

SITE SANCTUARY

international architecture ideas competition

feb 09 2017 - may 27 2017 | www.arkxsite.com

1. OVERVIEW	3
2. COMPETITION	3
Site Description	3
Site History	4
Program	5
Program Description	6
Downloads	6
3. AWARDS	7
4. JURY MEMBERS	7
Evaluation Process	7
5. SCHEDULE	8
6. FAQ	8
7. REGISTRATION	9
Eligibility	9
Registration Process	9
Fees	10
Payment Methods	10
8. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS	11
Online Submission	11
Submission Deadline	11
Submission Confirmation	11
9. RULES	12
Language	12
Anonymity	12
Refunds	12
Ownership & Copyrights	12
Award notification	12
Disqualification	13
Conditions	13
10. CONTACT	14

1. OVERVIEW

This international one-stage architecture ideas competition invites all architecture students, young architects and young professionals with a degree in architecture studies (≤ 40 years old) to develop and submit compelling ideas for the design of a **Site Sanctuary located on the powerful natural scenery of Monsanto, Portugal.**

Monsanto has a number of significant landmarks within a prominent landscape; it is a place of great cultural heritage and historical significance with characteristics that must be fully preserved.

When generating a vision for an intervention located within such a spectacular place, it is essential that each proposal emphasises, respects and celebrates the site, while provide visitors with a unique experience.

2. COMPETITION

The **Site Sanctuary** is a place of memory and remembrance, an intimate space to celebrate the history and the sensitive experience and nature of place. The Site Sanctuary provides a space for quiet reflection and is a platform for meditation; a place for introspection to further intensify the connection between place, memory and profound tranquility.

| Site Description

Climate: Warm and temperate climate. The annual average temperature is 14.61 °C. The hottest month is August with an average temperature of 23°C and the coldest month is January with an average temperature of 6.5°C.

Latitude: 40°2'9.94" N

Longitude: 7°6'45.02" W

Altitude: 758 m

Rainfall: Total annual precipitation averages 875 mm. The driest month is July, with an average of 8 mm of precipitation, and the highest rainfall is in January, with an average of 126 mm.

| Site History

Monsanto, Portugal

Monsanto is a powerful natural scenery with massive granite boulders and stunning panoramic views where visitors can experience the immensity of the surrounding landscape. Located in the northeast of Portugal, on the steep slopes of a granite hill that emerges abruptly on the plain of the surrounding landscape, the unique historic village is carved and built on and in-between huge granite boulders. From this geographical location, Monsanto was an important place for strategic defense of territory and today is a remarkable landmark within this vast territory.

The **Castle of Monsanto** is located in a prominent location and is only accessed by foot, led by stone paths that begin from the village center. The numerous vestiges of the occupation are testimony to the presence of a pre-Roman castro and the Romans occupation in the foot of the hill. Conquered from the Moors by D. Afonso Henriques (the first king of Portugal), the castle was donated to the Templars in 1165 in order to build or rebuild it and become a strategic defense position in the territory on the eastern border of the country. In the 19th century, the walls of the castle were severely damaged by the explosion of a gunpowder warehouse and the collapse of a granite boulder, leading to its progressive abandonment.

Inside the enclosed walls there are remains of a citadel, where the **Saint Mary's Chapel** and the 'cistern' are located.

St. Michael's Chapel

Outside the walls, the ruins of the romanesque **St. Michael's Chapel**, built in granite stone during the 12th / 13th century was surrounded by the necropolis, with graves and stone burials carved into the granite rock. The chapel was later surrounded by a medieval settlement enclosed by a defensive wall. Overlooking the remains of the medieval settlement and emerging from granite boulders, rises the ruins of the '**Torre do Pião**', an important watchtower in the medieval period.

St. John Chapel

The ruins of the **St. John Chapel** are located on the eastern side of the castle, of which only remains an arch with a magnificent view towards the surrounding landscape. Although the date of its construction is unknown, there are vestiges that indicate its presence in the 16th century. From the **Chapel of São João** there are extensive panoramic views that enhance the natural beauty and the historical significance of this place, offering the visitors a unique experience within a remarkable landscape.

| Program

SITE SANCTUARY

The Site Sanctuary is a place of memory and remembrance, an intimate space to celebrate the history and the sensitive experience and nature of place. The Site Sanctuary provides a space for quiet reflection and is a platform for meditation; a place for introspection to further intensify the connection between place, memory and profound tranquility.

1. Site Sanctuary

Entrance / foyer	15 m2
History chamber	25 m2
'Inner Sanctum'	40 m2
Look-out point	* m2
Restrooms	15 m2
Storage room	10 m2

* Area to be determined by each participant's design proposal.

2. Landscape / Exterior requirements

Pedestrian path/s.

Total area of the Site Sanctuary to be determined by each participant's proposal.

Notes:

The overall design of the Site Sanctuary must be sensitive to the surrounding context. The existing ruins may or may not be included within the Site Sanctuary design proposal. Because this is an ideas competition, urban planning and building regulations will not be applied to the design proposal.

| Program Description

SITE SANCTUARY

1. Site Sanctuary

Entrance / foyer:

Provide a space of transition with an area where visitors can leave their coats and other personal things before entering the 'Site Sanctuary'.

History chamber:

Provide an enclosed place of memory and remembrance, a space with the display of detailed information about the history of the site (books, historic documents, etc).

'Inner Sanctum':

Provide an intimate space for introspection and a platform for meditation; an enclosed room protected from the outside but open to the sky to maintain a relationship with natural light and fresh air, to be able to sit down silently, sheltered from the natural elements. A water feature may be introduced into the design of the 'Inner Sanctum'.

Look-out point:

Provide a look-out point for individuals to engage with the landscape; a space to capture the history and celebrate the memory of the site while enhancing the sensitive experience of place.

Rest rooms:

Provide public restrooms located near the entrance / foyer.

Storage room:

Provide an area for storing maintenance equipment.

2. Landscape / Exterior requirements

Provide a pedestrian path to access the Site Sanctuary. The existing paths can be removed or adapted; area to be determined by each participant's design proposal.

| Downloads

All documentation such as cad drawings, site photos and videos required to develop the competition proposal are available at www.arkxsite.com. Any additional information will not be provided during or after the registration period. All of the documentation was prepared, organised and published by the **ArkxSite** team for the sole purpose of this architecture ideas competition and may not be used for any other purposes.

3. AWARDS

The jury members will award three prizes and seven honorable mentions.

1st Prize	2000 € (Two thousand euros)
2nd Prize	1000 € (One thousand euros)
3rd Prize	500 € (Five hundred euros)

7 Honorable Mentions

Publication

All submissions will be published on the **ArkxSite** website. All reasonable efforts will be made to publish and promote the winners and honorable mentions in architectural magazines and blogs worldwide; however, such results will rely on agreements made between the publication entities and ArkxSite.

Notes:

- Honorable Mention citations will not include a cash prize;
- This is strictly an ideas competition, an academic exercise and will not be built. ArkxSite or any other organisations do not have authority or intention to award contracts for design services as a result of this competition. Awarded proposals should consider their award as recognition of excellent work in this competition.
- Depending on which country, award prizes might be subject to tax withholdings.

4. JURY MEMBERS

| Evaluation Process

The jury members will be composed of international professional architects and will be announced on the **ArkxSite** website.

The jury members will review and evaluate all eligible competition proposals and will select the 3 winners and 7 Honorable Mentions. The jury members will base their decision on their own expertise, the work submitted by the participants and the information available on the competition website.

For whatever reason a jury member is unable to review and evaluate during the evaluation period, the jury member may be replaced by an alternate member selected by **ArkxSite**.

Evaluation criteria will be based on:

- Originality and quality of the proposal's design vision
- Responsiveness of the proposal to the competition's objectives
- Appropriateness to the site and its context
- Quality and clarity of the presentation

5. SCHEDULE

Competition opening	February 09, 2017
FAQ questions deadline	April 17, 2017
FAQ answers posted	April 24, 2017
Early Registration period	February 09 - April 10, 2017
Regular Registration period	April 11 - May 11, 2017
Late Registration period	May 12 - May 22, 2017
Submission Deadline	May 27, 2017
Jury Evaluation	June 23 - July 07, 2017
Competition Results	July 21, 2017

Notes:

- FAQ (frequently asked questions) available on the **ArkxSite** website;
- All deadlines are established @ **23:59 hrs** (Current local time in Portugal)

6. FAQ

Any questions related to the information found within this brief may be addressed by sending your questions to the email address: info@arkxsite.com or by using the contact form found on the **ArkxSite** website.

Questions will be answered and published on the FAQ page of the website on the date stated in the competition schedule. Questions related to this competition brief that are received after the FAQ deadline will not be addressed nor answered.

7. REGISTRATION

| Eligibility

The competition is open to all architecture students (undergraduate, graduate, master, PhD, etc.), young architects and young professionals with a degree in architecture studies (≤ 40 years old).

Each team may be composed of **1 up to 4 team members** and may include multidisciplinary members (landscape architects, urban designers, artists, etc) as long as a single architecture student, young architect or young professional with a degree in architecture studies is part of the team. It is not mandatory to be a registered architect.

All members of the team must be ≤ 40 years old on the date of the submission deadline.

Jury members or those involved with the preparation and organisation of this competition may not participate.

| Registration Process

All participants are required to submit the online registration form and complete a payment prior to the registration deadline established by the competition schedule in order for their competition proposal to be reviewed and evaluated. The registration process can be completed in 3 simple steps:

1. Registration form

Complete and submit the registration form located on the **ArkxSite** website www.arkxsite.com/registration

2. Payment

Select one of the following payment options: PayPal or by Bank transfer (see Payment Methods).

3. Registration Code: Upon submitting the online registration form and completing the payment, the participant should email a copy of the transaction receipt to submission@arkxsite.com as proof of payment. **The email subject must include the name of the team leader.**

Once both registration form and payment are completed and received by ArkxSite, the team leader will then receive a **Registration Code** by email within **48 hours** (business days) confirming the registration in the competition. This **Registration Code** must be included in the **upper right hand corner** of the submitted panel.

| Fees

Early registration period	February 09 - April 10, 2017	60€ + VAT*
Regular registration period	April 11 - May 11, 2017	75€ + VAT*
Late registration period	May 12 - May 22, 2017	90€ + VAT*

* A tax of 23% (VAT rate in Portugal) will be applied to the fees listed above.

Early registration fee	60€ + 23% = 73,80€
Regular registration fee	75€ + 23% = 92,25€
Late registration fee	90€ + 23% = 110,70€

Notes:

- The registration fee refers to a single competition submission with one registration code.
- Competitors may submit as many entries as they desire; however, each submission must have a unique registration code obtained through the registration form and payment process.
- Teams can not change the team leader or team members after submitting the online registration form and completing the payment.

| Payment Methods

PayPal *

Is a secure, fast and easy method for making international online payments. PayPal accepts debit cards and all major credit cards. (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, etc.). Upon completing the payment, the participant should email a copy of the transaction receipt to submission@arkxsite.com as proof of payment. **The email subject must include the name of the team leader.**

Bank transfer *

An alternative payment method can be made by bank transfer to the account listed below. Upon completing the payment, the participant should email a copy of the transaction receipt to submission@arkxsite.com as proof of payment. **The email subject must include the name of the team leader.**

Bank: Banco BPI, S.A.

IBAN: PT50 0010 0000 5168 6920 0019 5

SWIFT/BIC: BBPIPTPL

Notes:

- Any bank fees related to the bank transfer are the sole responsibility of those who are registering for the competition;
- Keep in mind the registration period deadline established by the competition schedule prior to making the payment.

8. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

SITE SANCTUARY

Submission Deadline: **May 27, 2017**

@ 23:59 hrs (Current local time in Portugal)

The competition submission will consist of a **single digital file** and should comply with the following requirements:

File Format:

- **(1) - A1 sized panel** (84,1 cm x 59,4 cm), **Landscape / Horizontal layout**
- **Registration Code must be located in the upper right-hand corner of the submitted panel**

Graphic layout:

- Graphic layout includes **text, drawings and renderings** to be determined by each team; however, the **program areas** should be clearly identified on the panel.

File type / size / name:

- **JPG** (RGB Color) with **5 Megabytes** (maximum). Recommended **300 dpi** resolution. The JPG file may be compressed to a ZIP or RAR file format.
- **File name** should only include the **Registration Code**.
For example: **SS00000.jpg**

| Online Submission

The competition panel must be submitted **only once** using the online file-transferring platform **WeTransfer.com** as a single file (JPG file may be compressed to a ZIP or RAR file format) and addressed to **submission@arkxsite.com**. Any submission made by other methods will not be downloaded.

| Submission Deadline

The competition panel should be sent prior to the deadline established on the competition schedule. Competitors are responsible for the arrival of their proposals within the corresponding deadline; therefore, time should be allowed for uploading the files via **wetransfer.com**. No proposal will be evaluated if received after the submission deadline.

| Submission Confirmation

Participants who submitted panels should receive an automatic confirmation email from WeTransfer. A second confirmation email will be sent from ArkxSite within 48 hours after the submission deadline.

9. RULES

| Language

The official language of the competition is **English**.

| Anonymity

This is an international, anonymous, single-stage design competition open to all architecture students, young architects, young professionals with a degree in architecture studies (≤ 40 years old) and multidisciplinary teams composed of landscape architects, urban designers, artists, etc. All members of the team must be ≤ 40 years old. (refer to Eligibility). All competition submissions are to remain anonymous throughout the competition phase and will only be identified using a unique registration code assigned by ArkxSite during the registration process, (refer to the submission requirements). No entry will be reviewed or evaluated that contains any mark, logo or other indication of the identity of the team members located on the competition panel. The identification of the 3 winners and 7 honorable mention awarded competition panels will only be revealed after the jury evaluation phase and at the time the competition results are published on the ArkxSite website.

| Refunds

Under no circumstances will the early, regular and late registration fees be refunded. The registration fees can only be applied to this competition and can not be transferred to a future competition under any circumstances.

| Ownership and Copyrights

Full ownership and copyrights of all submissions in connection to this competition are retained by the author of the work; however, ArkxSite retains the rights to publish (printed or online) and promote the submitted material at their own discretion regarding formats, sizes and composition layouts. All submissions will subsequently become part of the ArkxSite's digital archive.

If any participant wishes to publish, exhibit or promote their competition submission on any website, publications or social media, they are granted the rights to do so, as long as the title of this competition together with ArkxSite are properly referenced and credited as the competition organiser.

| Award notification

All awarded teams will be notified by email.

| Disqualification

Competition submissions will be automatically disqualified if:

- any attempt of any form of communication regarding this competition is made with the jury members or those involved with the preparation and organisation of this competition;
- any competition submission is received after the deadline as stated on the competition schedule;
- any competition submission contains any mark, logo or other indication of the identity the author/s;
- any competition submission does not abide by the online submission requirements and rules as stated in this competition brief.

| Conditions

- By submitting a proposal for this competition, each team member agrees and accepts the requirements, rules and conditions as listed in this competition brief, as well as final decision of the jury;
- ArkxSite reserves the right to cancel or suspend or alter the competition brief and schedule at any time during the competition, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of its control. Any such changes will be made public on the website;
- This is strictly an ideas competition, an academic exercise and will not be built. ArkxSite or any other organisations do not have authority or intention to award contracts for design services as a result of this competition. Awarded proposals should consider their award as recognition of excellent work in this competition;
- Awarded competition participants may be asked for proof of their eligibility;
- Urban planning and building regulations will not be applied to the design proposal. The competition is organized by ArkxSite as an academic exercise to promote debate and reflection, encouraging new perspectives and innovative strategies of intervention within the territory;
- The jury members reserve the right to award any competition submission that reinterprets the parameters of the competition's objectives, when it is justified by the originality and quality of the proposal's design;
- Participants shall have no claim nor legal action against ArkxSite in respect to this competition or any alteration made to this competition brief or the documentation such as cad drawings, site photos and site videos that were provided to develop the competition proposal.

10. CONTACT

For general questions please contact us at the email address: info@arkxsite.com or fill out the contact form on the website. Any question related to this competition brief should be emailed prior to the FAQ deadline. (see competition schedule). Any questions regarding the registration process and/or payment methods can be made until the Registration Deadline.

If interested, you may also sign up to our newsletter mailing list via email for the latest news and updates of all future competitions, sign up at the bottom of the website.

On behalf of the **ArkxSite** team, we welcome you and wish all the participating architecture students and young architects the very best of luck in the competition.

The **ArkxSite** Team

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