

The United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.
Sixth Annual
“Ideal Theatre” Student Design Competition
for Architecture and Theatre Students
sponsored by American Seating and ASTC

Introduction

The United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc. (USITT) Architecture Commission is organizing the **2012 “Ideal Theatre” Student Design Competition** to promote the collaboration of college and university students enrolled in professional architectural and theatre programs. USITT will exhibit the entries and honor the winners at the 2012 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo from March 28 to 31, 2012 in Long Beach, California.

Space, Place, Story

Unlike film and television, theatre takes place in real time and space. Actors and audiences come together in a place that has been devised and prepared for telling a particular story with the intention of sharing an extraordinary experience together. The issue of space – its character, its geometry, its materiality – and the impact that this space has on the way the story is told and received is central to live theatre.

Interestingly, today more and more theatre artists are choosing to work in found spaces rather than purpose-built theatres. There are many reasons for this, but one is that theatre artists are increasingly interested in finding or creating exactly the right environment in which to tell a particular story in a compelling way. In this sense, for each theater director, every story has its own “ideal theatre”.

The goal of this competition is to encourage architecture students to work with young theatre artists to explore the emotive power of space, how space can aid storytelling, and how it can be manipulated to achieve a dramatic purpose. We also hope that architecture students will enjoy the kind of creative collaboration that is common in the theatre, and will relish the opportunity to think about space-making in a different way than they typically are asked to do. This is a problem about how physical environments shape experiences over time; its about *places* rather than *spaces*.

The Problem Statement

The competition poses the design question, “What space or spaces would be ideal for telling a particular story in a very powerful way?” The task will be to conceive a production concept and design and illustrate a space or a sequence of spaces - not scenery, but emotionally - laden *places* - to accommodate a live theatrical production of one of the four works listed below. The design of the space itself should form the environment of the play, supplemented by costumes, props, lighting, sound, actors, and the audience.

Each team can choose its own site and propose a design for a permanent building, a temporary structure, or an intervention into an existing place. Designs should accommodate the size audience the team feels is best for the particular production concept. The team can choose to have the audience sit, stand, walk, or lie down.

The Stories

The submissions are to be based on one of the following four texts. Teams are free to choose a literal reading of the text or to propose to mount a production of an adaptation of the script or a devised work based on the underlying story. Teams can turn a play into an opera, an opera into a dance, etc.

Macbeth, by William Shakespeare (play)

Otello, by Giuseppe Verdi (opera)

Waiting for Godot, by Samuel Beckett (play)

Antigone, by Sophocles (play)

Team Composition

Teams should be comprised of one or more architecture students enrolled in an accredited architectural college or university program and one or more theatre students (director, dramaturg, actor, writer, or designer) currently enrolled in a college or university theatre program.

The Team can enter as individuals or as part of a structured class. Team members can be at any level in their college or university careers. The students' experience and knowledge of their chosen area of study will be an asset in developing the team's solutions. Upper level and graduate students are encouraged to compete. The adjudicators look forward to seeing all ideas!

Professional Jury

Oskar Eustis, Director and Artistic Director (Public Theater in New York, New York)

Adrienne Lobel, Scenic Designer (Broadway, the Metropolitan Opera, and many regional theaters)

David Rockwell, Architect (with Scenic Designer credits on Broadway)

Joshua Dachs, Principal, Fisher Dachs Associates Theatre Planning and Design

Submission Requirements

1. A **Team Name**, chosen by the team, must appear on all materials submitted for the Jury to review. The name of the competitors' college or university or individual team members **CAN NOT** appear anywhere on the materials the Jury will review.
2. An **Entry Form** which is available for download on the USITT website. The competition application form is due November 17, 2011. E-mail application form to info@usitt.org
Subject line: USITT Competition. Place copy in a plain sealed business envelope with the Team Name clearly marked on the outside. This must be attached to the back of the Concept Booklet.
3. A **Concept Booklet** of up to TEN (10) 11"x 17" sheets (can be double sided) describing the production concept and the way in which the physical space has been designed to embody and enable the production. Think of it as a "film treatment" or a "movie pitch". Explain the underlying ideas behind the production concept. Then explain how the production concept led to the specific set of spatial/architectural choices which are proposed. Cite examples of how specific choices, such as color, materiality, size, and character contribute fundamentally

2012 USITT "Ideal Theatre" Student Design Competition

to a compelling experience of the story. Use text, photos, drawings or model photos to explain the ideas. The Team Name must be on each sheet. **Submit digital and printed copy of Concept Booklet.**

4. **Digital Submission of 36" x 48" Presentation Panel**, in either a horizontal or vertical orientation. Use the boards for plan and section drawings, interior perspectives, and rendered images as required to explain the space(s) and illustrate at least two key moments in the production. Drawings can be black and white or color. Models can NOT be submitted, but photographs of models may be part of the presentation. Any text must be presented on the boards in a legible font of not less than 12 pt. Text should not exceed 300 words total on the boards (not including tiles, room labels, or drawing keys). **Submit digital image of panel on CD or USB drive and an 11" x 17" printed copy of panel. (DO NOT send 36" x 48" boards)**
5. **Digital Submissions: 1 Compact Disk (CD), or USB drive, containing 2 .pdf files.**
 - File 1** - the Presentation Board, not to exceed 20 MB. These images must be of high quality for use in PowerPoint presentations. Screen resolution of 1920 x 1080 pixels, 100 dpi, 16:9 aspect ratio.
 - File 2** of Concept Booklet not to exceed 9 MB. The CD, or USB drive should have "Team Name" marked on it.
6. All submissions will be **PROJECTED** for Jury review. Jury will also review printed 11" x 17" copies of the booklet and the presentation panel.
7. A selected number of teams will be asked to submit high quality files for printing of panels for display.

Competition Rules

1. The Jury will be English-speaking, and all text **MUST** be in **English**.
2. USITT reserves the right to use the submitted designs and photos of designs and team members for publication, promotional and archival purposes.
3. The Design submission must be the results of a "Team" effort between currently enrolled college/university students of theatre and architecture.
4. "Team" is defined as at least two individuals; one student of architecture and one student of theatre. There is no limit to the number of members on a team.
5. The competition is open to architecture and theatre students currently enrolled in accredited university architecture and theatre programs anywhere in the world.
6. Architecture and theatre students **do not have to be** from the same college or university.
7. Students who graduated after April 2011 with an architecture or theatre degree are also eligible for this competition.
8. Each "Team" will appoint a team leader. All correspondence will be with the team leader. The team leader will also be responsible for distribution of information, and if successful, distributing award money to all team members.
9. All teams are responsible for costs and shipping of their entries.
10. The Honor winners are responsible for transportation and housing at the USITT Annual Conference.

8/3/2011

2012 USITT "Ideal Theatre" Student Design Competition

11. International teams are responsible for obtaining any required travel visas. USITT will send a Conference Invitation to each Team to be used for visa applications.

Competition Schedule

1. Competition entry documents are available August 26, 2011.
<http://www.usitt.org/StudentArchitecture.aspx> E-mail requests for information to: info@office.usitt.org or e-mail; sfg@workshoparchitects.com Subject line: USITT Competition.
2. Questions on the competition are due by November 17, 2011. All questions must be submitted in writing to: sfg@workshoparchitects.com Subject line: USITT Competition.
3. Intent to enter the competition application form is due November 17, 2011. E-mail application form to: info@usitt.org Subject line: USITT Competition.
4. All completed competition entries must be received by 5 p.m., EST. on January 6, 2012

Submissions must be sent to:

"Ideal Theatre" Competition
United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.
315 South Crouse Avenue
Suite 200
Syracuse, New York 13210, USA

5. The Professional Jury will select three Honor winners early in January 2012. All teams will be notified of the jury's selection soon after judging.
6. The three Honor winners will be asked to present to the Architecture Commission at the 2012 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo, March 28 to 31, 2012 in Long Beach, California. Additionally the three teams will present their design at a special event on the Expo Floor. All Conference attendees are invited to take part in this final judging at Stage Expo. A Commissioner's Award will be selected from among these three Honor Winners.
7. All "Teams" will be notified of the Judges comments by e-mail in April 2012.

Awards

1. Three "Team" Honor Awards will be selected by the jury to present their design to the USITT Architecture Commission at the 2012 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo March 28 to 31, 2012 in Long Beach, California.
2. Each of the three Honor Award Teams will be awarded \$1,000 (one thousand dollars) US. Each team will receive two complimentary registrations to attend the USITT Conference. Stage Expo passes will be available for additional team members and school members who wish to attend the final judging ceremony.
3. The Commissioner's Award will be selected from among the three Honor Award Teams at the USITT Architecture Commission "Ideal Theatre" Student Design Competition Session by a vote of all session attendees.
4. The Commissioner's Award team will be awarded an additional \$500 (five hundred dollars) US.

8/3/2011

2012 USITT "Ideal Theatre" Student Design Competition

5. Additional Merit Awards may be given at the discretion of the Jury or the Architecture Commission.
6. The college or university of each awarded team will also receive recognition.
7. Submissions will be displayed by the Architecture Commission at the 2012 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo. USITT reserves the right to use the submitted designs and photos of designs and team members for promotional and archival purposes.

The entries will be judged on:

- Understanding of the play/opera
- Clear relationship between the design of the space and the production concept
- Powerful use of space to embody and enhance the production
- Evidence of a strong collaboration between the theatre and architecture students
- Theatrical and design innovation

For Additional Information:

E-mail requests: sfg@workshoparchitects.com Subject line: USITT Competition.

Website www.usitt.org

The Competition is brought to you by USITT and the generous support of:

American Seating *and* the American Society of Theatre Consultants

Scott F Georgeson, FAIA LEED AP, Competition Chair, sfg@workshoparchitects.com