

# OPEN FORT 400

NAI Ymere  City of Amsterdam

## COMPETITION PROGRAMME FOR THE OPEN FORT 400 OPEN IDEAS COMPETITION

### 1.1 Location and assignment

The site is located at the tip of Grasweg in Amsterdam North (see attachments). The area borders De Groene Draeck, a slipway that has been converted into a work building, and the raised fixed bridge across the Tolhuis Canal that connects Grasweg to the ferry across the IJ.

It is a strategic location close to the waterfront on the north side of the western banks of the IJ and located in an area where so much is currently happening (extension to Shell research campus, the new Film Museum, development on the former NDSM site).

The plan for the Tip of the Grasweg is a site development in the urban transformation plan drawn up by the City of Amsterdam for the Buiksloterham (BSH). The objective of this plan is a gradual transformation of the obsolete industrial site into an intensive residential and employment district on the north bank of the IJ. The rule is that on each site developed with housing, a substantial part of the programme must be maintained or reserved for works or (cultural) amenities. The industrial history forms both a source of inspiration and a frame of reference, also for the architectural idiom. Furthermore, the ambitions in the field of sustainability are significant and among the highest in the city.

The city wants to gradually create a green cycle and pedestrian route along the banks of the IJ. Development on riverside sites never exceeds 30 metres in height. Taller development is only possible in the "second line", along the Johan van Hasseltkanaal.

The assignment is to generate ideas for an Open Fort that facilitates innovation in the cultural, social and economic domains. It should be an Open Fort that does not turn its back on the surroundings but, rather, has a stimulating effect on them.

Architecture, urban design and landscape architecture are all involved in this assignment. An integral approach that draws on the different disciplines can result in an appealing and realistic proposal. The competition holder assumes that this assignment demands a high level of design quality.

### 1.2 Conditions

The design must comply with all required elements of the brief.

The competition holder has chosen not to apply any conditions in the phase of the ideas competition. However, it wants to make clear that limiting conditions will be set for the ensuing limited competition following the ideas competition. These limiting conditions are in adherence to those determined specifically for the location and building codes. These are made available as attachment on the competition website ([www.openfort400.nl](http://www.openfort400.nl)).

### 1.3. Indications

Not applicable

### 1.4 Brief

The brief consists of the following obligatory elements:

Ideas are called for

- an Open Fort to be built on this site
- a plan for the public space in/around the fort and relation to the North-Western banks of the IJ canal
- the relation between building and surroundings
- the programme to be realised on the site
- The competition is interested in the sustainability aspects of the submitted ideas

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The building must provide accommodation that facilitates innovation in the cultural, social and economic fields.

With respect to the relation between building and surroundings, the building must form a catalyst for developments that take place in the wider surroundings. In addition, the waterfront building must become the unique and recognisable front for Grasweg and, ultimately, the larger area of Amsterdam North.

With respect to the programme, the competition holder assumes a mixed-use development consisting of a maximum 60% residential and minimal 40% workspace. It is the express objective that participants come up with ideas for a programming that relates to the character of the area and the ambition of the competition holder to use the competition to enhance the cultural, social and economic development of Amsterdam North.

A non-obligatory element in the brief:

- It is welcome if participants address the cost of realising their idea and the possibilities of financing it
- The urban plan for the tip of the Grasweg as designed by Architectuurcentrale Thijs Asselbergs (see attachments)

For other non-obligatory elements in the brief see the attachment 'Limiting Conditions' at [www.openfort400.nl](http://www.openfort400.nl).

## 2 THE COMPETITION RULES

### 2.1 Names and addresses

This competition will be referred to by the name Open Fort 400 and is held by the NAI in close collaboration with Ymere and the City of Amsterdam.

All information will be provided by the website [www.openfort400.nl](http://www.openfort400.nl).

The competition holder will be represented by Huib Haye van der Werf (NAi) [openfort400@nai.nl](mailto:openfort400@nai.nl)

### 2.2 Type of competition

The competition is a composite competition comprising a public ideas competition followed by a limited competition. This competition programme concerns the public ideas competition only.

### 2.3 Objectives

The objectives of this competition are:

To generate ideas for an Open Fort at the tip of Grasweg in Amsterdam North. The ideas must be such that the Open Fort, through its architecture, programming and relation to the surroundings, can stimulate the continued social, cultural and economic development of Amsterdam North.

### 2.4 Participants

Participation is open to interdisciplinary teams. The teams are free to choose the composition of their team, but the main designer must be registered as an architect, urban designer or landscape architect with the Stichting Bureau Architectenregister (the Dutch Architects Register, or SBA). Participants from abroad must be registered in the architects register in the country where their office is located.

Participation is possible only after registration. Registration is possible using the digital registration form available at [openfort400@nai.nl](mailto:openfort400@nai.nl)

After registration, participants will receive confirmation of registration along with a registration number. This will serve as a reference of their participation for the full duration of the competition.

**Registration is possible until July 31 2009 at 17:00 (+01:00 GMT).**



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Jury members and their offices as well as everyone who was involved in any way with the competition preparations are excluded from participation.

## 2.5 Submissions

The submissions must be in English and must contain the following:

### CD ROM

- Two files (all files must include registration number in their name):
  1. For printing: all design files in high resolution JPG format
  2. For the jury: PDF of maximum two A2-format posters including a site sketch, max. 150 DPI.  
(The idea/design/proposal can be presented in any way on this.)
- Project motivation/explanation (maximum 1000 words) as Word document (.doc) and in English

### Poster(s)

- Copy (or copies) on hardened cardboard, horizontal A2 format (with the registration number on the back)
- Printed project motivation/explanation (maximum 1000 words) on white paper and in English with registration number clearly noted on the document.

No alternative versions may be submitted.

The submissions must be anonymous. All designs must be submitted with a motto as a title for the entry consisting of Latin letters and/or Arabic or Roman numerals. The motto must appear on all submitted documents and their packaging.

If a participant submits more than one design, a different motto must be chosen for each design, and each design must be packed and submitted separately.

The handwriting of the designer must not appear anywhere on any of the items submitted or on the packaging. Nor should there be any sign, seal or suchlike that could reveal the origin of the design.

The submission must include two letters:

1. A name letter: a sealed envelope with, on the outside, the motto of the entry and the words 'name letter' and inside:
  - a) name and address of the entrant (in the case of a team design it should clearly be stated which of the team members is the designer in charge)
  - b) a statement that the design is the intellectual property of the designer;
2. An address letter: a sealed envelope with, on the outside, the motto and the words 'address letter' and inside a correspondence address that is not the same as the address of the participant. The purpose of the address letter is to enable contact with the entrant while preserving his/her anonymity.

After reaching its verdict the jury has the authority to open the name letters and make known the names of the participants.

## 2.6 Competition schedule

The competition schedule is as follows:

Call for entries June 1st 2009

Question round until June 21st at 20:00 (+01:00 GMT)

Answering of questions until June 29th

End of registration period July 31st 2009 at 20:00 (+01:00 GMT)

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Submission deadline August 12th 2009 at 17:00 (+01:00 GMT)

Control entries week 33/34

Adjudication week 35

Announcement of nominees September 12th 2009

Jury verdict

Start of phase 2

## 2.7 Interim information

Written questions concerning the competition programme can be submitted by email only to [openfort400@nai.nl](mailto:openfort400@nai.nl). The questions and answers will be published on the website. The question round closes on June 21st at 20:00 (+01:00 GMT). The final answers will be made on June 29th 2009. The question-and-answer document constitutes an appendage to the competition programme and has the same status. No other form of consultation is permissible.

## 2.8 Submission hand-in

All submissions – including those sent by post or courier – must have arrived at the following address by 17:00 (+01:00 GMT) on Wednesday August 12th:

Netherlands Architecture Institute  
c/o Open Fort 400  
PO Box 237  
3000 AE Rotterdam  
The Netherlands

A receipt will be issued to those participants who hand in their submissions in person. Participants who send their submissions by courier or post will be sent a receipt to the address in the address letter within a week of the closing date for submissions.

## 2.9 Jury

The submissions will be assessed by a jury made up of the following members:

- Mels Crowwel: architect at Bentheim Crowwel (chairman)
- Ronald Rietveld: landscape architect at Rietveld Landscape
- Renny Ramakers: co-founder and co-director of Droog Design
- Saskia Bos: Dean of the Cooper Union School of Art
- Russel Shorto: author and a contributing writer at the New York Times Magazine.
- Thijs Asselbergs: architect at Architecturecentrale Thijs Asselbergs
- Pieter Klomp: urban designer and supervisor at Noordwaarts

The jury acts independently of the participants and reaches its verdict autonomously.

## 2.10 Assessment criteria

The submissions will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- The way in which the assignment is translated into a convincing proposal
- The extent to which the 'Open Fort' can fulfil the required role of catalyst
- The extent to which an inspiring and realistic vision is given
- The contribution of the 'Open Fort' to the waterfront and the experience of the immediate surroundings.

These criteria are listed in no particular order



## 2.11 Assessment procedure

The assessment procedure is as follows:

### a) Control Phase:

After the submissions have been handed in, they will be controlled in Week 33 and 34, 2009, by the NAI, Ymere and the City of Amsterdam, in the person of: Huib Haye van der Werf (NAi), Rob Groote Bromhaar (Ymere) and Erik van der Kooij (City of Amsterdam).

The submissions will be controlled to see if they comply with the competition rules as stated in this competition programme. Submissions that do not comply with these conditions will not be entered for assessment. The decision concerning possible exclusion of submissions will be taken by the competition holder after consultation with the jury.

At the same time, the submissions will be controlled to see how they address the brief. The findings will be made available to the jury.

### b) Adjudication Phase:

Adjudication will take place in week 35.

The jury will assess the way in which the submissions respond to the assignment, conditions and brief, and they will analyse the submissions according to the individual assessment criteria. On the basis of an integral assessment, the jury will then indicate which submissions to nominate. The competition holder and participants will respect the jury verdict unconditionally.

On September 12, 2009, the jury verdict will be made known and the name letters opened.

## 2.12 Jury report

On September 12, 2009, the jury report of the first phase will be available. The jury report is a written document and is public. The jury report contains a general interpretation of the assessment criteria applied and a summary of the assessment sessions, and indicates in which round the unselected designs dropped out of the contest.

For those submissions that reached the final round of adjudication, the report contains an overview per design of the assessment according to these criteria.

Moreover, the jury report will contain an evaluation of the results of the competition and recommendations to the competition holder.

## 2.13 Follow-up to the competition

After the ideas competition, the competition holder will commission the five participants selected by the jury to take part in a subsequent limited competition.

The participants in the limited competition will receive a fee that is commensurate with the desired level of detailing (E 10.000). The submissions entered in the limited competition will be assessed by the same assessment committee of experts as well as representatives of Ymere, NAI and the City of Amsterdam who are also entitled to vote.

## 2.14 Publicity, publications

The participants, jury members and everyone else except the specified contact person are prohibited from making any public comments concerning the contents of submissions or the competition as such before the decision of the competition holder has been made known. Any breach of this condition will result in exclusion from participation.

The results of the ideas competition will be made public by:

- presentations on the occasion of the jury verdict
- an exhibition of the maximum 30 submissions selected by the jury
- a publication that will feature the maximum of 30 submissions selected by the jury.



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Plans for the award ceremony, exhibition and publication are still being developed at the moment the competition programme has been fixed.

### **2.15 Copyrights**

The submissions remain the intellectual property of the participants.

### **2.16 Use, insurance, property and return of the submitted documents**

All documents relating to the designs submitted for the competition will remain at the disposal of the client for 52 weeks after the submission date. During this period the submitted documents are uninsured.

During the period in which the submitted documents are at the disposal of the client, the client reserves the right to publish or exhibit the submitted documents in the manner specified in this competition programme with having to recompense the designer in any way. The permission of the designer is required for any other form of presentation, publication or exhibition.

Upon completion of this period, all submissions will be destroyed if no request has been received for their return or if the organisation does not want to keep them.

Exceptions to the above are the submitted documents pertaining to the design selected for execution, which remain the property of the client.

### **2.17 Disputes**

Any disputes that may arise from the competition – including those that are considered as such by just one of the parties – between competition holder, participants and jury members will be settled by arbitration. Arbitration will take place in accordance with the Arbitration Regulations of the Stichting Arbitrage Instituut Bouwkunst as they existed three months before the day on which the submissions must be handed in.

### **2.18 Conclusion**

The conditions contained in this competition programme apply to this competition.