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Competition Announcement »



CHAPTER I

DEFINITION OF THE COMPETITION

1. Preamble

On the occasion of MADE expo Milano Architettura Design Edilizia, the trade event due to take place at the Milan Fairgrounds from 2 to 5 October 2013, Federlegno Arredo S.r.l. is promoting a competition to find the most to novel projects for residential cityscapes and urban society.

The focus of the 2013 competition is Scuola dell'infanzia (Kindergartens or Nursery schools). The competition is looking for architectural ideas relating to the many ways that children perceive and interpret the world around them through the multi-sensory experience of space and architecture.

The competition is open to Italians and non-Italians who are studying or have studied architecture, engineering and industrial design and who are eligible to compete.

Winners and honourable mentions will be put on display at MADE expo 2013.

The Competition Organisers will build a full-scale prototype of projects whose architectural originality, construction technique and economic value are of particular interest to the manufacturers.

2. Promoters

The competition is promoted by Federlegno Arredo S.r.l. for MADE Expo, in association with the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies of the Politecnico di Milano.

3. Theme and aims

Introduction. Preliminary remarks regarding kindergarten design.



The child's space (Their first environment)

Metropolitan Milan is being called upon to deal with increasingly accelerated globalisation, immigration and transience, which is producing a melting pot of cultures and lifestyles that require social services to review their traditional approaches.

More specifically, services catering to the needs of children and young adults have always represented a limit within welfare policies. Italy's budget for child services accounts for less than 0.2% of the country's GDP, whilst in Denmark, for example, it is about 1.7%.

It is a well known fact that employment levels among women reflect the degree of availability of child services, and that efforts to improve the situation generate positive impacts in many other areas of society.

However, the issue encompasses far more than the mere provision of social welfare.

There is also a need to meditate on the learning systems of future generations, because "attending kindergarten considerably enhances the likelihood of achieving good marks not only in primary school, but also in secondary school. The effects are even more positive for children from less well educated backgrounds" (Agnelli Foundation).



The education system and the provision of services for children must take these processes on board and reconsider the way schooling is delivered and managed.

Milan City Council is currently exploring the many facets of education and training for child service providers via a study aiming to define guidelines to shape an educational offering that can accommodate today's social and economic trends.

The **Progetto Maggio 2013** (May 2013 Project) is in fact a special initiative designed to foster and encourage a shared cultural debate amongst professionals, teachers, families, experts and the local population as a whole, on matters relating to Child Educational Services in Milan.

The project ultimately hopes to create a new "Educational manifesto". This document will lay down new guidelines for the Council's educational services, based on its awareness of the changed living conditions of the local population.

The educational model that child services must relate to needs to be amended to accommodate the changed working conditions of parents, especially working mothers: the utmost flexibility is required to satisfactorily reconcile work and home life. The city also has an increasing population of children with parents from countries outside of Italy (20%).

The main focus of the educational offering can be summarised in the following points:



1. Children: a blessing and a responsibility for everyone



2. The public and private dimension of Child Services

3. Listening and engagement



4. Children and the city around them

5. Children with disabilities



6. The pace of children versus the pace of the city

7. Families in the forefront

8. Children, regardless

9. Education and training professionals

The Children's House

How can a greater awareness of the physical environment help children to learn more effectively?

Cognitive processes are stimulated by multi-sensory experiences. An "Ecology of the senses" encourages observation based on numerous perceptive phenomena – not only sight, but also taste and smell. In other words, the whole body becomes a receptor of stimuli that the child automatically processes.

Enhanced sensitivity towards the concepts of landscape and environment is reshaping the foundations of the new design paradigm, and inevitably generating fallout on the quality of space and the materials that fill it.

Stating that a certain architecture "belongs" somewhere also means embedding certain values into the landscape: be they darkness and light, sounds and silence, scented breezes and essences, heat and cold, topography and geology, culture and history. The approach goes far beyond the actual constructions, but involves space in general, from intimate home interiors to large public places.

More specifically, educational space demands the greatest attention towards choosing and defining materials, from the properties of the ground below it to those of the light and sound it catches.

There comes a sharper focus on the many ways in which children experience and move through space. For example, the ground reacts to the heaviness or lightness of footsteps, whether running or walking, but always maintaining physical contact with movement. Light also sets the pace of daily activities, and is affected by the spatial and physical properties of space.



Ecology of the senses

Building a new and different relationship with Nature discloses what J. Tanizaki defines as an “ecology of the senses”, which means reassessing all of the human being’s sensory properties, and not over-emphasising the importance of sight.

When the body and memory experience the formal properties of touch, sound and smell, and relate them to previous experiences, a “precious bond” is formed between thought and emotion. Materials both ancient and innovative mingle effortlessly rather than clash, each surrendering certain undiscovered properties to the other and yielding entirely new experiences. Even natural products can be broken down to their constituent parts and re-assembled using novel procedures, appearing among the “designer’s tools” with fresh new textures, vibes and physical properties that enhance the soul of the material and engender new physical attributes.

However, we are also well aware that high-tech materials like fibres, fabrics, plastics and so on, regardless of the relationship we have with our surroundings, stir our senses, bring back memories, and bridge that time and that place to the full gamut of human experience.

As children, we are what the Asian culture defines as Zen: our understanding of the world around us is instinctively mediated by the activities that adults call ‘play’. Children’s sensory receptors are open to everything new, be it looking, touching, tasting, feeling heat or cold, heaviness and lightness, softness and hardness, smoothness and roughness, colours, shapes, distances, daylight and darkness, noise and silence. For a child this is all new, it all has to be learnt, and play helps to hone memory skills (Munari).

Open spaces

Open spaces become a playground, and play is the child’s first approach towards learning. Experience in relation to the external environment encourages exploration and observation, so that an understanding of the environment reveals the intuitive laws of nature.

Sensory perception (i.e. sight, sound, touch and smell) is the earliest form of learning, allowing the child to acquire abstract concepts like space, time, matter, light, gravity, temperature, and so on. Observing and experiencing natural phenomena and their own bodies helps children to realise that the human species is a part of a much larger biosphere. An open environment where children can unleash their creativity.

Children thus acquire their sense of being an active subject, whose micro-actions inevitably determine change: the link between action and reaction begins to materialise and this realisation builds the foundations for the child’s creativity. Play and make-believe lead to forging effective communications, via drawing, telling stories, making things and understanding symbols.

Interacting with other children is essential for learning to socialise: it teaches the difference between autonomy and interdependence, individual and community, singular and plural.

Children learn that socialising means not only sharing life with other children, but with parents who are involved in forming shared experiences. This is a crucial aspect, because the family, teachers, and the community as a whole are what drive education.

In short, attention must be devoted to the physical and spatial role of this link between the child and society, and how the traditional set-up of schools is changing. Children are not packages to be stored somewhere for a few hours a day, but ... “an unseen person, an unknown child, an enslaved being that needs to be freed” (Montessori).

From the combination of the natural surroundings and man-made elements comes the creation of a culture medium in which the personality and identity of the child flourishes and grows into man as a social being.

Kindergartens must strive to become a new and perhaps experimental teaching environment where play, body language, the human voice and even silence are powerful forms of expression and communication, and an emotional activity that has to be interpreted and guided.

The Children’s House will need to feature space that suits not only the child’s smaller size but also their motor skills and mental abilities, to help them master the space. The surroundings also need to be orderly, because neatness and tidiness are reassuring and build confidence. The setting should be soothing and harmonious to encourage trust and the freedom to express their interests



Everything should be kept in very good condition and well set out to make exploring differences fascinating and fun. The design must be aesthetically pleasing to help children appreciate beauty. Indoor and outdoor laboratories should blend seamlessly with play areas, classrooms, meals areas, school theatres, display areas, parent-teacher meeting rooms, and so on. These are places of learning and creativity, experimentation and discovery through play. It is here that children acquire their ability to see with their eyes and their hands to learn to observe reality; it is here that the "creative design process" begins to flourish even at a very early age.

"Toddlers love exploring new materials, testing their strength, softness, effects and the material's ability to satisfy the child's innermost needs. When older children look at things they tend to draw the shapes they observe, not always in an organised manner. But this is beside the point.

Children do not create art, but very young children in particular will draw, sketch and colour in for the sole pleasure of doing it, for their own pleasure and nobody else's." Munari believes it is essential to teach children how to observe a work of art rather than how to interpret its message. Visual art is not something that should be described using words: it should be experienced. Words are quickly forgotten, experiences are not. He would often quote an old Chinese saying: "If I listen I forget, if I see I remember, and if I do I understand".

All it takes to make a child happy is to give them materials that vibrate, that can be handled, that feel "funny", that behave differently depending on how they are held, and that are within easy reach.

The **Casa dei bambini** (Children's house) shall be:

- a suitable fit for the motor skills and mental abilities of children so that they can actively use and master the environment;
- tidy and well organised, featuring a recurring set of reference points to help children form their own personal view of reality that is also emotionally reassuring and confidence-building;
- soothing and harmonious to enable children to broaden their interests and seek new experiences, and encourage a positive psychological and affective dimension so as to more easily develop their own self-confidence and trust in others;
- kept in very good condition and well set out so that children are more apt to discover mistakes and self-correct;
- visually appealing, to bring out the child's natural love for "beauty" and all that is gentle, neat, pleasant, and well cared for.

A typical Montessori school is unique insofar as it is equipped with all the "tools" needed to stimulate the child's mental and physical capabilities; these tools are called "materials for development and inner growth". This subject will be discussed further on. For the time being it should be noted that children, like all living creatures, are driven by their mysterious vital impulses to absorb and adapt to their surroundings. When the background is confusing, unstable, incomplete, redundant and unnecessary, unattractive and uninteresting, and unable to be explored for the purposes of learning, the child will assimilate these negative traits, which will hamper the clear employment of the child's innate mental and physical powers. In a nutshell, the child will struggle if not fail altogether to form his or her personality.

This is the basic reason why the Montessori educational environment, inextricably linked to the development of an active and disciplined personality, has been defined as a "mentor of life and culture", as a learning environment. (Opera Nazionale Montessori).





Programme

The Competition invites entrants to submit projects for a Kindergarten for children aged 3 to 6. The location is Via Ugo Betti, Milan (Italy).

The project may encompass a single building or several buildings, and the architecture should fit the surrounding area and ideally form a bridge between the neighbourhood and the children.

The design should emphasise the relationship between architecture and nature, between indoors and outdoors, as a must for a nursery school that aims to create an organic link between the children, nature and the city.

The Competition also requires projects to include the area outside the property, i.e. for outdoor learning, using nature, the cityscape and the environment as drivers of the architectural proposal.

The project should thus also devote some thought to developing an innovative programme capable of accommodating both individual spaces and collective spaces. Almost as if the city were somehow contaminating "outside" users, and in turn, the users were contributing certain aspects of their experience to the local neighbourhood and community. An open, inclusive school made of welcoming, exciting spaces that nonetheless also protects and envelops the children and helps them to relate to the outside world, the neighbourhood and the city.

The design concept should seek the most innovative use of space for the various educational functions, and likewise the most innovative use of materials and techniques, while displaying a unique environmental sensitivity. The challenge therefore lies in designing a project that is affordable, well constructed and financially and socially sustainable.

Functions

The Kindergarten is comprised of three sections, to accommodate around 90 children.

The **gross floor area** covers **650 sq m** and consists of:

Three sections, each housing:

- three classrooms
- bathrooms/changing rooms
- utility room
- a garden for each individual section

TOTAL 300 sq m

Common areas:

- an activities area for individual children or small groups of children (psychomotor skills, speech therapy, support activities etc.)
- an area for children and parents
- rest/sleeping area
- multifunctional area (canteen, creative activities, etc.)

TOTAL 200 sq m

ancillary areas/rooms:

- kitchen/meals preparation
- teacher's room
- office
- teacher's and staff bathroom and changing room
- cleaner's utility room (with drainage pipe)
- laundry

TOTAL 150 sq m

These measurements should be complied with but are subject to slight variations to suit the functional and educational requirements of the project. Accordingly, the measurements may vary by up to 5%. All variations must, however, be justified and explained by the designer.



Ceiling heights

Ceiling heights shall be min. 300 cm (sloped ceilings may have a minimum height of 270 cm); spaces for group work must have a minimum ceiling height of 240 cm. The measurements given indicate cross-sectional free space (not including floor and ceiling).

Materials

Materials play a fundamental role in both multi-sensory perception and space formation. Every material should be deliberately chosen for its ability to encourage the child's learning process through play and social relations. While wood is the preferred material, it should not be to the exclusion of all others. The issue of environmental sustainability and its relationship with education represents a crucial aspect of the Competition.

The construction must also lend itself to future add-ons which must be explicitly simulated.

The assembly must also be easy and affordable, and readily accommodate the complexities of other cities.

The building must employ materials that allow for fast and easy construction, satisfactory cost containment, and compliance with technological and ecological specifications, with a strong focus on timber. Because it can be assembled quickly, is environmentally friendly, and has many other benefits (i.e. low incorporated energy, recyclable, lightweight, etc.), wood may be the principal material used for the structural elements, infill panels, indoor finishings and fixtures and door and window frames and so on.

Wood may be combined with other materials that enhance its properties. Outdoor landscaping elements and street furniture should also be included in the project.

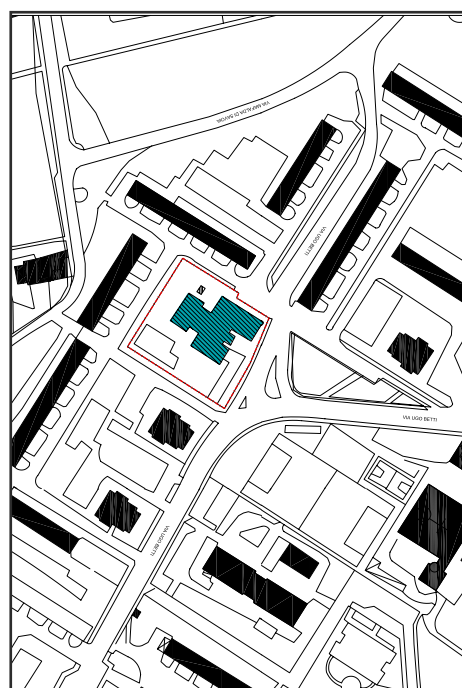
The entry should provide sufficient structural schematics and details as to enable the Jury to assess the quality and feasibility of the design concept, which will hopefully leverage the many and varied advanced technological solutions offered by the selected materials, together with novel developments or solutions. An experimental approach will also be welcomed.

4. General information

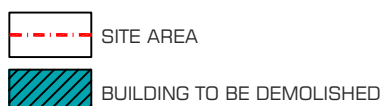
Location

The property is located at Via Ugo Betti, Milan, and consists of an area that currently houses a school building. The existing building will be demolished since it is extremely dilapidated.

- Area: 4,000 sq m
- Gross floor area: 650 sq m



URBAN SETTING
scale 1:2000





5. Competition terms and conditions

There is no charge for entering the Competition. The Competition is open to graduates and students of architecture, engineering and industrial design. Degrees must have been earned after 31 January 2008 and students must have been enrolled in university courses on 31 January 2013.

Entries may be submitted by individuals or temporary groups. Temporary groups shall appoint a group leader to represent them before the Competition Authority. For temporary group entries, only the group leader must meet the aforementioned requirements.

6. Exclusions and incompatibility

Entrants shall be excluded from participation in the Competition for failing to comply with the rules and regulations contained herein.

The following individuals are barred from participating in the competition:

- the contact person for the Competition and members of the Organisation;
- members of the Jury;
- spouses and all first, second and third degree relatives of members of the aforesaid categories;
- employees and associates of the Jury members, and associates of the members of the Competition Authority;
- anyone involved in any way in the staging of this competition;
- anyone who, at the time of publication of the Competition, is working on a temporary basis for the Competition Authority.

7. Information and entry forms

Details and information concerning the Competition can be downloaded from the following websites:

www.federlegnoarredo.it

www.instanthouse.it

www.madeexpo.it.

Documents submitted in compliance with the rules, regulations and deadlines indicated herein constitute an application to enter the Competition.

The information provided herein is the only guidance material available to Competition entrants. No additional information, guidance or details will be supplied. Entrants are forbidden from contacting Jury members; the penalty will be exclusion from the Competition.

8. Competition Supervisors and Office

The Competition supervisors are:

- Franco Amadei (franco.amadei@federlegnoarredo.it)
- Vincenzo Memmola (vincenzo.memmola@madeexpo.it)

Operations:

Donatella Ferrieri, Marta Marostica (info@instanthouse.it)

9. Requests for information

Clarifications regarding the Competition may be obtained in writing from the Competition Authority by forwarding an email to info@instanthouse.it.

Requests for clarifications will be accepted up **till 12 noon, 29 April 2013**.

FAQs can be found at www.instanthouse.it.

Requests for clarifications will be disregarded after this date.

10. Registrations

Registration forms must be filled in on the website www.instanthouse.it and uploaded **by no later than 12 noon on 3 June 2013**.



11. Documents and submissions

Entries shall be submitted exclusively ON-LINE on the website www.instanthouse.it.

Entrants shall comply with the procedure described below to submit their design ideas:

- a jpg icon image (250 dpi) to identify the design concept;
- an A5 format .pdf document of no more than 20 pages (including the cover), containing a text at least 3000 characters in length, with images, drawings and/or diagrams explaining the project strategy and any special circumstances relating to the specific structure, materials and technical and construction techniques adopted.
- 4 A3-format horizontal plates illustrating floorplans, elevations, cross-sections; technical details with an indication of the materials, assembly method and modularity. 3D internal and external views and photo-inserts in the chosen location. Tables must be in .jpg format and max. 1280 pixel width for publication on the website. High-resolution files may be compressed in a .zip file.

Materials uploaded to the Internet must not exceed 10 MB.

The delivery procedure can be downloaded from the website www.instanthouse.it

The choice of graphic representation is up to the entrants. Only the formats specified herein will be accepted. Every part of the project must be completely anonymous; the penalty will be exclusion from the Competition. Entrants must strictly comply with the technical specifications and details relative to formats and dimensions. The Competition office will assign a random ID number to each entry and this number will be the only identifying mark on the project examined by the Jury.

The Jury and Competition Office shall undertake the necessary procedures to ensure the anonymity of the entries. The database storing correspondence with the competition entrants and the ID numbers assigned to their projects will remain confidential until the Jury has completed its selection.

The official language of the Competition is Italian. Non-Italian entrants may use English.

12. Competition procedure

Entrants shall submit their projects in accordance with the methods and deadlines specified herein. Participation in the Competition shall be anonymous. Entrants shall not breach the anonymity rule by the use of symbols, marks or other identifiable elements; the penalty will be exclusion from the Competition.

Entrants must forward their design concepts **by no later than 12 noon, on 3 June 2013.**



CHAPTER II

JURY AND OUTCOME OF THE COMPETITION

13. Composition of the Jury

The Jury will be composed of:

- a representative of the Milan City Council;
- two representatives of the Politecnico di Milano;
- three representatives of Federlegno Arredo S.r.l.;
- the Chairman of MADE expo;
- a representative of the Triennale di Milano;
- one or two world-renowned architects.

14. Results of the competition and awards

All projects will be on display at MADE expo, the forthcoming international construction and design trade show that will take place at the Milan Fairgrounds Rho from 2 to 5 October 2013.

The Competition will end with a merit ranking and the Jury's decision to award the following prizes (as reimbursement for expenses):

Prize for the winning entry: EUR 1,500 (one thousand five hundred euros);

Runner up: EUR 1,000 (one thousand euros);

Third prize: EUR 750 (seven hundred and fifty euros);

The Jury reserves the right to award honourable mentions.

15. Publication of the announcement

The announcement will be published on www.federlegnoarredo.it, www.instanthouse.it and www.madeexpo.it and concurrently on industry websites or websites specializing in international competitions.

16. Privacy disclosure

Pursuant to section 13 of Leg. Decree nr. 196/03, entrants are hereby advised that their data will be processed according to the principles of fairness, transparency and good faith and only for the following purposes:

- general administration of the competition and definition of rankings;
- delivery of prizes;
- activities related to competition such as satisfaction surveys;
- promotional activities, such as publishing the names of the competition winners, press releases, etc.;
- promotional activities pertaining to specific events (i.e. conferences, seminars, exhibitions, etc), even after the competition.

Entrants failing to provide the necessary personal information shall be disqualified from competition. All personal data will be processed by officers of the Federlegno Arredo S.r.l. Group, the Lombardy Regional Authorities, Politecnico di Milano, and compliance officers overseeing the legality of the competition.. Data provided by entrants may be publicised by means of the press, radio, television and the Internet in relation to events associated with the competition. The data owners are the aforementioned promoting authorities The data processing manager is mentioned in section 8 above. Entrants may contact the data processing manager to delete, modify or update their data and exercise any other rights pursuant to section 7 of Leg. Decree nr. 196/03



17. Copyright and ownership

The Competition is not an application for employment, and no employment or contractual relationship is created thereby.

Entrants hereby waive any and all claims for presumed rights, but shall retain their intellectual property rights.

Federlegno Arredo S.r.l. shall take possession of all awarded and selected projects

18. Acceptance of terms and conditions

Entrants shall not publicise or disclose their design concept in any form before the Jury has publicly announced its findings, under penalty of disqualification from the competition.

Participation in the competition implies the unconditional acceptance by every entrant of the competition rules and regulations.

For matters not specifically provided for herein, reference is made to the Italian laws and regulations in force at the time of publication. Disputes unable to be settled amicably shall be brought before the Milan law courts

TIMELINE

Announcement of the Competition on the website www.instanthouse.it		26 March 2013
Deadline for requesting clarifications	12 noon	29 April 2013
Deadline for submitting registration forms and entries	12 noon	3 June 2013
Announcement of results		24 June 2013
Exhibition and awards ceremony		MADE expo, 2-5 October 2013

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Tel. 02 80604.1
Fax 02 80604.396



Instanthouse @ SCHOOL

REGISTRATION FORM

The undersigned: Country:
Place of birth: Country:
Date of birth/...../..... (taxpayer's ID)
Resident in (municipality):
Street address: Post code:
Ph. no. Fax no
University degree in: School/faculty:
Type of degree (*):
At the university of: Graduation date:/...../.....
Enrolled in the course of:
Campus:.....
E-mail

DECLARES

- to be the exclusive holder of the copyrights of the works submitted, and promises to hold harmless the organization against any claims filed by third parties concerning such works
- to have read and accepted the terms and conditions of registration as contained in the Competition Announcement, specifically agreeing to the processing of personal data for the purposes declared herein in accordance with Legislative Decree 196/2003.
- to not be ineligible or in any way excluded from the competition registration terms and conditions

therefore,

ASKS

To be allowed to participate in the InstantHouse design competition as:

☐ an individual registrant

or

☐ a member of a group made up of (name the group leader):

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PROJECT TITLE

Date and place Signature of the applicant

Each member of the group must fill out their own personal information sheet.

(*) specify if this is a three-year degree, master's degree or a degree under the former system.