

## Frequently asked questions

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

Xi'an, China

This pdf file will be updated regularly.  
The registered candidates will receive the updates by email.  
This version was posted on 11.04.2006

The information presented is gathered from questions by registered participants.  
The answers can be updated in relation to the evolution of the project.  
Competitors are invited to refer to the website [www.integral.jeanbeaudoin.com/newsilkroad](http://www.integral.jeanbeaudoin.com/newsilkroad), to consult the updated version.

### 1 > General

#### Is the NEW SILK ROAD Park project or a vision?

The New Silk Road cultural park is a confirmed project of the City of Xi'an. The project is already in site infrastructure preparation phase.

#### What is the theme of the NEW SILK ROAD Park project ?

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 Silk Road 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.

#### Is there one or nine separate competitions ?

There is nine separate competition. One by cultural area that will be represented in the Park.

#### Where is Nanhu Park?

Click on the location map presented on the website. The 50 ha lake is under construction and will be set on its historical bed of the Tang dynasty.

#### Is there a definitive Silk Road trail built in the park?

A principle of transit experience of the sequence of culture is defined. Echoing historical transit and modern airplane transits and communications, the principles will help define intense experience of crossing each area as well as more introverted experiences. The master design team is integrating all structural and functional requirements related to this trail. The positioning and formal expression of the uniting network of trails in the park will be defined by the master design team in consultation with the designers of each area.

### 2 > Objective of the competition

#### What is the objective of this international competition?

It is to select 9 experienced architects, that will join the project design 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.

#### Who is the Qu Jiang New District Administration Committee ?

The QJNDAC is an entity under direct responsibility of the Xi'an City Hall

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### What is the task of the master design team ?

Initiated through an innovative design process, the master design team has been working for 2 years on developing the master planning of the project and the conceptual guidelines related to all components of built space : landscape, architectural spaces, lighting scenography of the park, visual identity and signage. The master design team is also assisting the client to build a design team insure the high level of content related spaces in the park. The 9 competitions are an important part of this process of team building. Finally, the master design team is insuring the project development and management of the construction phase.

### 3 > Type of competition

#### What is the type of the competition?

9 simultaneous restricted international ideas competition.

#### Is there one or nine separate competitions ?

There is nine different competitions. One by cultural area that will be represented in the Park. Each competition will focus on one culture area of the Silk Road.

#### How many teams will be invited to take part in the competition?

A minimum of 2 and maximum of 4 participants will be invited to take part in each of the 9 competitions. A total of about 30 teams will be invited.

### 4 > Site

#### What are the 9 different cultural areas?

- 1 Eastern Turkish cultural areas ( including Kazakhstan and neighboring countries) ;
- 2 Persian and Baloutch cultural areas ( including Iran, Pakistan and neighboring countries) ;
- 3 Arabic cultural areas ( including members of Arab league and neighboring countries) ;
- 4 Western Turkish and Caucasian area ( including Turkey and neighboring countries) ;
- 5 Hebraic cultural area ( including Israel and neighboring areas) ;
- 6 Eastern Europe destinations
- 7 Western Europe destinations
- 8 Mediterranean Europe destinations
- 9 Scandinavian destinations

#### Are the cultural areas related to countries?

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.

### 4 > Site of the project

#### How are distributed the cultural areas on the site?

The cultural areas are established in a sequence on the West and Southern banks of the Lake. Their position and size are not definitive as high importance is established for the nomadic nature of each culture as well as the exploration of the thresholds between the areas. During design development, those interfacing areas will be an important focus in collaborative work uniting designer of a specific cultural area, neighboring cultural area designers as well as the master design team. A site plan is presented for general information purposes, the specific details of the site are not essential to a presentation of the booklet in the selection process.

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### What is the size of each site?

Each site will range from 15 000m<sup>2</sup> to 25 000m<sup>2</sup> in area and will host a built program of 7500m<sup>2</sup> to 12 500m<sup>2</sup>. The details of the program and site will be provided to invited competitors.

### Can you provide details on the site for our preparation of the booklet?

Site specific answers are not the aim of the selection phase. At the competition stage, the participants will be requested to express a general design approach and vision with regards to cultural identity expression and intercultural relations. Specific site challenges will be addressed with the winning teams to the design stage.

## 5 > Competition Stage

### How much work is expected in the competition stage?

The competition stage is aiming to validate the approach of the selected teams and their capacity to express in space each cultural identity and in thresholds the intercultural relations. The work will be limited to 3 A1 size panels and will be presenting :

- a preliminary analysis of cultural specificity and impact on space definition,
- the impact of the Historical and New Silkroad on the merging of cultures
- and a preliminary architectural expression in a specific area of the park.

### Do we have to submit a design proposal in the selection stage?

No.

In the letter of interest the candidates should outline their approach with regards to those questions :

- > 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.

### Will there be a specific program of space in the competition stage?

No. During the competition stage, 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.

### Is the program of the project that will be built definitively established?

No. There is programmatic flexibility in order to enable concept of space that are in relation to cultural uses of spaces. Proposals of the designers are welcomed at the competition and during design development by the 9 winning teams..

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### 6 > Eligibility

**I am not from the cultural area but I have a background in research and professional design in relation to spaces of one of the cultural area. Can I participate in the competition?**

The teams that will participate will be selected based on their background and vision as presented in their application booklet. Teams that demonstrate a strong knowledge on a specific culture, regardless of origin, will be highly regarded in the selection process.

**Is it a requirement to include a researcher or an historian in our team?**

No but it is strongly recommended as one of the main goal of the competition process is to consolidate the design team of the Park with regards to specific cultural knowledge.

**Can anyone submit a project in the competition?**

No. Only the teams that will be selected among those who send in the correct application booklet.

**Should we include a architecture firm of China that will be in charge of the construction drawings?**

No. The construction drawings will be insured by Xi'an firms. They will be assigned at later stages of the project. At this stage of the competition, the team should be built with aims to provide the highest level of expertise with regards to knowledge on each cultural areas and their inhabitants and experience in the design of culture related landscapes and buildings. Participation of Chinese architects, designers and researchers are welcomed. like representatives of all nations, with regards to those objectives of the design phase.

### 7 > Registration

**Do I have to register by email ?**

Yes. Registered participants will be directly updated on the selection process.  
The request for participation is completed upon receipt of the application booklet?

**Do I have to send proof of my registration as architect?**

Registration with professional orders should be included in the team description.  
Qualification of the invited teams will be validated before launch of the competition phase.

**Can we include unbuilt work in the 3 selected projects?**

Yes but the over all booklet presentation should demonstrate the built work quality of the portfolio.

**Is there a registration fee?**

No.

### 8 > Jury

**Will expert from each cultural area be represented in the jury?**

Yes. The jury will be held in separate sessions for each culture. A rotation of historian, researcher and artist will rotate in the jury to insure a presence of a cultural area expert.

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### 9 > Prizes

#### What is awarded to the winner ?

The winning team will receive the mandate to design the related cultural area of the competition he entered and to offer consulting during the construction drawing preparation phase. The mandate will be confirmed upon establishing a contractual agreement between the QJNDAC and the winning team. Financial value of the contract will be influenced by the size of each area. For information, an average of 2.4% of the construction budget of each cultural area is assigned to the architectural services of which 30% is related the design development.

#### What if the project is not realized or a contractual agreement cannot be reached?

If the project of an area is not continued or contractual agreement is not finalized, the winning entry will receive the stipend of 6000\$. Take note that the client is committed to negotiate with aims to include the winning team in the project.

#### Is there a prize for the finalist in each 9 competitions?

Yes. The authors of the projects that are not selected as winning entry in each competition will receive a 6,000\$US stipend upon submitting the request 3 A1 panels. The stipend include all related taxes and spendings related to the entry.

### 10 > Official Language

#### Can i submit only in english?

Yes. Mandarin summary is welcomed

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Yes. English summary is welcomed

### 11 > Time line

#### Can i register until May 1st?

Yes but take note that a registration is completed upon submitting the complete application booklet.

#### When will the details of the competition requirements be available ?

It will be sent to invited teams on May 14<sup>th</sup> 2006.

#### After winning the competition, how much time is given to complete the design of one area?

Timeline may be different for each cultural area, but 15 weeks should be expected.