

Competition Information

- > 9 INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMPETITIONS.
- > NEW SILK ROAD

Xi'an, China



**“ In our era of worldwide communication, the New Silk Road cultural park
will celebrate the gathering of the Cultures
uniting Asia, Middle East and Europe.”**

1 > Background

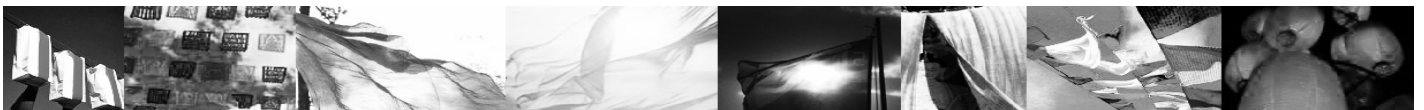
World renowned as the city of the Terra Cotta Warriors, Xi'an is one of the Four Great Ancient capital of China having hosted 13 dynasties in China's history. Formerly named Chang'an, the current Shaanxi Province capital was the origin of the ancient Silk Road.

The Silk Road came into being in Han dynasty, prospered during Tang dynasty. Crossing through Middle-East and anchoring Europe to Asia, it played an important role in redefining political relations, economic trades, as well as cultural exchanges between the East and the West.

The New Silk road Cultural Park is located in New Qu jiang District, near the Big Wild Goose Pagoda in the South East of part of Xi'an. Established around the Nanhu (South Lake) , it covers over 100 hectares and its construction will start in mid 2006.

Echoing the Silk Road historical impact on cultural exchange between Asia and Europe, the New Silk Road cultural park will host innovative cultural venues that will celebrate each culture of the Silk road and explore the impact of the intensifying global communication and traveling upon the merging of cultures.

The New Silkroad cultural park will be the central public space of the New Qu Jiang district, providing a high quality of urban living to its residents. As a unique cultural and research ensemble, it will consolidate Xi'an as the historical cultural capital of China and invite visitors of the world to explore the redefining of the cultures of Asia, Middle East and Europe in our communication era.



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2 > Objective of the competition

The objective of this international competition is to select 9 experienced architects, that will join the ongoing design process under the guidance of the master design team:

- > to reflect each cultural specificity and the relations with other cultures;
- > to explore the impact of the historical Silk Road as well as current communication exchanges on each culture;
- > to design the spaces in one of the 9 cultural areas in the New Silk Road Park.

Organizers

- > Xi'an Qu Jiang New District Administration Committee

Co-Organizers

The general design team comprising of :

- > Dahan Design Consultant Institute (Xi'an, China)
- > Intégral Jean Beaudoin (Montréal, Canada) / www.ijb.ca

3 > Type of competition

9 simultaneous invitational international ideas competition.

Following registration and application booklet presentation, a minimum of 2 and maximum of 4 participants will be invited to take part in each of the 9 competitions.

Each competition will focus on one culture area of the Silk Road.

4 > Site

The New Silk Road Cultural Park will be the largest cultural destination dedicated to studying the cultures inhabiting the threshold between China and Europe. In the city where the Silk Road originated, a sequence of 9 zones will define a journey through the cultures.

The list of the specific cultural areas:

- > Eastern Turkish cultural areas (including Kazakhstan and neighboring countries) ;
- > Persian and Baloutch cultural areas (including Iran, Pakistan and neighboring countries) ;
- > Arabic cultural areas (including members of Arab league and neighboring countries) ;
- > Western Turkish and Caucasian area (including Turkey and neighboring countries) ;
- > Hebraic cultural area (including Israel and neighboring areas) ;
- > Eastern Europe destinations
- > Western Europe destinations
- > Mediterranean Europe destinations
- > Scandinavian destinations

For contextual and reasons related to the timeline of the project, the Asian Cultural areas, including Xin jiang Province and India, are being developed through a procedure independent from the competition.

Beyond expressing borders, the aim of the New Silk Road park is to explore thresholds between cultures. In that regards, each project and their content will acknowledge all cultural entities within an area and also its extension, in space and history, onto neighboring areas.

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5 > Program of the competition entries

A) The project submitted by invited competitors will explore answers to those topics:

- > How to express the distinct cultural identities of each area?
- > How those distinct cultural characteristics impact the built environment?
- > How is defined the anchoring of those cultures to the historical Silk Road
- > How architecture and design of space can define a "New Silk Road" acknowledging each culture and their interactions.

B) The projects will address the following contextual challenges through a proposal to be set in the New Silk Road Cultural Park of Qu Jiang New District:

- > Thresholds between the site and the urban context;
- > The threshold areas between the neighboring cultural areas;
- > The inner circulation structure reflecting the identical culture;
- > A gathering place that will host large scale cultural events;
- > One or several buildings or landscape spaces that will express the specific cultural identities, through arts and rituals. The area can include exhibition, performing, archiving, meeting, shopping and living areas;
- > A waterfront landscape, also defined by the cultural identity of each area and including the regional vegetation, will anchor the site onto the lake.

Each site will range from 15 000m² to 25 000m² in area and will host a built program of 7500m² to 12 500m². The details of the program and site will be provided to invited competitors.

6 > Eligibility

The competition is open worldwide.

All the architects and their collaborators (historians, researchers, artists) have to demonstrate their knowledge on the identity and the history of the cultural area they are applying to.

7 > Registration

Participants will be selected amongst entrants who send in the registration request and provide the application booklet that will include the following items:

- > a letter of interest describing their understanding of the project and vision on the impact of a New Silk Road uniting cultures from China, through the Middle East and onto Europe (3 A4)
- > a team description(1 A4);
- > a work resume of team leader; (2 A4)
- > a list of awards and publications; (1 A4)
- > a selection of 3 related built projects they have realized.(6 A4)

The details of the application booklet will be provided upon registration by email at newsilkroad_reg@ijb.ca.

Registration is free. Candidates must include their complete coordinates in their registration email (name, address).

Registered candidates will receive by email a summary of questions and answers on 10th of April and 20th of April.

The booklet will be submitted as a high format pdf file through internet.

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8 > Jury

A permanent group of juries will include 3 officials of Qu Jiang New District authorities and 4 members of the master design team, including lead architect Liu Kecheng of DDCI and Jean Beaudoin of IJB. A rotating group of 3 specialists and officials will complete the 9 jury sessions that will address specifically each cultural areas. The definite number and identity of jury members will be confirmed at the design stage.

9 > Prizes

9 winning teams will be invited to enter in contractual discussions to join the design team for design development of the architectural spaces in their respective cultural area. The other teams will receive a 6,000\$US stipend upon submitting the requested 3 A1 panels of the competition.

10 > Official Language

English and Mandarin.

11 > Time line (Xi'an Time GMT +08h00)

Registration open: April 5th 2006

Registration deadline: May 1st 2006

Announcement of selected teams and design phase start: May 14th 2006

Submittal of project deadline: June 14th 2006

Jury: June 21th 2006 ~ June 30th 2006

Announcement of winners: July 1st 2006

12 > Contact

During the selection stage, the candidates can contact the organizers only by email at newsilkroad_reg@ijb.ca.

Media and Architects Associations can contact the organizers at media@ijb.ca

