

## 2G Competition. Venice Lagoon Park announcement

**Barcelona, April 2007** · On the occasion of the celebration of the magazine's tenth anniversary, 2G launches an international ideas competition: **2G Competition. Venice Lagoon Park**. This theoretical initiative, which does not involve subsequent phases of the project or its execution, is an inducement to free, non-restrictive reflection, the objective being to embark on a worthwhile debate within the profession.

The competition is intended as a reflection on the contemporary metropolis that, growing out of the design of the landscape, pays attention to the tension between global interests and local needs. The site chosen for the unfolding of the competition is the Venice Lagoon, the specific theme being the creation of the **Venice Lagoon Park**.

The park project will be devoted to reclaiming the urban idea of the lagoon as a complex network of communications and settlements, through a hypothetical re-colonisation of the territory of the lagoon, the decentralisation and atomisation of a programme of uses, and the reclaiming of the idea of the lagoon as an urban constellation necessarily integrated in its natural environment. The programme for planning this rehabilitation will consist of an **Urban Park** and **Lagoon Prototypes**.

The competition jury will consist of: Iñaki Ábalos, Francesco Careri, James Corner, Anne Lacaton — President—, Philippe Rahm and 2G Team. The competition is open on 15 March 2007 to students of architecture and to architects under the age of 40 from anywhere in the world, with a final inscription application date of 15 October of that same year. First prize will be rewarded by 10,000€ plus a year's subscription to the magazine 2G and second prize will receive 5,000€ plus a year's subscription to the magazine 2G. There will be five special mentions, rewarded with a year's subscription to the magazine 2G.

### 2G review and competitions

In 1997, in order to celebrate and to announce the launching of the magazine, **2G International Architecture Review** convoked a first international ideas competition aimed at students and architects under the age of forty. On that occasion the competition proposed as a design subject the developing of the future headquarters of the Mies van der Rohe Foundation, the body responsible for managing the German Pavilion in Barcelona, created by Mies van der Rohe to represent Germany in the Barcelona International Exhibition of 1929.

With a ten years' track record behind it, 2G launches a second international ideas competition: **2G Competition. Venice Lagoon Park**. This initiative grows out of taking this publication to be a forum of reflection and a vehicle for the dissemination of unpublished projects which helps to develop and to publicise the ideas of students and young architects on the international scene. While the first competition encouraged ideas about a paradigmatic building through an enlargement project, the 2nd 2G Competition elects to reconsider the contemporary city through a project which reclaims the landscape and confronts the tension existing between global interests and local needs, in which tourism—understood as the most important economic, social and territorial phenomenon of the second half of the 20th century—might live in harmony with the cohesive, social needs of the citizen. This approach represents a widening of horizons in terms of the 1st 2G Competition, since it goes beyond the boundaries of the strictly architectural project in order to accede to the sphere of landscape design, urbanism, sustainability and other problems present in current professional debates. Similarly, the 2nd 2G Competition invites an interdisciplinary participation that might help enrich the debate thanks to the confluence of new perspectives that complement the vision of the architect.

### Competition area

Venice's lagoon is a coastal lagoon with an approximate surface area of 550 km<sup>2</sup>. To the north it is bounded by the River Sile, to the south by the River Brenta, to the west by a series of canals which separate it from dry land and finally, to the east, by the coastal strands of Sottomarina, Pallesina, Lido, Cavallino, Jesolo and, beyond, the sea. Along these last 50 km of earth and sand shores only three orifices are open: the mouths of the ports of the Lido, Malamocco and Chioggia. The landlocked lagoon is neither earth nor water as such, but a complex ecosystem of enormous importance in landscape terms made up of different components: islands, sandbanks (*barene*), mud banks (*velme*), and finally green channels of mud and algae (*ghebi*).

During the entire period of growth of the city of Venice, its uniqueness—in terms of being water-bound—was possibly the main reason for its success. The form of the city (a built form) responded expressly (functionally) to its commercial, logistic, defence and representative needs. Venice formed part of an archipelago and maintained a close relationship with the different islands in the lagoon through a system which was regulated by functional zoning.

Each island had a specific use in relation to its position and physical characteristics: the smaller islands supplied essential services<sup>3/4</sup>religious, medical, cultural and welfare<sup>3/4</sup>to the city, and larger islands were spaces reserved for agriculture or industry.

The city's commercial decline meant that Venice would gradually lose its ability to represent itself through its territory and that it would cease to understand itself as a metropolitan system. The main island was linked to terra firma by a bridge and journeying through the lagoon, which was now revealed to be too slow, rendered its islands useless. The lagoon itself came to be seen as an enormous empty space available for the implantation of an industrial agglomeration. Venice concentrated uses and activities and took on the role of being a destination for millions of tourists.

### Competition theme

The 2G Competition proposes developing the **Venice Lagoon Park** in order to rehabilitate the idea of an urban system to the lagoon as a whole and thus to re-establish Venice's relationship with its immediate aquatic environment. The programme for planning this rehabilitation will consist of an Urban Park and Lagoon Prototypes.

The **Urban Park** is situated on an 31-hectare island known as Sacca San Mattia, to the north of Murano, an island without a specific use right now which has served as a dump for the waste from glass-making and for building materials from works in the historic centre or on other islands.

The Urban Park will be the entrance to the Venice Lagoon Park and will consist of a landing stage, a visitors' reception centre providing information about the lagoon, an area for renting boats to visit it, a sports and leisure area, and lastly a space foreseen for major events and festivals.

The **Lagoon Prototypes** will be examples of urban furniture located in the visiting areas as autonomous elements for providing unity to the lagoon system as a whole. Some of the prototypical artefacts are to be a refuge, an observatory, a landing stage, energy way stations and information boards.

### The jury

**Iñaki Ábalos** (1956) is a graduate of the Escuela de Arquitectura de Madrid (ETSAM), Professor of Project Design and Director of the Technique and Contemporary Landscape Laboratory at the ETSAM. He has been a guest professor at various universities (the Architectural Association in London, the EPF in Lausanne, Columbia University, Princeton University, the Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio), and together with Juan Herreros is a founder of the architecture studio Ábalos&Herreros. Of note among their recent works is the Forum 2004 Coast Park (Barcelona), the El Retiro Gymnasium (Madrid), Plaza Woermann and its tower in Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, and the mixed bioclimatic towers in Vitoria.

**Francesco Careri** (1963) is an artist, architect and member of the Stalker Laboratory and the Osservatorio Nomade di Roma. He graduated from the Università La Sapienza de Roma. He is Professor of Architecture at the Università degli Studi di Roma Tre and has published several books, notably *Constant. New Babylon, una città nomade* (Turin, 2001) and *Walkscapes. El caminar como práctica estética / Walking as an aesthetic practice* (Barcelona, 2002; also published in Italian in Turin, 2006).

**James Corner** (1961), landscape architect and urbanist, is a founder of the Field Operations studio in New York and a professor in the Landscape Architecture Department at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design. Outstanding among his recent works are Fresh Kills Park, situated on the former Staten Island rubbish tip in New York; The High Line, also in New York, created with Diller Scofidio and Renfro; and the University of Puerto Rico's Botanical Garden in San Juan.

**Anne Lacaton** (1955), jury president, is a graduate architect of the Bordeaux École d'Architecture and the founder, along with Jean-Philippe Vassal, of the architecture studio Lacaton & Vassal. Their studio has concentrated on themes relating to housing and to situations of an urban kind. Among their most notable recent works, mention must be made of the remodelling of the Palais de Tokyo in Paris so as to accommodate the Centre of Contemporary Creation; the University of Arts and Human Sciences in Grenoble; a housing complex in Mulhouse, and the Business Administration School in Bordeaux.

**Philippe Rahm** (1967) studied architecture at the Polytechnic School in Lausanne and Zurich. Director until 2004 of the office Décosterd & Rahm associés together with Jean-Gilles Décosterd, he currently heads his own studio with offices in Lausanne (Switzerland) and Paris (France). He has participated in many exhibitions throughout the world (Archilab, SF-MOMA, the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris, the Centre Pompidou, the biennials of Venice, Lisbon, Valencia, Graz, CCA Montreal, etc.). He was a Master at the Architectural Association in London, visiting professor at the Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio and currently at the EPFL and the ECAL in Lausanne. At present he is working on different public and private projects in France, Poland, England and Austria.

**2G Team**, responsible for editing 2G magazine, is composed by Mónica Gili, editor-in-chief, and Moisés Puente and Anna Puyuelo, editors.

### Competition schedule

- 1 June 2007** Final date for consultations.
- 2 July 2007** Final date for publication of replies to the consultations.
- 15 October 2007** Final date for inscription.
- 12 November 2007** Final date for delivery of projects (till 2.00 p.m. Barcelona, Spain, local time)
- December 2007** Meeting of the jury.
- January 2008** Publication of the jury's verdict and of the competition records.
- First six months of 2008** Publication of the prize-winning and selected proposals.

## 2G International Architecture Review

**2G** is a monographic magazine that devotes each number to the recent work of a contemporary architecture studio or to specific aspects of the work of the great masters of modern architecture. Using texts, photographs, illustration and architectural documentation, each number includes a selection of ten to fifteen projects—in some cases, unpublished ones—and documentary photos taken especially for the magazine.

Published issues: 2G N.41 Eduardo Arroyo. | 2G N.39/40 Gerrit Th. Rietveld. | 2G N.38 Ofis arhitekti | 2G N.37 Valerio Olgiati | 2G N.36 BKK-3 | 2G N.35 Burkhalter Sumi. | 2G N.34 Sergison Bates | 2G N.33 José Antonio Coderch. | 2G N.32 Carlos Ferrater. | 2G N.31 Riegler Riewe | 2G N.29/30 Max Bill. Arquitecto | 2G N.28 Aires Mateus | 2G N.27 Mansilla + Tuñón. | 2G N.26 Mathias Klotz | 2G N.25 Josep Lluís Mateo | 2G N.23/24 Lina Bo Bardi. | 2G N.22 Ábalos & Herreros | 2G N.21 Lacaton & Vassal | 2G N.20 Arquitectura portuguesa. | 2G N.19 Waro Kishi. | 2G N.18 Arquitectura y energía | 2G N.17 Marcel Breuer. | 2G N.16 Foreign Office Architects | 2G N.15 Arquitectura italiana de la posguerra 1944-1960 | 2G N.14 Construir en las montañas. | 2G N.13 Carlos Jiménez | 2G N.12 Craig Ellwood. | 2G N.11 Baumschlager & Eberle | 2G N.10 Instant China. | 2G N.9 Williams Tsien. | 2G N.8 Arquitectura Latinoamericana. | 2G N.7 R.M. Schindler. | 2G N.6 Ushida Findlay | 2G N.5 Eduardo Souto de Moura | 2G N.4 Arne Jacobsen. | 2G N.3 Landscape Architecture. | 2G N.2 Toyo Ito. | 2G N.1 David Chipperfield. |

The following have given their opinion of **2G International Architecture Review**:

"Between the past and the present, reality is highly complex and infinitely rich nowadays. Reading it increasingly requires a form of mediation, a frame. A magazine is a selective gamble. 2G has managed to run the risk of going beyond the obvious, to extend its editorial choice and to reflect, in our own time, a recent and renowned history of its own. I am grateful to those horizons, open or simply evinced." **Manuel Aires Mateus**

"¡Congratulations for 10th anniversary!

Once a piece of architecture is built it will stand for a hundred years or more. That's why I always keep in mind that we shouldn't create architecture influenced by transient trends. In that sense, I highly appreciate 2G, which never follows changing fashions and has dealt with matters of substance. I also enjoy 2G's the interesting layout, which finds a balance between project concepts, drawings and photographs.

I hope 2G will go on giving us high-quality information for the future of architecture." **Tadao Ando**

"2G is searching for an architecture beyond the "global design party". Therefore 2G constantly questions our profession, where it's going, what it's moving .... Congratulations!" **Burkhalter Sumi Architekten**

"I feel great admiration and respect for 2G's distinguished style, which has never been lost. All of the articles are carefully composed, full of beauty and sensitivity. One can see their profound affection and acute critique of the works of architects. I am sure that this reflects the great spirit of the publishing house." **Toyo Ito**

"During these last ten years the magazine 2G has filled in depth the gaps left by other media and has gifted us a handful of visits to the buildings and projects of different architects in which many of we readers feel the proximity of an anonymously shared surprise..." **Mansilla Tuñón**

"2G fills a space, a necessary one dedicated in a calm, reflexive and profound way to landmarks and episodes of contemporary architecture, being practically the only architecture magazine published in Barcelona to maintain continuity and interest." **Josep M<sup>a</sup> Montaner**

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"For Jonathan and I the publication of 2G on our work contributed to a turning point in the development of our office. The publication has exposed our work to a wide audience and the quality and reputation of the series has certainly contributed to an increase of interest (and respect) for our work within the European architectural context. The combination of well printed photographs and drawings and written analysis and architectural criticism, laid out within a clear and bilingual graphic structure, provides the opportunities for invited architects to present their work in a fully rounded way. This format makes 2G unique and therefore valuable." **Sergison Bates**

In collaboration with:



The complete set of rules for the competition are published in the webpage [www.2Gcompetition.com](http://www.2Gcompetition.com).  
More info at: [info@2Gcompetition.com](mailto:info@2Gcompetition.com).

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