

Student Competition Brief



1. 0 Introduction

This invited competition aims to secure a range of concept design proposals for a new countryside education facility.

We seek submissions that are innovative and sustainable, robust and functional. The end users of the facility will be the Countryside Education Trust (CET). The competition is funded by SEEDA, and managed by Solent Centre for Architecture + Design, in partnership with RIBA (South East), XCO2, novoe and Blue Forest.

The competition is open to all third year students of architecture studying at Architecture Schools in the South-East Region (outside of London).

These are:

Oxford Brookes University
University of Southampton
University of Portsmouth
University of Brighton
University of Kent
University College for the Creative Arts, Canterbury (UCCA)
University of Greenwich

Primary School pupils will also be taking part in a separate but related study day, with the aim of introducing them to the countryside, architectural matters and environmentally sustainability. Their output will combine painting, modelling, murals and/or objects.

The four primary schools taking part are:

Mansel Junior School, Southampton
St Marks Church of England Junior School, Southampton
Mount Pleasant Junior School, Southampton
Beaulieu Village Primary School, Beaulieu

The competition will involve three stages:

1.1 Initial submissions

Submissions to be a maximum of:

2 x A2 boards to include drawings, sketches etc.
2 x A4 information description sheets.

1.2 Shortlist

A maximum of five proposals will be short-listed.

Some further information / clarification may be requested by the Jury to develop and explain the proposal.

1.3 Final winner

The aim is that the outline winning scheme will be developed into full detail working alongside the successful student. Construction tenders will then be sought in due course in order to complete the project for occupation by the end users.

The capital cost of this tree house project will be in the order of £120,000 - £150,000

The capital cost of the whole scheme is c. £588,000. The cost for the whole scheme is £680,000.

2.0 Programme

Initial information available:

Expressions of interest:	Wed 18th Oct 2006
Invitations to compete:	Fri 3 rd Nov 2006
Design brief issue:	Tues 24th Oct 2006
CET site visits:	Tues 24 th Oct 2006
Deadline for Real-time Updates:	End Dec 2006
Design submissions:	Wed 12th Jan 2007
Shortlist agreed:	Wed 17th Jan 2007
Requests for clarification:	Mon 22nd Jan 2007
Interviews week of:	Mon 12th Feb 2007
Winner contacted week of:	Mon 19th Feb 2007

3.0 Context

The end user, the Countryside Education Trust is based on the Beaulieu Estate in the New Forest. It was founded in 1975, aiming to promote learning, understanding and care of the countryside. Both day and residential courses take place including a wide range of ages. Visitor totals are approximately 10,000 per year.

The current accommodation has reached the end of its useful life.

Appendix A CET background notes

The chosen development site is the New Forest Study Centre aiming to replace the existing buildings. The Tree house project will be part of a larger master plan, details of which will be made available during the site visit and briefing day.

Appendix B Site Plan 1:500

Appendix C Site Photographs

4.0 The Competition Brief

4.1 CET Vision and Requirements

See Appendix A

4.2 Background Master plan

This will encompass the whole of the development referred to in Appendix A, in the section "Specification for the new centre."

4.3 Competition Accommodation Schedule

See Appendix A. Section entitled "Specification for a new centre". As stated in the Student Accommodation Schedule, the competition brief relates only to item 1.

4.4 Design Issues

See Appendix A, section headed Trust's Perspective. Key terms of description include "practical, functional, low tech, low maintenance, low impact, innovative, inspirational, sustainable, exciting, educational, and inclusive".

4.5 Technical

Materials should be sympathetic to the environment, available, cost-effective, in both construction and use.

Construction should be probably low tech, and again sympathetic to the environment and sustainable.

4.6 Sustainability and the Environment

See Appendix D. The tree house should also itself be a teaching tool in terms of educating children about sustainability.

4.7 Other Issues

See Appendix E, Pupil-led brief.

5.0 Submissions

5.1 Expressions of Interest

After the visit to Beaulieu on Tuesday 24th October 2006, an email will be sent out to all those who have registered their interest on the website. Those who want to confirm their entry to the competition must reply to that message. It should also be noted that from time to time additional information will be placed on the website as it becomes available.

5.2 Submissions

Please keep information submitted to the requirements set out in 1.1 headed "Initial Submissions" in order to assist the judging panel and encourage efficient use of competitors' time and resources.

5.3 Submissions should be sent to:
TREE HOUSE COMPETITION
Countryside Education Trust (CET)
Out of Town Centre
Palace Lane
Beaulieu
Hampshire
SO42 7YG

You are advised to send all submissions Special Delivery to ensure they are signed for and received safely. Please mark your packets clearly with **TREE HOUSE COMPETITION**. No entries will be accepted after the deadline of 1pm on 12th January 2007.

6.0 Selection criteria

6.1 Stage 1. Submissions

Quality of design boards

Clarity of A4 information sheets

Ability to respond to CET's vision, brief compliance and overall comprehension

Concept ideas

Innovation

Technical response

Sustainability approach

Research

Assimilation of web updates

Viability including brief reference to capital, whole life costs and maintenance

6.2 Stage 2. Shortlist

The five short-listed candidates may be requested to provide some additional information or clarification, and a copy of their CV. They will be invited to a short interview to present and describe their proposals followed by questions from the Jury panel.

6.3 Stage 3. Winner

The final winning submission will be chosen. At the convenience of both parties, this Student winner will then be invited to join our consultant team to assist in the development of the detail design and production. In due course a construction team will be procured, aiming to provide the completed project for CET.

7.0 Jury

The jury will consist of representatives from CET, SCA+D, SEEDA, novoe, XCO2, and one or two others (to be confirmed).

Appendices

- A: CET background notes
- B: Site Plan 1:500
- C: Site Photographs
- D: XCO2 Sustainability Brief
- E: Pupil-Led Design Brief

Disclaimer: Solent Centre for Architecture + Design and its partners reserve the right to amend this brief and entry conditions at any time. All decisions regarding entrants and winning designs will be final and at the discretion of Solent Centre for Architecture + Design and its partners.