

THE WEST END PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
Competition Brief

November 3, 2005





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WELCOME

The West End Bridge is a gateway to the city, framing Pittsburgh's great skyline. In the Ohio River approximately one mile below Point State Park, which marks the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers. From the downtown approach, the West End Bridge serves as the portal to the Ohio River, the Gateway to the West.

Today, the beauty, power and strength of the West End Bridge make it a prominent landmark in the overall riverfront landscape and in the Pittsburgh region. The view upstream and downstream are dramatic. The bridge links the north and south shores and serves as a major traffic artery. However, pedestrian access to the bridge, the riverfront trail network and the water is limited. Pedestrians must travel across and several lanes of traffic to reach the steep staircases and barren walkways that the bridge. A narrow pathway, located immediately adjacent to multiple lanes of moving vehicular traffic make the experience of the crossing harrowing and arduous.

The West End Pedestrian Bridge Competition invites entrants to envision a new pedestrian crossing, anchored to the existing West End Bridge, creating new connections to land and water. We ask entrants to consider creative approaches for connecting pedestrians, cyclists, boaters and other users of all ages to both shores of the river. We encourage proposals for water landings that will celebrate arrival by boat and give park users opportunity to connect directly with the river. We ask entrants to consider the impact of bringing the bridge into the everyday experience of residents and visitors alike by and enhancing the connections to neighboring communities.

Engineers, architects, landscape architects, designers, planners, artists, industrial designers and others are invited to create visionary proposals for this important landmark. We seek a design for a structure that will connect the citizens of our region, visually and physically, to the spectacular topography that surrounds the Confluence basin. We seek a design that honors the character of this bridge, described in the National Historic Register as "one of the most beautiful and graceful bridges in Pittsburgh." We seek a design that will draw on the city's rich heritage of engineering and innovation to create a new landmark for Pittsburgh that is as much about our future as it is about our past. And, finally, we seek a structure that will highlight the rivers as our most valuable natural resource and help reinvest the Confluence waters as a center for recreation, commerce and community life.

When realized, the West End Pedestrian Bridge will provide both a destination and a connection, bringing residents and visitors alike to look out at and reflect on the expansive views of our hills, valleys and skyline and celebrate the city of Pittsburgh.

Lisa Schroeder

Executive Director, Riverlife Task Force

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CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sponsor

The Riverlife Task Force is a non-profit corporation that seeks public and private funding to accomplish its goals. Riverlife was established in 1999 to create a vision and master plan for Pittsburgh's riverfronts. The Task Force is dedicated to the development of Three I

Park, an urban riverfront park at the confluence of the three rivers - the Allegheny Monongahela, and the Ohio - in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The End Pedestrian Bridge Competition is also supported by a generous grant from **Alc** **Foundation**.

Competition Advisor

JonesKroloff is a New Orleans, LA based design consultancy that assists and advises public and private organizations on architect selections and design related issues. The firm has organized numerous national and international design competitions.

Acknowledgements

The Riverlife Task Force greatly acknowledges the generous support of Alcoa Foundation, a global resource that actively invests in improving the quality of life in the country: the world where Alcoa operates. The Foundation's grants address global and local various areas of excellence.

Additional thanks: PennDOT District 11, The City of Pittsburgh Department of City and Department of Real Estate, and the West End Pedestrian Bridge Steering Committee.

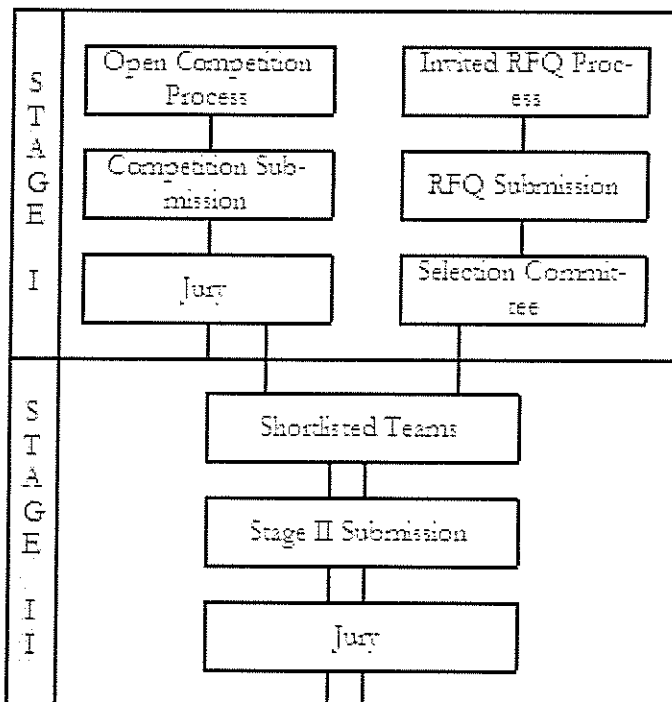
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COMPETITION STRUCTURE

This is a two-stage, hybrid design competition.

Stage I is comprised of two portions, an international design competition and an International Request for Qualification process. This document is the brief for the design competition that is open to Architects, Landscape Architects, Urban Designers, Engineers, Industrial Designers, Artists, and Students around the world. Entrants may submit as individuals or as part of a team.

At the end of Stage I the competition entries will be juried and the top three to five will be awarded \$1,000. The exact number selected will depend on the quality of the submissions. These entrants from the Stage I Open Design Competition will advance to Stage II. The firms selected through this process will be announced at the same time as the finalists in the open design competition.



Midway through Stage I a Request for Qualification (RFQ) will be issued to a number of architectural and engineering practices with relevant project experience in their portfolio. An independent committee will review the portfolios submitted and select a limited number of firms to participate in Stage II of the competition.

Stage II is a limited competition comprised of only the selected Stage I Open Design Competition winners and the firms selected under the RFQ process. At this point an entrant will be provided with additional information about the site and program and asked to develop a more advanced pedestrian bridge design proposal. Entrants from the Stage I Open Design Competition will be required to assemble professional teams to complete their entries. Each Stage II team will have 30 days to develop their submission. Teams will be invited to participate in a site visit and information session in Pittsburgh. Each Stage II team will receive a \$15,000 stipend to offset the cost of travel and of developing their submission.

At the end of Stage II, the Competition Jury will reconvene and identify the competition winner. Cash prizes will be awarded to first, second and third placeholders in the amount of \$7,500, \$5,000, and \$2,500 respectively. Further, the Riverlife Task Force and the appropriate public agencies may enter into negotiations with the top-ranked firm for services for the new pedestrian bridge, access ways, and water landings as the project moves forward.

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SCHEDULE

Stage I

Competition Announced	October 31, 2005
Registration Period	October 31 to December 30, 2005
Question and Answer Period	October 31 to January 6, 2006
Submission Deadline	January 31, 2006
Public Exhibition of Entries	February 7 to 9, 2006
Jury	Mid February 2006
Notification of Winners	February 20, 2006

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JURY

Jurors

Carol Brown, founding president, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh, PA pghart.com

Kathleen M. Buechel, president and treasurer, Alcoa Foundation, Pittsburgh, PA

Winka Dubbeldam, architect, Archi-Tectonics, New York, NY archi-tectonics.com

Alex Krieger, urban designer and architect, Chan Krieger Associates, Cambridge, MA chankrieger.com

Les Robertson, structural engineer, Leslie E. Robertson Associates, R.L.L.P., New York, NY lera.com

Ken Smith, landscape architect, Ken Smith Landscape Architect, New York, NY

Bill Strickland, president and CEO, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, Pittsburgh, PA manchesterguild.org

Jury Process

Information regarding jury process and selection criteria is available to registered entrants via the competition brief.

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AWARDS

Additional information regarding awards is available to registered entrants via the competition brief.

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ENDRES WARE

INDEX SPACE
ARCHITECTURE

LA DALLMAN
ARCHITECTS

LLONCH + VIDALLE
ARCHITECTURE

TEN ARQUITECTOS

WEST 8 URBAN DESIGN
AND LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

STAGE I FINALISTS

Stage I is comprised of two portions, an international design competition and an international Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process.

A total of 85 entrants participated in the open competition. Three entries were selected to advance to Stage II and five teams received honorable mention recognition.

A total of 24 teams submitted RFQ's to be considered in Stage I. Four teams were selected from this process to advance to Stage II.

NOTE: For each firm listed as an **RFQ Team** the selected images shown at right were selected from their existing body of work and do not pertain to the Riverlife West End Bridge Competition. Details for each of the images are available below the enlarged view.

Firms are listed in ALPHABETICAL order.

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LA DALLMAN
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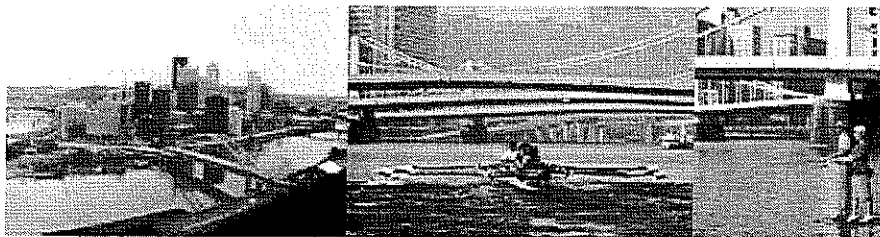
LLONCH + VIDALLE
ARCHITECTURE

WEST 8 URBAN DESIGN
AND LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

STAGE II DESIGNS

The West End Pedestrian Bridge Competition sought solutions from engineers, designers, and architects around the world that would improve pedestrian connectivity between the two ends of the West End Bridge by providing a signature structure that would complement rather than compete with, the existing West End Bridge. Of over 100 submissions around the world, six (6) finalists developed detailed conceptual ideas for the pedestrian bridge.

It is the nature of competitions to attract talent and to produce a number of innovative approaches, which this competition has definitely done. The six teams have developed exceptional projects and there is much to be learned from each of them.


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RIVERLIFE WEST END BRIDGE COMPETITION NEWS

Riverlife Competition Website Facelift

Mar. 6th 2006

The Riverlife Competition website has received a few changes over the weekend. Information that was accessible from the top navigation bar can now be found under background.

This news archive will be used to post updates from time to time regarding specific and news related to the competition.

Seven Finalists Chosen

Mar. 8th 2006

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Article

Tribune-Review Article

Post-Gazette Editorial

Mar. 12th 2006

Asides (scroll down)

Pittsburgh City Paper

Mar. 23rd 2006

Arch Rivals

Competition Winner

Jun. 13th 2006

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Article

Tribune-Review Article

Press Release

Jun. 13th 2006

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ALCOA FOUNDATION AND RIVERLIFE TASK FORCE ANNOUNCE WINNER IN WEST PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE DESIGN COMPETITION

PITTSBURGH – June 13, 2006 – Alcoa Foundation and the Riverlife Task Force today announced the winner of the West End Pedestrian Bridge Design Competition, an international design contest to add world-class improvements and enhancements to Pittsburgh's West End Bridge including a walking and bicycle trail across the Ohio Endres Ware, an architectural design and engineering firm based in Berkeley, California, first-place winner and will receive a \$7,500 cash prize funded by a \$413,000 Alcoa Foundation grant that supports the competition.

Launched in October 2005, the competition included both an open contest and a request for qualifications (RFQ), capturing the imagination of nearly 100 architects, engineers, designers and artists from around the world.

Out of a pool of seven finalists that were selected in March – following a public discussion – Alcoa's Corporate Center on the North Shore – Endres Ware was chosen by a panel of judges.

"The judges described the Endres Ware design as elegant because of its simplicity and a geometric variety that will be visually exciting to see as people approach from the riverbanks. The feedback that the judges gave indicated that this design respects and enhances the existing West End Bridge and builds on a very distinguished history unique to Pittsburgh, while it creates new opportunities for people to stroll, sit and play," said Lisa Schroeder, executive director of the Riverlife Task Force. "Overall, the new pedestrian bridge could serve as an exciting icon or image to take the city into the future as it moves forward with its riverfront development."

The Riverlife Task Force will now begin working on a funding strategy with both public and private sources to begin design and engineering. In the coming months, the design team will include public meetings to engage residents and community organizations from surrounding neighborhoods and from across the city.

"We are delighted that this panel of expert judges has selected a winner for our competition and that this community project will begin to take shape to enhance Pittsburgh's skyline," said Velma Monteiro-Tribble, chief operating officer and assistant treasurer of Alcoa Foundation. "The sense of community is at the heart of Alcoa Foundation, and this pedestrian bridge project will invite the public to view our rivers in a way that has never been possible before, helping to make our riverfront park system an integral part of our neighborhoods."

The design set forth by Endres Ware will complete a continuous loop of trails in Three Rivers Park and provide a new, accessible destination from which to take in the true splendor of Pittsburgh's rivers, hillsides and downtown skyline, Schroeder said.

"We are grateful to Alcoa Foundation for being the catalyst for this competition, and for the successful realization of Three Rivers Park," said Schroeder.

The Endres Ware team also includes:

- Olin Partnership of Philadelphia for landscape architecture and urban design;
- Auerbach Glasow of San Francisco for lighting design;
- RWDI of Ontario, Canada for wind engineering; and
- Amman & Whitney, of Pittsburgh, as consulting engineers.

"We are excited and proud to be part of Pittsburgh's cultural legacy of bridge building with an innovative 21st-century design that will become a catalyst for the community," said Endres of Endres Ware. "Viewed from the city, the West End Bridge will appear to be unchanged, but as you approach the new pedestrian bridge and pass through it, the city will take on new life and a new meaning. The views from the bridge are going to be spectacular to the east and to the west."

In addition to supporting the competition itself, the Alcoa Foundation grant will help fund educational activities and an exhibition in the fall. Educational activities will take place at the Carnegie Science Center with opportunities for children and teens to explore urban design and engineering through hands-on activities this summer and weekly model bridge competitions that will be open to the public. These activities will conclude with an exhibit and a design classroom activity guide for public distribution.

An exhibit at the Heinz Architectural Center at Carnegie Museum of Art in the fall will showcase the competition process, with designs by all competition finalists and honor mention recipients on display.

The second- and third-place winners are La Dallman Architects of Milwaukee, Wis. and 8 Urban Design and Landscape Architecture of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. They received prizes of \$5,000 and \$2,500 respectively. The winners have been posted on www.riverlifecompetition.org

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About Alcoa Foundation

Established in 1952, Alcoa Foundation is a global resource that actively invests in the quality of life in the countries around the world where Alcoa operates. The Foundation grants address global and local needs in Areas of Excellence that include: Conservation and Sustainability, Global Education and Workplace Skills, Business and Community Partnerships and Safe and Healthy Children and Families. Alcoa Foundation manages Alcoa's AC Bravo! programs which recognize the volunteer efforts of employees with grants to organizations they serve. For more information about Alcoa Foundation, visit www.alcoa.com, under Community.

About the Riverlife Task Force

The Riverlife Task Force is a nonprofit corporation established in 1999 to create a "new waterfront" in Pittsburgh. "The goal of the Task Force is to make Pittsburgh's urban waterfront one of the most spectacular in the world." A group of civic leaders, the Task Force is now dedicated to facilitating the future development of Rivers Park as a public asset and is an advocate for strategic riverfront planning and development to integrate the rivers into the life of the city. www.riverlifetaskforce.com