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The Vinyl Institute

The Vinyl Institute, founded in 1982, is a U.S. trade association representing the leading manufacturers of vinyl, vinyl chloride monomer, vinyl additives and modifiers, and vinyl packaging materials. The Vinyl Institute mission is to advocate the responsible manufacture of vinyl resins; life cycle management of vinyl products; and promotion of the value of vinyl to society.

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COOPERATING ORGANIZATION

American Institute of Architecture Students

The American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) is an independent, nonprofit, student-run organization dedicated to providing unmatched programs, information, and resources on issues critical to architectural education. The mission of the AIAS is to promote excellence in architectural education, training, and practice; to foster an appreciation of architecture and related disciplines; to enrich communities in a spirit of collaboration; and to organize students and combine their efforts to advance the art and science of architecture.

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INTRODUCTION

The Bohemian Flats is a historic parcel of land located on the Mississippi River's west bank south of the I-35W bridge and directly under the Washington Avenue bridge in Minneapolis, MN. It was once a populous "shanty town" for European immigrants working in the Minneapolis flour mills. However, since the late 1950's the site has been a grassy, open park for the city.

Thousands of people commute by the small swath of land everyday by foot, bike, car and boat. However there is no formal structure or landmark at the Bohemian Flats Park to call out to everyone passing by. This competition is seeking a solution to that problem.

By locating a small park pavilion and boathouse at the Bohemian Flats Park, the site will once again become the destination for the city's residents and visitors. In addition to the boathouse, landscape planning and additional signage may be implemented within the design.

By utilizing vinyl building products in the design of the new Bohemian Flats Boathouse, designers will be able to ensure the building is not only cost effective, but energy efficient and resistant to the drastic climate changes, among the other benefits offered by vinyl building products. In developing an efficient and creatively designed facility, the boathouse may endure as a landmark on the river front for years to come.

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

Sponsored by The Vinyl Institute and administered by the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), the program challenges students to learn about building materials, specifically vinyl building products and systems in the design of an efficient and creative boathouse for the Bohemian Flats Park in Minneapolis, MN. The competition is designed for architecture and design students of all levels. Total prize money is \$7,675, including \$2,500 for the first place winning design.

The objectives of the competition are:

- To encourage and reward design excellence at a small-scale, which integrates function, aesthetics, structure, details and fun.
- To research, respond to and highlight the unique aspects of designing a boathouse that serves the selected site and community.
- To build knowledge about materials, products, and assembly (primarily vinyl building products) contributing to sustainable and safe design.
- To implement the “Connections” theme of the AIAS FORUM 2009 in Minneapolis into the creation of the boathouse, allowing the structure to serve as a public setting.
- To encourage designers to employ sustainable design principles in all design work.

Competition participants will have the opportunity to:

- Investigate applications for both existing and new construction materials with the goal of contributing to sustainability.
- Change perceptions of vinyl building products.
- Develop an awareness of the recyclable nature of vinyl building materials.
- Develop an awareness of the comprehensive life-cycle criteria to be used in the evaluation of all building materials.
- Investigate new building materials, systems, and methodologies.
- Understand the impacts of construction methods, joinery, and material choices on function and aesthetics.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to all students of architecture and design in North America (and members of the AIAS not residing in North America). Entries will be accepted for individuals as well as team solutions. Teams should be made up of no more than four students. Submissions should be principally the product of work in a design studio, building materials class, design charrette, or a person's spare time.

REGISTRATION

All information and materials needed to successfully participate in the competition are contained in the program document. There is no entry or submission fee required to participate in the competition for AIAS members. There is a \$10.00 submission fee for non-members. Competition entries may be the work of an individual or team.

Registrations must be completed through the competition Web site at www.aias.org/vinyl by 5:00 pm, Eastern Time, on Monday, November 30, 2009.

Confirmation of registration will be emailed to individual(s) with instructions on submitting final design files. Please keep a copy of this confirmation for your records as verification.

If payment is needed for registration, payment through the Web site or a check or money order made out to the AIAS must be sent by the registration deadline in order to be successfully registered for the competition.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Entries must be uploaded through the competition Web site at www.aias.org/vinyl by 5:00 pm, Eastern Time, on Friday, December 4, 2009. If the submission is from a team of students all student team members will have the ability to upload the digital files. **Once the final submissions are uploaded no additional edits, uploads, or changes can be made.** Upon upload of the final submission each student will receive a confirmation email notification.

FILE FORMAT

A final Submission upload must contain the following files in a single (ZIP) folder not exceeding 20 MB*:

- Completed submission information cover page including all team members and faculty sponsors;
- Each of the four 20"x20" boards as a high resolution Portable Document Format (PDF) file, or individually as 150 DPI Image (JPEG or GIF) files;
- A copy of the design essay as a high resolution Portable Document Format (PDF) file or Document (DOC) file.

DESIGN ESSAY

A brief 300-500 word essay should appear as part of the presentation boards describing the most important concepts of the design project. The essay should also explain what was learned by building a boathouse out of vinyl building products. The essay should convey the recyclable nature of the vinyl products used in the design of the center. Keep in mind that the presentation should graphically convey the design solution as much as possible, and therefore you should not rely on the design essay for a basic understanding of the project.

*Winning designers will be required to submit a CD containing original files/images for use in competition publications and exhibit materials. All presentations must be suitable for black-and-white reproduction. Students may use color if desired, but must ensure that distinct colors will be readily distinguishable tones when reproduced in black-and-white.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

In addressing the specific issues of the design challenge, submissions will be evaluated on the following:

- Clever and appropriate use of not only commercially-available vinyl building products but also exploration of potential new applications for vinyl as a construction material. The percentage of vinyl building products utilized will be evaluated.
- Demonstration of compliance with all objectives:
- To respond to and highlight the specific usage of the boathouse.
- To create a structure that accommodates the needs for all users of the boathouse, including commuters and tourists.
- To employ sustainable and universal (human centered) design principles for development of the boathouse.
- To build knowledge about materials, products, and assembly contributing to a safe and sustainable boathouse.
- Clear and easily comprehensible design.
- Originality.

Award-winning entries will be selected by a jury no later than December 30, 2009.

AWARDS

On December 30, 2009, the award winners and honorable mentions will be announced at the AIAS FORUM 2009 and via the AIAS Web site. The award winning entries will be displayed at the AIAS FORUM 2009 in Minneapolis, December 29, 2009 - January 1, 2010 and at the 2010 AIA Convention and Design Exposition in Miami, June 10-12, 2010. A press release listing the winning projects will be sent to the schools of all participating students as well as posted on the AIAS Web site (www.ias.org/vinyl).

Winning students/teams and their AIAS chapters* will receive cash prizes totaling up to \$7,675, with the distribution as follows:

First Place	\$2,500 (AIAS Chapter: \$500)
Second Place	\$1,500 (AIAS Chapter: \$275)
Third Place	\$1,000 (AIAS Chapter: \$200)
Three Honorable Mentions	\$500 each
Four Merit Awards	\$50 each

The winning entries will be published in the Spring 2010 issue of Crit, Journal of the AIAS. The Vinyl Institute and the AIAS reserve the right to publish photographs of all entries and names of student entrants without compensation.

* If there is not an AIAS chapter at the student's school, the chapter prize money will go towards development of a new chapter there.

SCHEDULE

Monday, May 25, 2009	Competition Officially Announced
Friday, August 28, 2009	Jury Members Announced (announcement via competition Web site)
Monday, November 30, 2009	Deadline for competition registration
Friday, December 4, 2009	Deadline for competition submissions
Tuesday, December 29, 2009	Review by the Jury
Wednesday, December 30, 2009	Results announced at AIAS FORUM 2009 and posted on the AIAS Web site
December 29, 2009 - January 1, 2010	Display of winning entries at AIAS FORUM 2009 in Minneapolis, MN
Spring 2010	Publication of winning designs in Crit 69
June 10-12, 2010	Display of winning entries at 2010 AIA Convention and Design Exposition in Miami, FL

IMPORTANT NOTES

Upon receipt all entries become the property of the AIAS and The Vinyl Institute. The AIAS and The Vinyl Institute reserve the right to publish drawings, written descriptions, photographs and the names of entrants, without compensation.

To obtain additional promotional materials, receive program updates or inquire about concerns related to the competition please contact the American Institute of Architecture Students:

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PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

To promote the history and longevity of the site, the new Bohemian Flats Boathouse needs to blend in to the fabric of the surround community while offering a new destination along the river for residents and visitors alike. In the design of the Bohemian Flats Boathouse, Five basic principles should be addressed:

1. Location to ensure maximum accessibility for the community from the West River Parkway.
2. Clarity of design concept (address the needs for entrance and access from the parkway, walkway and river).
3. A minimum of 60% of the visible piece must be constructed out of vinyl building components.
4. Development of a weather resistant exterior design for both summer and winter conditions.
5. Overall design that is sympathetic of the surrounding community, history of the site and existing architecture.

Secondary programmatic functions of the boathouse that must be incorporated in the final design include:

1. A portion of the facility serves the community with social/community centered spaces.
2. The facility is designed to promote sustainable building practices.
3. Project should showcase some unique and creative uses for vinyl building products, including those available today and those which might result from proposed new applications on this project.

ABOUT THE SITE¹

Bohemian Flats is the informal name given an old residential area of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The area was the low lying terrace deposit on the west bank of the Mississippi River, a short distance southeast of St. Anthony Falls. About the time Minneapolis was incorporated (1867), immigrants seeking

employment in the city or at the mills at St. Anthony settled there. In 1884, the first Washington Avenue Bridge was constructed over the area, linking central Minneapolis with the campus of the University of Minnesota, on the east bank of the river.

“The Flats” can be separated into three major areas: the upper flats, and the north and south lower flats. The lower flats are divided into southern and northern sections by the Washington Avenue Bridge. The upper flats are not affected by the flood waters in the spring.

The bridge separated people economically and ethnically. Early immigrants and higher-paid residents lived south of the bridge. After World War I, an expansion was made. It was called the “Washington Avenue Addition”. The Flats remained the same until the 1930s when the city of Minneapolis wanted to expand its barge terminal facilities. Eminent domain was used by the city to force evacuations of the area. By the 1940s an empty brick building built for housing single men who worked at the mills was being used as a community center.

The tanks and other remaining parts of the then abandoned “Municipal Docks” were removed in the early 1980s. This was followed by an extensive period of environmental remediation which took place from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s. Today, the Flats are part of the West River Parkway of the Minneapolis Parks System.

After the 2007 collapse of the I-35W bridge, pieces of steel were moved to the flats for the formal investigation. Every August, Bohemian Day is celebrated at the park with dancers and food vendors for the many cultures that used to inhabit the Bohemian Flats.

¹ History information adapted from the official Bohemian Flats Web site: <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~buel0028/bohemianflats/index.html>

square feet

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

The program gives minimum recommendations for spaces. All designs should consider the program requirement fulfillment for overall function of the spaces. Furniture and fixture location are not required in final drawings except where specifically noted. The recommendations are only minimums for the specific spaces. Designs may exceed total square footages as needed to complete the overall design intent for the boathouse. Additional programmatic spaces are encouraged but not required.

2,250 s.f.

Restaurant/Cafe

Kitchen	500 s.f.
Serving Area/Cash Registers	250 s.f.
Food Storage	150 s.f.
Indoor Seating*	600 s.f.
Covered Outdoor Seating*	750 s.f.

500 s.f.

Visitors Area

Information Desk	350 s.f.
Storage	150 s.f.

750 s.f.

Pedal Boat Rental (min. 20 paddle boats)

Rental Office	300 s.f.
Covered Pier (additional pier may be needed)	450 s.f.

1,500 s.f.

General Use Space

Restrooms (with shower stalls)*	1,000 s.f.
Family Restroom*	400 s.f.
Custodial Room	100 s.f.

500 s.f.

Circulation and Mechanical Space

5,000

Total estimated minimum floor space

**furniture and fixture layout required on final plan*

DEFINITIONS

Restaurant/Cafe - Some of the most popular activities at a park include picnicking, cooking out and people watching. By offering a small seating area and a menu of light sandwiches, snacks, beverages and other small food items, the Restaurant/Cafe would allow for visitors or just passersby to enjoy the Bohemian Flats Park. Similar to a street vendor or food kiosk, the restaurant would not be responsible for serving full meals, but rather offer quick food items for patrons of the park.

Depending on the weather most park visitors will want to enjoy the fresh air and beautiful scenery of the park. However, the moderate climate, surrounding nature and quick changes in weather require a covered and climate controlled seating area to be available. To best serve the needs of both indoor and outdoor patrons, the serving area/cash registers should be located in a manner that is easily accessible.

Due to the location of the site, all food goods and products will be delivered to the Boathouse via the parking lot off of the West River Parkway. The location of the parking lot and approach to the boathouse should be considered when planning the orientation of the boathouse and access to the kitchen entrance.

Visitors Area - Because of the historic nature of the Bohemian Flats Boathouse, many patrons may have questions about the site. The boathouse should contain a small visitors area that offers signage on the park, the sustainable construction of the boathouse and information on the “Chain of Lakes” system in Minneapolis.

The desk will not to be managed by a person full-time, but a small information desk should be placed within the visitors area for special occasions at the park.

Pedal Boat Rental - Minneapolis’ nickname is “The City of Lakes.” Boating and water sports are a big part of the culture of the city of Minneapolis as well as the state of Minnesota. The calm waters and amazing views of the bluffs near the Bohemian Flats Park make it an ideal location to put a pedal boat pier.

The new University of Minnesota Crew team boathouse is directly across

the river on the east bank, and adds to the overall interest in the site. Offering a small rental pier with 20+ pedal boats would allow for patrons of the park to not only enjoy the river, but interact with the park from a new perspective.

In order to successfully offer a pedal boat rental, a small office for the employee(s) would need to be present. The office can be part of the main boathouse structure or a standalone object within the master plan and connected to the pier.

The pier itself must have a portion covered to offer protection from the differing weather climates of the upper Midwest. In addition to the pier offering dock space for the 20+ pedal boats, the pier will be a great venue for fishing, sitting and site seeing of the nearby landmarks including the new I-35W Bridge, the Weisman Art Museum designed by Frank O. Gehry, the east bank bluffs and the St. Anthony falls to the north.

General Use Space - Since the boathouse will be located in a public park, restrooms and shower stalls for swimmers should be placed within the structure. Additionally a separate family restroom with a changing table and room for parents and their children should be located within the boathouse. As the boathouse is a public structure, these areas should be designed to be easily cleaned and maintained by the Minneapolis Park Service Department.

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

One of the main challenges of this competition is to design an attractive and sustainable boathouse/pavilion that will continue to serve the needs of the community in a safe and creative manner for years to come. In many communities new and sustainable buildings serve as the identity and architectural president for residents and visitors. The minimum estimated floor space required for the center is 5,500s.f., but this is your opportunity to develop a design that will serve as a new “face” for the community.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

As you place your design on the site, keep in mind the minimum size of the program. Thorough research on the site, along with a comprehensive understanding of the varying weather conditions will be necessary to successfully complete this program. The program encourages competitors to develop strong ideas about sustainable design with regard to the site and building.

Additionally, all designers should consider the site and building from an accessibility standpoint. Consideration should be given to ensure that designs comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information designers should consult with the US Access Board at www.access-board.gov or 800.872.2253.

Depending on the selection of the site, some or none of these design elements are required in the design of this facility. All site improvements should be designed to help in the overall performance of the building and must meet local building and zoning codes.

- Vehicular Access
- Pedestrian Access
- Bicycle Access
- Parking
- Bicycle Racks
- Site Lighting
- Storm Water Run-off
- Trash Collection/Recycling

The Vinyl Institute

www.vinylindesign.com

Go to the “Uses for Vinyl” section to learn about vinyl building products.

Sustainability

Green Building Initiative

www.thegbi.org

National Association of Home Builders

<http://nahbgreen.org/>

U.S. Green Building Council

www.usgbc.org

Accessibility/ADA

US Access Board

www.access-board.gov / 800.872.2253

Information of the Bohemian Flats

www.tc.umn.edu/~buel0028/bohemianflats/index.html

Minneapolis Parks and Recreation System

www.minneapolisparcs.org/home.asp

General Questions about Pedal Boats

www.1stdirectproducts.com/pebobogu.html

Pier and Dock Design principles

<http://coastlineconsulting-ct.com/dd.htm>

Additional resources can be found at the competition website:

www.aias.org/vinyl

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