to provide the requested mandatory data will result in the interested party not being able to enjoy the service/benefit requested. If the provision of data is not mandatory pursuant to the law, failure to provide the data may result in the application not being processed, partial acceptance of same or inability to benefit from the services offered by the Administrators.

3. Data Controller:
The data controller responsible for processing personal data is Granitifiandre Spa.

4. Data Subject’s Rights:
In respect of data processing, you may contact the data controller to enforce your rights, as provided for under Art. 7 of Legislative Decree 196/2003. Procedures for exercising your rights are provided for in Art. 8 of the aforementioned Decree.