

**Topic of the 2007 international *arturbain.fr* competition**

**The public square:  
A place for social life**

In order to improve urban life quality, the *Séminar Robert Auzelle* invites each year multi-field teams of students and teachers in the whole world to propose, starting from existing situations, transformations of the urban environment which are accompanied by a change of the citizens' behavior for a better life in town.

The multi-field team work of practitioners (building owners or project managers), is more than ever necessary. Architects, engineers, plastics technicians, town planners, landscape designers, sociologists, economists... must learn to work together.

The topic chosen for 2007 is "**The public square: a place for social life** "

Public square: "public space in an uncovered area which is generally surrounded by buildings. Public squares witness the urban way of life in history. They result either of successive contributions, or of a single design." (definition given by the illustrated Vocabulary of *Art urbain*: cf [www.arturbain.fr](http://www.arturbain.fr))

A square can be looked upon according to its symbolic, formal, functional, social value. One can note that public life tends to leave the square for closed buildings, which often have a commercial vocation to cater for the public or, more recently, to fold up itself on virtual spaces (television, Internet...). In addition, the development of the car leads to the invasion of existing squares and directs the form of new squares.

Which new significance can be given to the square today; can it become again a place for meeting and exchanges welcoming passers by, reinforcing the feeling of identity, and conviviality, of inhabitants?

**The 2007 international *arturbain.fr* competition proposes to you to rediscover, reconsider and recreate a public square in its urban environment (town centre, suburban houses, large estates of collective dwellings, centres of market towns, villages...)**

Several options are possible:

- to create a square when it is missing, while bringing the services related to everyday life,
- to transform an existing square by recomposing it,
- to improve, embellish it when the issue is, for example, to organise elsewhere the parking of vehicles or to propose new uses in order to improve the quality of social life.

In connection with the municipalities concerned, the teams will have to carry out an analysis of the existing state of an urban unit, including a square or not, and to propose a project for transforming, improving, embellishing or creating a square, taken in its urban environment.

Each team will indicate:

- How the square fits in the urban fabric, on the scale of the district (access, location of services, public buildings, shops, surrounding dwellings...).
- Which public events take place over time (festivals, markets, ceremonies, everyday life...); which new uses to imagine.
- How to treat the form and the aspect of the square (ground surfaces, frontages, lighting, furniture, shelters, plantations...).

The multi-field team will be lead by a teacher, sharing responsibility with two or three students, and have to indicate in which respect the proposal brings: "architectural quality, quality of the social life and respect of the environment". These evaluation criteria will be those of the Internet jury made up of the teachers taking part in the international *arturbain.fr* competition. The before/after, day/night and summer/winter comparisons will make it possible to evaluate the improvement given by the proposals to the quality of urban life.

**INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION arturbain.fr**  
**16<sup>th</sup> session 2007**  
**RULES AND CONDITIONS**  
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**Article 1: ORGANISER AND SPONSORSHIP**

The *Seminaire Robert Auzelle* - association (Law of 1901 type) set up for the promotion of urban design (*art urbain*), and recognized *d'utilité publique* (Journal Officiel of May 2 2004) - organizes the international competition called " *Concours international arturbain.fr* ", **in French language**. The present rules and the results of the previous years are available on the [www.arturbain.fr](http://www.arturbain.fr) site

A 3 000 € endowment is paid to winning students. Sponsorships are welcome, in France as well as in other countries. Sponsors are invited to indicate the way they intend to fund students or teams (cf. article 8 of these rules)

**Article 2: WHO SHOULD TAKE PART – HOW DO TEAMS ENTER THE COMPETITION.**

- The competition is opened to all **teachers and 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> year students** registered for a MASTER degree in a University or other educational institution dedicated to art, engineering, architecture, landscape, town planning, especially ERASMUS/SOCRATES students. Entrants must form a multi-field team.
- **Each multi-field team should include a teacher and two or three students, and cover at least 2 distinct disciplines.**
- **Each student may take part in one team only**; in the event of a student dropping out, the team is authorized to enter the competition but must mention this fact.
- **Teachers may lead several teams,**
  - they must check that the present rules are followed
  - they share with the students the responsibility for the project quality
  - they must take part in the Internet jury, according to rule 7
  - **they must fill for each team an inscription form following the model attached herewith, and send it by E-mail.**

This inscription gives the team members full membership of the *Séminaire Robert Auzelle* for the year 2007, with no fee to pay.

**Article 3: CHOICE OF LOCATIONS**

The Maire of a town wishing to propose an area should send the *Séminaire Robert Auzelle* a proposal comprising **the name of their correspondent, an explanatory memorandum (A4 sheets) and an A4 plan of the suggested area.**

The teachers are totally free to choose **one of the suggested areas**. They can also adopt another area in agreement with the municipality concerned.

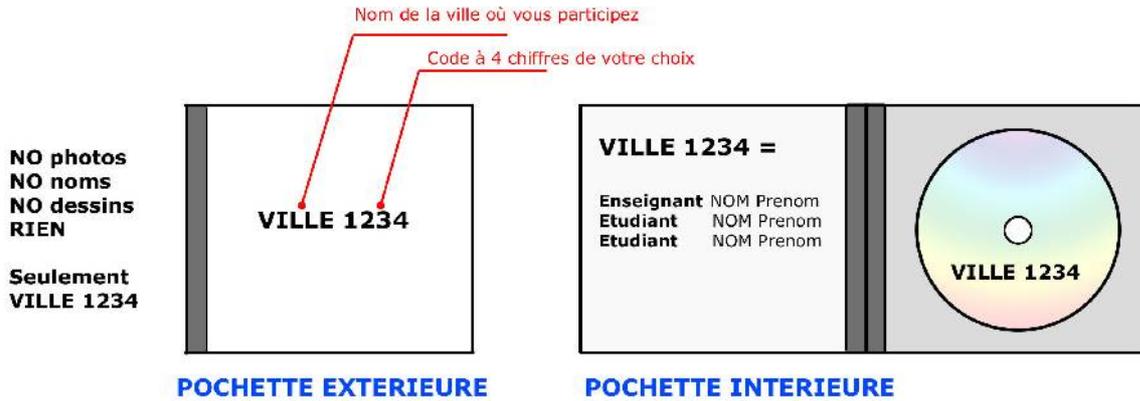
**Article 4: INVOLVEMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS** (University or other institution dedicated to engineering, architecture, landscape, town planning, plastic art, etc)

**Directors of these institutions are invited**, on the one hand, to integrate the international competition in their curriculum, and on the other hand, **to subscribe to the Robert Auzelle Seminar as corporate members and to underwrite a partnership agreement.**

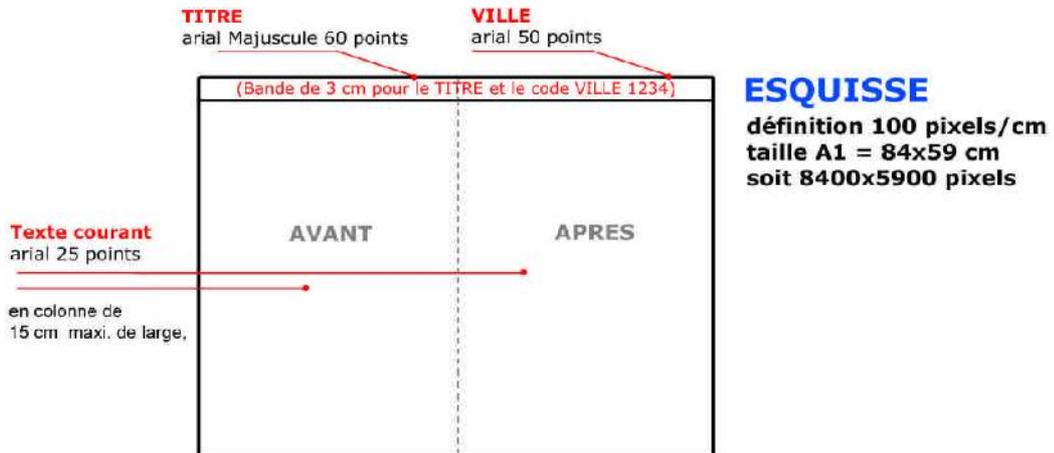
**ARTICLE 5: SUBMISSION DETAILS**

Any project not following clauses § 5-1 and 5-2 would be refused.

5-1 - The draft is to be returned on a CD-ROM, in the shape of a 250 ppi JPEG file.



5-2 - the draft should be presented at the A1 (84 X 59,4 cm), landscape mode (horizontal), format - made of two portrait mode (vertical) A2 drawings, separated by a narrow vertical line on a **COMPULSORILY WHITE BACKGROUND** with a **3 cm wide upper strip** – and should respect the principle of comparative **BEFORE/AFTER** reading (as on the following diagram):



<p><b>BEFORE: diagnosis</b> <b>(left-hand side A2 portrait drawing)</b></p>	<p><b>AFTER: proposal</b> <b>(right-hand side A2 portrait drawing)</b></p>
<p>1) <b>location map</b> at a 1/5000 scale, indicating the direction of the North and the area location.</p> <p>2) <b>text</b> (Arial, 25 points - 500 characters maximum) <b>describing the existing situation</b>, with diagrams analysing the disadvantages, accompanied by a “day/night” view, as deemed necessary.</p> <p>3) <b>map of the area</b> (or aerial photo) on a suitable scale (1/2000, 1/500, or 1/100, to be indicated as well as the direction of the North: the point is to present the place in its urban surroundings).</p> <p>4) <b>" visual sequences "</b> (cf. <a href="http://ww.arturbain.fr">ww.arturbain.fr</a> vocabulary).</p>	<p>1) <b>title given</b> by the team to the <b>suggested action</b> to evoke their proposal</p> <p>2) <b>text</b> (Arial, 25 points - 500 characters maximum, set on one column - not wider than 15 cm) <b>indicating the proposed program and the main quality of the project.</b> Comparative analysing diagrams, and “day/night” and “summer/winter” views, as deemed necessary.</p> <p>3) <b>AFTER map of the area on the same scale as the BEFORE map,</b></p> <p>4) transformed <b>" visual sequences "</b> presenting the proposal.</p>

## Article 6: TIMING SCHEDULE

- Advertising and launching the competition: **April 26, 2006**
- Meetings and conferences
- Closing date for inscriptions by E-mail: **November 30, 2006**  
(cf. attached inscription form, to be completed under teachers' responsibility)
- **Closing date for sending a CD-Rom to the *Séminaire Robert Auzelle*: February 15, 2007**
- Technical committee and selecting committee (cf. below)
- The selected projects are published on the Internet site and sent on CD-ROM to participating teachers
- The marks are sent to the teams, and the results are published
- The award presentation and an exhibition of the prize winners' projects take place in Paris.  
**Exhibitions and award presentations can be organised in other cities and countries at the initiative of teachers and local delegates of the *Séminaire Robert Auzelle*.**

## Article 7: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE, SELECTION COMMITTEE AND INTERNET JURY

**7-1 – The technical committee** of the *Séminaire Robert Auzelle* examines and indicates to the jury the projects:

- which do not respect the rules,
- which do not clearly communicate the ideas of the proposal (not very evocative title, bad before/after comparison, lack of text-image connection...),
- of which the relevance and the realism of the proposal are obviously not very compatible with the characteristics of the site and the implementation.

**7-2 – The selection committee**, which examines all the projects, is made up of 5 to 7 qualified personalities, chosen by the *Séminaire Robert Auzelle* among independent professionals (architects, town planners, engineers, economists, plastics technicians, landscape designers...)

- the president of the selection committee is co-opted by and among its members; he is assisted by the representative of the *Séminaire Robert Auzelle*, who acts as secretary of the jury with advisory voice,
- the selection committee must unanimously make a short list of **at least 10 projects** which it considers exemplary.
- a one page synthetic statement is written by the President of the selection committee to draw a lesson.

**7-3 – The Internet jury is sovereign; he consists of the teachers who returned a project.**

The CD-ROM of selected projects will be sent to participating teachers. They'll be able to print the projects on A1 (or A3) format and mark them (see below), It'll also enable them to present an exhibition and show the included diaporama of the selected projects.

One week after the CD-ROM, each teacher will receive by E-mail a marking card enabling them to mark the selected projects, with the exception of their own projects.

To that effects, they'll give each selected project a mark (0, 1, 2 or 3) for each of the three criteria below:

- **architectural quality** (organization of the open spaces adapted to the diversity of their uses: by the aspect of the ground surfaces, frontages, plantations, furniture and art works, by the lighting, the control of advertisement and posting, the accessibility for everybody ...)
- **quality of social life**, (safety, accessibility, conviviality, economic activity),
- **respect of the environment** (noise, pollution, vehicle parking ...).

The teachers will return the completed marking card by E-mail.

The selected projects will be ranked, after reception of the E-mails, using a protected data-processing program, under control of the *Séminaire Robert Auzelle*.

## **Article 8 : PRIZES AND DISTINCTIONS (€ 3 000 contribution)**

The "**International Art urbain Price**" is allotted to the first project in the overall ranking (€ 1 500).

The **three " mentions "** (500 €) for " architectural quality ", " quality of the social life ", and " respect of the environment " are allotted to the projects which respectively obtained the best marks in respect of each of the three criteria.

Other local or international endowments can be allotted in agreement with the *Séminaire Robert Auzelle*.

## **Article 9 : RESPONSABILITIES OF THE ORGANISERS AND COMMUNICATION**

### **9-1 – Intellectual and artistic property:**

The entrants keep (the) property/ownership of the projects entered in the competition and of their rights of implementation. Nevertheless, the organizers reserve the right to use and reproduce the proposed projects as well as the name and photography of the entrants, with an aim of organizing public relation or information actions of which they will be the only judges.

Any person or entity wishing to use the work of a team must send a request to the *Séminaire Robert Auzelle*.

### **9-2 – Organizers' responsibility :**

The *Séminaire Robert Auzelle* reserves the right to curtail, extend, defer, modify or cancel this competition, for whatever reason. It is committed to informing the entrants of this right, but it could not be held liable for this fact.

### **9-3 – Interpretation of these rules:**

The rules of the competition are accessible on [www.arturbain.fr](http://www.arturbain.fr).

The participation in this competition implies a general acceptance of the present rules.

The interpretation of the present rules rests exclusively with the organizer.

### **9-4 – Communication :**

- **the Internet site [www.arturbain.fr](http://www.arturbain.fr)** will indicate the winning projects with the names of their teams, the statement written by the selection committee and the ranking,

- **information on the results of the international competition**, will be given to the principal professional organisations of the countries concerned to give publicity to the prize winner projects and teams,

- **a CD-ROM** on the topic and the results of the international competition will be made for teaching purposes,

- **an exhibition** of the selected projects could be presented in agreement with the *Séminaire Robert Auzelle*.

For any further information, please contact

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