

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

A Competition for Architectural Ideas

The Master Plan of the entrance to the Tirana Park and architectural project ideas for two public buildings: the Public Service Center and the General Directorate of the State Police.

Deadline: April 14, 2015

Site: Tirana, Albania



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Promoters

Atelier Albania, at the request of the Minister of State for Innovation and Public Administration, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and Sports, and mandated by the Office of the Prime Minister, is declaring through the Albanian Development Fund, a competition for architectural ideas, through which, it is requiring the best ideas for the master plan for the Entrance to Tirana Park, as well as innovative architectural concepts for the Park entrance and public facilities, proposed to be placed on the interconnection that connects the city with the Park of Tirana.

Manifesto

The entry to Lake Park for years has been the subject of several project initiatives. It has constantly been searching for the best way to connect with the city through an intermediate space, but it also requires an image, or emblem as an entry into the Park.

Questions about treating the Lake Park entrance directly generate from its positioning by one of the edges of the Boulevard “Martyrs of the Nation” and the direct link to the “Mother Teresa” Square. Regardless that Tirana Park is located so close to these two main areas of the capital, the connection between them remains quite weak.

On the other hand, “Mother Teresa” Square has the need for a reorganization, because it is a public space with great potential, but with limited use during time periods of the day, as well as in terms of programmatic variety. Also, in formal terms, “Mother Teresa” Square needs a spatial outline.

The master plan of Tirana Center, has proposed connectivity of “Mother Teresa” Square with Boulevard “Martyrs of the Nation” through a program of university facilities, which outline the area of the square and connect with Tirana Park through university buildings.

In 2005, the Municipality of Tirana drafted a project for the Rehabilitation of Tirana Park (Lake). In this proposal, the entrance of the Park was marked by the Polytechnic University building. Today this option is no longer possible, as the university has decided to close the space with an addition to their building. But this proposal establishes a vision of how the Tirana Park can (and should) be accessed, through the facilities or space programs, and not just through a gate where it marks “The Entry”.

The Ministry of Education, has presented the need for expansion of university facilities, as well as the Polytechnic University of Tirana has confirmed the request for the creation of a university campus, under the provisions of the Master Plan of Tirana Center.

Beneficiaries

The competition for the Entrance to the Lake Park will solve some of the public space issues endemic to the city of Tirana, like the park itself as well as the “Mother Theresa” and “Frederic Chopin” squares. This competition will also potentially resolve the requests by some public institutions for programmatic spaces in the function of public interest.

Contracting Authority

The Albanian Development Fund is the contracting authority in this process, on behalf of the Albanian Government.

Objective

The product of the competition will be design solutions for the landscape development of the Entrance to the Lake of Tirana as well as some public and administrative buildings in the interconnection between the city and nature. Short-listed competitors will explore the best design solutions through research exercises including the concept of “urban by nature”.

Short-listed competitors are required to work to achieve, as follows:

1. Study the area of the competition and its surroundings, its spatial program and socio-cultural context,
2. Study the Park of Tirana, the system of green spaces along the “Martyrs of the Nation” boulevard and the respective flora.
3. Study the programs of the public buildings proposed to be built in the interconnection as well as the way the existing buildings currently function.
4. Study the socio-cultural life of the capital and evidence the needs for new public socio-cultural spaces for the city in the interconnection between park and city.
5. Research “green” and “low cost” technologies and evaluate the potential implementation of these technologies in the public buildings.
6. Proposal of a masterplan for the Entrance to the Park within the borders of the functional zoning of the territory of the competition.
7. Proposal for the landscape development of the Park of Tirana Entrance.
8. Proposal for architectural ideas for the Park Entrance and the public and administrative buildings.
9. Proposal for an architectural project-idea for the building of the General Directorate of the State Police.
10. Proposal for an architectural project-idea for the building of the Center of Public Services.
11. Rough estimation of the costs of the proposals.
12. Proposal of an action plan.

Any solution should seek high creativity while being adjusted to the local context and set high design standards.

Area of Competition

The area of the competition for which the competitors will present their project idea is determined by the map for the functional zoning of the Entrance to the Park of Tirana. The area that will be researched and studied by the teams to come up with their project idea will be decided by each team through their professional evaluation.

Scope of Competition / Competition Question

The competition will build on these three questions:

1. The masterplan for the territory of the entrance to the Lake Park and any landscape development pertaining to the park - city interconnection.
2. An architectural Project-idea for the public building of the General Directorate of the State Police.
3. An architectural Project-idea for the public building "Public Services Center"

The detailed design brief, on basis of which will be provided the answers to the above questions during the second stage of the competition, will be given only to short-listed competitors from the first phase. To discuss the design brief and its requirements will be organized a workshop in Tirana with all involved stakeholders. The workshop date is given in the competition calendar.

Methodology

Atelier Albania is a unit of the National Agency for Territorial Planning, mandated to identify alternative solutions and enrich architecture and planning by thinking beyond the typical planning framework. In this context, we stimulate and support the participation and collaboration of different stakeholder groups and international professionals who will work in tandem with local professionals. We believe that this team-based collaboration will improved the way projects and research is informed with all the appropriate local knowledge as well as an international level of design standards. Moreover, we want to treat competitions as co-creative processes, where designers and local actors are involved in an interactive selection process.

The format of the competition is experimental in order to overcome those which AA believes are issues that plague typical urban and architectural competitions

Expected Results

PHASE 1:

at this stage of shortlisting, the candidates present themselves to illustrate their capabilities, methodology and visions to the subject of the competition. Each submission will be reviewed carefully by members of the jury and the teams will be selected based on qualification criteria and evaluation referred to Phase 1.

The jury will short - list the teams that comply with the qualification criteria. These teams will be called to work for a second phase, for a concept in fulfilment of the competition objective and questions. Second phase or stage will be based on elaborate information and brief that the short-listed competitors will receive from the organisers.

PHASE 2:

at the stage of “Project-Idea”, each group of applicants will be carefully reviewed by members of the jury and, based on the criteria of evaluation of Phase 2, a winning team will be selected.

Teams of local and foreign professionals

Every international team is encouraged by the organizers to partner with a local team and each local team is encouraged to partner with an international counterpart. The client believes that such cooperation can increase the impact of the proposal and improve implementation. In applying for the first phase it is not a pre-selection criterion to have a local or international partner.

Suitability

The competition is open to all professional architects, who are able to meet the following requirements.

1. Be registered or recognized by an official accreditation body in the country of origin of the applicant;

or

2. Where recognition or registration law does not apply, the applicant is a member of a professional institution, the country of origin.

All applicants must provide proof of the validity of professional registration, recognition or membership in the Team Composition Declaration.

Each team of Phase 1 should be composed of at least, an architect, landscape architect, installation artist/ visual artist, construction engineer, estimator, and a specialist of culture monuments. All team members must be identified in the Declaration of Team Composition.

Details about suitability are given at addendum nr.6 of the Standard Tender Document. STD can be downloaded at www.app.gov.al.

Application documents

Entrants must submit a number of documents, in order to be in compliance with the requirements of the competition for the first and second phase of the contest. These documents are of a legal and informative character. Any details regarding the documentation that needs to be submitted in order to be eligible for the competition will be given in addendum 6 of the Standard Tendering Document (STD). The list below is only informative, please refer to the above-mentioned document for the formal requirements.

Documents Phase 1:

- Declaration of Team Composition,
- Staff CV Primary,
- Methodology,
- Vision Statement
- All other documents relevant to application according to the Agency for Public Procurements

Documents Phase 2:

- Project-Idea

Qualification Criteria

The jury will evaluate the applicants that will be selected for the first phase based on these initial qualification criteria:

- Clarity and fulfilment of required documents for Phase 1
- Professional composition of the team (architect, landscape architect, installation artist/ visual artist, construction engineer, architecture heritage specialist)
- Similar experience of the studio and its main collaborators
- Clarity and efficiency of the proposed methodology
- Relevance of what is proposed to the scope of the competition and issues of the site

Details about suitability are given at addendum nr.6 of the Standard Tender Documentation

Evaluation Criteria

The jury will evaluate the applications of Phase 2 based on the following criteria:

- Creativity
- High implementation factor
- Links and impact of the proposal to the context
- The cost-impact ratio (low cost, high impact)

Final Product

The competition will end with the selection of a well-equipped team, who will be able to engage in the post-competition process.

The winning team will be engaged in the next phase, which consists in the preparation of implementation projects for the Entrance to the Park of Tirana as well as the two public buildings. The post-competition process will be determined through a negotiation process between the winning team and the client

Post - Competition Process

To coordinate better the work between the winning team and the client of the project, organizers anticipate the first meeting between the team, the client and local stakeholders during the process of elaborating the project idea. The underlying reason is to bring together the design team and all the stakeholders and to share among them ideas, proposals and suggestions at the curatorial stewardship of the members of the Jury and other specialized institutions. This meeting will be conducted in Tirana.

Competition Awards

The competition winner will receive a cash prize of 45,000 Euro.

There will be a second prize of 30,000 Euro, and a third prize of 20,000 Euro.

The winning team will begin contract negotiations with the Client for an agreement to prepare the implementation project.

Competition Platform

Competition Type:	Urban design Competition with a Shortlist
Phase 1:	Open Call for Interest
Phase 1 Requirement:	AS PER Addendum Nr. 6 of the Standard Tendering Documents.
Advantage Criteria:	Local-Foreign Architecture studio partnerships
Jury Evaluation:	Short Listed Teams
Phase 2:	Project-Idea
Phase 2 Requirements:	Submission of project idea illustrations
In-between Phase:	Site visit and workshop with local stakeholders.
Jury Evaluation:	Best Design and fulfilment of criteria
Prizes:	3 Prizes Prize I: 45,000 Euro Prize II: 30,000 Euro Prize III: 20,000 Euro

Competition Calendar 2015

Open call for interest:	20 March
Phase 1 Deadline:	14 March, 16.00 (local time)
Short-listing:	15-17 April
Idea-Design Competition Invitation:	17 April
Preparation of Idea-Design:	17 April – 14 June
Workshop in TIRANA:	1-2 May
Finalization of Brief and any further planning:	17 April
Phase 2 Deadline:	14 June, 18.00 (local time)
Public Presentations:	15 June
Jury Evaluation:	15 June
Announcement of Results:	15 June

Post Competition 2015

Contract Negotiation	June – July 2015
Contract Signing for Implementation Design:	June – July 2015
Implementation Design:	2015
Meetings with AA/Jury and Stakeholders:	July – October 2015
Implementation Design Submission:	2015

PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

Short listing phase will be conducted via electronic system to website:
www.app.gov.al

Tender documents may be obtained electronically in the same website:
www.app.gov.al

Foreign competitors, in order to use electronic procurement system should register on-line as an economic operator website:
<https://www.app.gov.al/ep/Registration.aspx>

Further instructions for international competitors may be obtained from the user manual "EPS user manual - Economic Operators", which can be downloaded from the webpage www.app.gov.al

FURTHER INFORMATION

Each of the Terms of Reference can be found on the official website of the organizer of the competition:
<http://www.planifikimi.gov.al>

Or, in the pages dedicated to these competitions:
<http://competitions.planifikimi.gov.al/beratisland/>
You can also contact us at:
atelieralbaniacompetitions@planifikimi.gov.al

Information regarding procurement procedure should be asked through electronic procurement system.



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