



CENTRO CONGRESSI al DUOMO FIRENZE

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Centro Congressi al Duomo

Via Del Giglio 10
50123 Florence

International Concept and Design Competition: Call for proposals for the ICLAB Intercultural Creativity Laboratory Viale Guidoni 103, Florence

The Centro Congressi al Duomo is an organisation with deep roots in the cultural environment of the city of Florence, in the spirit of the *Life Beyond Tourism*[®] guidelines to which its member structures subscribe in their quest to impart added value to travel for the discovery and enhancement of cultural diversity. The Centro Congressi al Duomo includes the Auditorium al Duomo, the Hotel Laurus al Duomo****, the Hotel Pitti Palace al Ponte Vecchio**** with its 360° Queen Suite, the Caffè Astra al Duomo, the Palazzo Coppini and the new Intercultural Creativity Laboratory (ICLAB) inaugurated to tie in with the 18th General Assembly of the ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) and with a parallel official event devoted to young people under the title *Florence Youth & Heritage Festival*.

The Centro Congressi al Duomo, with the sponsorship of the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco and of its International Life Beyond Tourism Institute, is pleased to announce an

International Concept and Design Competition

of architectural designs for two areas that are part of the ICLAB - Intercultural Creativity Laboratory situated in Viale Guidoni 103, Florence. The areas in question comprise an entrance canopy for the premises (Area 1) and a skylight for the meeting room (Area 2). The winning design will be taken either partly or wholly into consideration when developing the final executive design.

Description of the two areas involved

- **Area 1: Entrance canopy to provide access to the ICLAB premises** - situated on the lower ground floor of Viale Guidoni 103, *ICLAB* is an open space measuring over 1000 m² accessed via a double ramp from entrances in Via Valdinievole 71 and in Viale Guidoni 103. The premises are comprised of two large halls – a meeting room, and an exhibition area – both of which are in exposed reinforced concrete. The flooring in the meeting room, which can be sealed off with a glass wall on the entirety of its shorter side, is of terracotta tiles laid in a herring-bone pattern, while the flooring in the exhibition space, with its white finish, consists of poured concrete polished to a natural finish, giving it a very well-lit post-industrial feel. Further information on the two areas can be found by clicking on: www.iclab.info

Where designs for **Area 1** are concerned, candidates should bear in mind the **Florence Municipal Authority's Regulations Governing Building**, of which the following is an excerpt:

Suspended canopies

Suspended canopies for erection on façades overlooking public areas are permitted only insofar as they are designed to protect a building's main entrance or its entrances open to the general public; moreover, said suspended canopies must meet the requirements listed in the table below.

Suspended canopies - requirements

There must be a distance of no less than 2.50 mt. between the lowest point of the canopy and the level of the ground, pavement or flooring adjacent to the building.

There must be a distance of no less than 2.30 mt. between the brackets, beams or any decorative elements anchored to the façade and said level.

The canopy overhang (including all gutters) must:

- not exceed 1 mt, for canopies standing at 2.50 mt. from the ground, pavement or flooring level;
- not exceed 2.50 mt, for canopies standing at or above 4 mt. from said level;



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- be in proportion to the distance from the ground when said distance is between 2.50 mt and 4 mt;
- in any case be no wider than the pavement beneath it.

Canopies must also include the following features:

- they must be fitted with appropriate systems for collecting and conveying rainwater to the drainage system, with downpipes flush with the walling;
- they must be built in such a way as not to obstruct street lighting, road signs, names or any other element of public utility.

- Area 2: Skylight to cover the corridor adjacent to the meeting room and escape route

The skylight, above the concrete wall currently in situ (which runs in an EAST-WEST direction), must be designed to supply light and air to the corridor adjacent to the meeting room. This may be raised by approximately 1 mt above the ground level of the car park, and that distance can be increased in the area where the staircase emerges inasmuch as it must ensure ease of exit along the escape route, which consists of the staircase itself.

Thus it is advisable to entertain the possibility of using a light material, or light construction technology, that is also transparent and can be opened; and to take into account the direction and the shadow cast by neighbouring buildings. (see section C-C' in the current status document).

- Area 2: autofrettage along the longer side of the meeting room

The autofrettage must consist of structural steel frames which can open up the meeting room walls towards the corridor lit from above by the skylight described above. (see section B-B' in the current status document and section B-B' in the hypothetical structural plan for the correct sizing of the new openings).

All designs submitted must reflect the spirit of the premises, its image of flexibility and dynamism and its planned use for hosting meetings of creative young people in a context of respect for cultural diversity. The winning entry will be used as one of the bases for developing the future executive design, because the Centro Congressi al Duomo's purpose in launching this competition is to stimulate the production of entries that can be used in support of the final design.

Documents required

A) Technical report comprising:

- the original idea and criteria adopted;
- the premises and observations underlying the idea proposed;
- details of all content impossible to depict exhaustively in the graphic design work.

The report must be drafted on five pages at most, plus the cover, on A4 paper and it must be typed with single spacing using the Arial 11 font;

B) Graphic design work comprising:

no more than two design drawings on A1 or A0 paper, rolled up in a tube, **containing:**

- plan, elevation and sectional views of the work to a scale of 1:20 and/or 1:50;
- perspective or photorendering impression of the work in order to enable the jury to assess it in relation to the surrounding context;
- architectural and executive details of the design to an appropriate scale;
- a description of the principal materials and major construction techniques envisaged;
- graphic sketches, perspective sketches, photographs and/or any other illustrations deemed appropriate to illustrate the design.

C) A CD or a DVD containing a digital copy of the documentation listed in points A) and B) above.

Design and depiction techniques: no specific requirements.

Competition language: English.



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Design drawing format: .jpg, .tiff, .pdf with a minimum resolution of 300dpi. Report format: .rtf, .doc, .pdf.

Available documentation

- plan and sections of the area concerned by the project in .dwg and .pdf format both as it is today and in a sizing hypothesis;
- land registry entry;
- aerial views;
- photographs of the area concerned by the project.

ADMISSION: participation is free of charge and is open to:

- architects and artists of all countries.
- students of all countries.

All entries must be original work and must NOT have been submitted in any prior competition.

Prize

The prize money is € 1,000.00 gross (this sum will be taxed in accordance with Italian law).

Jury

The jury comprises a member designated by the Centro Congressi al Duomo, a member designated by the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco and a member designated by the International Life Beyond Tourism Institute.

The jury's decisions are final and irrevocable.

Exhibition of Designs

The Company reserves the right to display all designs submitted in the course of one or more exhibitions held on the premises of the ICLAB and/or of the Centro Congressi al Duomo at some future date.

Questions and clarification

All questions or requests for clarification should be addressed in e-mail form to: info@iclab.info

Timing

Entries must be submitted by no later than 12 midnight (Italian time) on **15 September 2015**.

The competition results will be announced on the www.iclab.info page on **1 October 2015**.

Royalties for submissions and exclusion of liability:

1. All material submitted shall become the property of the Centro Congressi al Duomo and may be used and modified by the Centro Congressi al Duomo as it deems fit, without any obligation to inform any other party;
2. No material submitted shall be returned to the candidate.

Processing of personal data

In compliance with D. Lgs. 196/2003, the sole purpose in the processing of any personal data collected is the running and management of the competition procedure. All data will be processed in compliance with official confidentiality and with the principles of propriety, legality and transparency, in accordance with said D. Lgs. 196/2003 in such a way as to guarantee protection of the confidentiality of the candidate(s), the sole necessary exception being the publication of the competition procedure in compliance with legal requirements currently in force. Data will be communicated to public and private entities only in compliance with legal requirements,



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with the regulations of the competition and for the institutional purposes provided for under D. Lgs. 196/2003 and subsequent amendments.

Acceptance of the competition rules and regulations

In submitting work to the competition, candidates implicitly accept all the terms of this competition call. For any and all disputes regarding the interpretation and/or implementation of this competition call, the court of jurisdiction is Florence.

General terms:

1. No compensation will be paid either to the candidates taking part in this competition or to their faculties.
2. Submission of an entry to this competition entails the automatic acceptance of the terms outlined in this call.
3. In the event of a dispute, only the Italian version of the announcement shall be deemed to be reliable.

Florence, 02.02.2015

Sponsored by:



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Additional Information

To help you find your way around the planning phase, here is some additional information on how to devise and address the project in its two areas, 1 and 2, bearing in mind that they need to meet their required canopy and skylight functions in a manner consistent with the existing space, context and environment.

The Canopy

The canopy providing access to the lift (Area 1) connecting to the basement is adjacent to windows in the neighbouring B&B Novoli Hotel. This proximity must be taken into account because the project needs to take the design of the existing windows into consideration in order to provide as consistent an interpretation of them as possible. This is not meant to curb the architect's imagination or creativity in any way, but it must be remembered that the canopy, and thus the ICLAB entrance, need to give the environment a distinctive character compared to the hotel but that the hotel is nevertheless of great importance inasmuch as the ICLAB area is an integration of it.

The Side Corridor

The opening in the side corridor in the meeting room (area 2) must be devised as a point for capturing the light in such a way that that light is extensively reflected inside the room. The corridor must perform the function of a light incubator capable of turning the windows giving onto it into genuine windows flooding the basement area with natural light. The autofrettage, devised, sized and illustrated in the planning stage drawings, makes it possible, thanks to its considerable dimensions, to create this band of light stretching along the entire wall. The room is greatly enhanced thereby and the quality of the environment must benefit immensely from this.

What this operation aims to achieve is a considerable improvement in the quality of the space through an increase in the amount of light and air supplied to it.

The room's air supply, which must be designed in such a way as to be technically connected with the skylight, must also be broadly stimulated through natural systems.

The environment must be flooded with light and air so that those inside it do not get the impression that they are in a box but that they are in an area which extends beyond its own physical perimeter, revolutionising the concept of "basement" which has characterised the lower-ground area for so long.

Thus the competition requires the submission of ideas that are extremely sensitive: to the theme of flexibility which characterises this space; to light; to the link between internal and external spaces; and to the techniques for implementing these two interventions.

You should be sensitive to the concept of needing to cross a "limit" or outer border; the space must be thought of as something fluid, stretching seamlessly and harmoniously towards the outside.

We strongly urge participants to view the space itself on the www.iclab.info website's gallery of photographs and videos, and to pay particular attention to the graphic documents supplied illustrating both its present state and the status of the preliminary project study.



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