



CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION
INSTITUT CANADIEN DE LA CONSTRUCTION EN ACIER

assemblage

The Challenge

In consulting Wikipedia for the meaning of "assemblage" a number of possibilities appear. From a composition perspective, it can refer to text that is "built primarily and explicitly from existing texts to solve a writing or communication problem in a new context." Within an architectural context, Pamela Popeson of the MoMA refers to assemblage as an architectural tool that "offers a dynamic, inventive connection to cultural context."

In terms of this competition, Assemblage is an invitation for students to explore architectural connections, be they connections between context and structure, or the connections that allow an assemblage of materials and structural elements to come together to form a structural whole. In that sense, the 2016-2017 CISC Architectural Design Competition invites students to explore the utilization of steel as the primary structural element that makes an assemblage possible.

Students are challenged to design a structure that explores 'assemblage' on a site of the designers' choosing. While the purpose and scale are left to the discretion of the designer, it is important to focus on what it means for us to engage and experience assemblage. The structural focus must utilize exposed steel as a primary structural material, but otherwise, the material palette is open.

assemblage: the action of gathering or fitting things together

Competition Statement

The intention of this design competition is primarily to provide students of architecture in Canada with a unique opportunity: to enter into a design process that brings together, of necessity, concept and reality. It is important for students of architecture to grasp the fact that structural design lies not just in the realm of the engineer, but can be a means for architects of arriving at a meaningful realization of architectural ideas. It is when theory meets physical necessity that architecture can become really interesting.

To that end, this competition calls upon students to conceptualize, and realize in detail, a structure of simple program that explores the meaning of assemblage. The exploration will, of course, include issues related to program and site, but the emphasis in this competition is upon the architectural exploration through form and material, on the essential relationship between architecture and structure.

The reality of this competition comes in two forms: through the requirement for buildable details, primarily utilizing structural steel; and through the collaboration with the steel fabrication industry on those details. This collaboration is an important component of this competition, as a secondary objective is to expose students to both the opportunities and restraints inherent in realizing conceptual design.

The conceptual component of this competition will come through the recommendation that this competition be run through either a studio, or a lecture based course, most probably within a structures course. Under the guidance of faculty sponsors, students will conduct the design process as an academic exercise, within the guidelines set out in this brief. As an academic project, the design process will adhere to the standards set forth by the students' school of architecture.

Technical Requirements

The ultimate goal for a team's submission should combine good architectural design with sound structural considerations and material choices. The presentation of the design should provide easy access to all components of the project clearly and creatively.

While the inclusion of other primary structural materials is allowed, entries in this competition must incorporate structural steel in the design. By specifying structural steel as both architectural and structural elements, the designers demonstrate an understanding of the building properties of the material, and the architectural possibilities. Entries that include specifications of steel sizes, shapes and/or product specifications will be given stronger consideration by the jury.

Teams should also consider the practical application of their design. The potential for buildability will be given strong consideration, as the potential exists to build the winning entry. While theoretical studio projects are strongly encouraged, submissions should reflect a clear vision of the project's place and purpose.

Collaborative Process

Collaboration between designer(s) and fabricator(s) is encouraged as a reflection of architectural practice, as a means of enhancing students' ability to realize conceptual design within the framework of real construction. Students and faculty sponsors are encouraged to draw upon the experience and expertise of their local steel fabricators as part of the design process. For a list of local fabricators interested in participating with students, please contact Manon Gagnon at the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction.

Eligibility

This competition is open to all current full-time students registered in a Canadian school that offers an accredited or non-accredited program of architecture of at least 3 years duration. Students may work individually or in teams. Entries that include students in Engineering are encouraged. Each entry must have at least one faculty sponsor from the architecture program.

Submission Requirements

The full submission requirements are posted on the CISC website (www.cisc-icca.ca/education/studentdesigncomp). Submissions not conforming to these requirements will be disqualified.

Although copyright of design is maintained by the entrants, submission of design images as part of this competition releases the right of use of submitted images to CISC. Entrants will be appropriately credited when their images are used.

Judging Criteria

- Incorporation of the competition theme
- Creative approach to interpreting the competition theme
- Demonstration of the potential of structural steel
- Buildable details

Awards

Award of Excellence:	student team	\$3,000
	faculty sponsor	\$1,500
Awards (2) of Merit:	student team	\$2,000
	faculty sponsor	\$1,000

Schedule

September 15, 2016	Competition announced
May 19, 2017	Deadline for receipt of entries
June 23, 2017	Announcement of winners and publication of winning entries
September 29, 2017	Award of Excellence presented at the CISC Annual Conference in Calgary and exhibition of the winning entries
October 2017	Touring exhibition of finalists

For further information please contact:

Manon Gagnon
CISC - ICCA
3760 14th Avenue, Suite 200
Markham, Ontario L3R 3T7
phone: 905.604.3231 x108
e-mail: MGagnon@cisc-icca.ca
web: <http://www.cisc-icca.ca/education>

16th Annual CISC Architectural Student Design Competition 2016/2017