

Open Call Process and Brief

Brief:

The Arhitext Design Foundation, editor of Arhitext magazine, is announcing an open call for the selection of projects to be featured in the **Regional Exhibition *Fluencies***, which will take place in Timisoara, Romania, in October 2011.

Argument from the curator of the *Fluencies* Exhibition 2011:

Is there an “East” any longer? Is there any use in talking about the “West”? Are the separations from the Cold War period still holding? Is it possible that precisely the imperative of integration within a politically common and, especially, within an economically globalized world, of the fluxes without barriers, caused, more than two decades ago already, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the annihilation of the Iron Curtain?

But can we give way so easily to the historical and cultural specialty of an entire area? And is it possible, by any chance, by one of those ambiguities and accent reversals, that history doesn't cease bestirring, that the so rich and diverse specialty of the Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe represents today, after more than two decades of transition from collectivism to capitalism, a source of resistance to homogenization, of weal in poverty?

It is precisely through our stormy history that our present is more affluent in pasts than many other areas of Europe. And the pluralism of collective narrations and their scale differences does not assume the domination of some by others without fail.

At present, we're increasingly talking, in the West especially, about a *nostalgia of modernity*, about the need for a post-imperial and post-colonial recursion to the project of the modernity. We are talking, however, about a prospective, and not a retrospective, nostalgia.

Modernity no longer seems able to be brought up-to-date again, nor re-launched, after its postmodern liquidation, but from the perspective and from the unmassified direction of the second, “minor”, derived, marginal, “soft”, heteromorphic *modernities* specific to the Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, not from that of the Western triumphant, dominant, homogenizing modernity.

Over the Western utopian rationalism, which has lead modernity atop, but also to the standstills and ruinations of the XXth century, preference appears to be given, in the discourses on the reactivation of modernity, to *the readjusted humanism* of an Eastern modernity, that “*off-modernity*” whereof Svetlana Boym was talking as a unique solution of *reasonable re-modernization*.

Through the Fluencies exhibition, we are inviting you to draw together, in Timisoara, in a place of all confluences, the map of the most recent tendencies, movements, and communication corridors from the “reservoir” of recent architecture from Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe.

And to think, from the perspective of a *dialogue of the unconsumed, reusable modernities*, of the need to recapture the *scales of humanity* by outlining some *sensible micro-architectures*, sensuous and moral, responsible and sustainable at the same time. In other words, of a *new architectural humanism*, of a *re-architecturing of the human*. **(Bogdan Ghiu)**

Why this exhibition:

The Exhibition *Fluencies* is one in a series of exhibitions that the Arhitext Design Foundation is starting with the aim of displaying the architecture from the Eastern and Central European countries not as a global architecture but rather as a particular and specific architecture; an architecture that does not necessarily bear the heavy weight of history but rather remembers it in a light contemporary perspective. It is also an architecture that draws not only upon the great buildings any architecture history book shows, but also on those less known examples of architecture. They can show the particularities of a local approach that create the nuances of a global style. We are thus continuing our research initiated 4 years ago when we decided to dedicate, each year, at least one issue of the Arhitext magazine to studying the contemporary architecture in our region. We have published issues that presented the architecture in countries like: Hungary, Serbia, Russia, Turkey, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, and Austria. With these past studies in mind we have decided to choose a theme that would shed light on the particular, consistent, sometimes unnoticed, streams in the architecture of these countries.

Why an open call:

An open call is meant to give the chance for new ideas and new opinion makers to be acknowledged. This open call responds to a constant local preoccupation to discover the latest examples of good quality architecture. It gives architects, designers, urban planners and landscape architects not only the chance to show their work in another exhibition but also the chance to participate with and integrate their works into a wider context of contemporary architecture in the region. To present how their works respond to specific needs and demands of a context, within a thematic regional architecture exhibition.

The Catalogue:

The catalogue is conceived as an extension of the exhibition. It is necessary because the exhibition intends not only to show architectural projects that are linked by several common features but also to address the problem of regional bonds in architecture and the way they influence our way of making architecture. In the catalogue, the projects, selected by means of this open call, are going to be presented together with a series of theoretical articles which will speak about today’s architecture in the Eastern and Central European countries*. The texts will be written by architectural critics from various countries of the region and part of the texts in the catalogue will also be selected by means of an open call.

Why to participate:

- The selected project will be part of the International Exhibition Fluencies, part of Arhitext Festival (at its 4-th edition), a Festival with tradition in Romania, with international collaborators along the years. Therefore a scene of display already

familiar to the public. (see details of latest Arhitext national Festivals and other events we organize at <http://www.arhitext.com/en/events/>)

- The location of the Festival is one of the most important cultural and educational centers from Romania, a place of confluence par excellence, located near the western border of the country.
- The Festival is held in partnership with the Romanian Order of Architects, the University of Architecture and Urban Planning from Bucharest, The Technical University from Timisoara.
- The selected projects will be also part of the Exhibition catalogue, conceived as a self-standing book meant to provide both theoretical points of view and examples of relevant architecture, all seen from the perspective presented in the concept of this open call. The catalogue is going to be bilingual in order to ensure international circulation.
- The selected projects will also be integrated into an internet platform – this is intended as the starting point for a regional architecture platform which will develop over the years as a reflection of significant regional practice. This is a means of promoting professional architects, urban planners, designers or architectural studios, urban planning studios or design studios from Central and Eastern Europe. Such a regional architecture platform does not exist at the moment and its establishing will facilitate interaction with the public but also interaction between professionals from these countries*. The internet platform will also include projects which are not featured in the exhibition or catalogue.
- The public expected to the Festival is both local and international due to the fact that the event is internationally promoted, by means of Internet and foreign institutions with a large architectural data base.

About:

- This is an open call.
- Participants must be professional architects, urban planners, designers or architectural studios, urban planning studios or design studios which must be based in any of the Eastern or Central European countries*;
- All projects submitted must had been completed during 2005-2011;
- All projects will be presented on a regional architecture platform which will be launched in July 2011.
- The 50 projects which will best meet the open call criteria will be featured in an exhibition which, by bringing together projects from the region, will reveal the latest tendencies in Central and Eastern European architecture.
- The exhibition will take place in October 2011 in Timisoara, Romania;
- The 50 finalist projects will be featured in the Catalogue which will accompany the Exhibition and will include a series of theoretical texts, part of which will be selected by means of another open call.
- All projects must be submitted before 20th April 2011

How to submit:

-If you are an Eastern or Central European-based professional or practice interested in taking part in an open call for projects that are defining the tendencies of a region, please submit the project materials in English, via email to: festival@arhitext.com **by midnight on 20 April 2011.**

- One can participate with as many projects as he/she wants as long as they respect the submission requirements and must send each project as a separate application.

-In advance of submission, questions may also be directed to that address, but must be sent by 28th of February in order to receive a reply. All answers will be posted in a fair and equitable way. Questions can only be asked and answered via email: festival@arhitext.com

-All material must be submitted digitally. Use www.yousendit.com, www.wetransfer.com or any other transfer site (or FTP) to send us the material.

Open Call rules

Who is eligible to take part?

- Participants must be professional architects, urban planners, designers or architectural studios, urban planning studios or design studios which must be based in any of the Eastern or Central European countries*

Criteria of eligibility for the projects (conditions for the submission of the projects):

- All projects submitted must have been already built;
- All projects submitted must have been completed between 2005 and 2011;
- The projects must be constructed in any of the Eastern or Central European countries*.

Required material for submission:

a) Project material – mandatory:

- Any project sent must include: photographs, technical data (plans, sections, facades, drawings*), a technical specification sheet (which must include at least: the list of team members that have participated in carrying out the project, the year(s) of construction, the location of the project) and a short presentation text** (no more than 2500 characters)
- All photographs must be in .JPG, .TIFF format at 350 dpi at least 1 MB per photo.
- All technical data must be sent in .PDF - vectorial format, or .EPS
- All photographs must be accompanied by copyright credits; all copyrights must be taken care of and obtained by the professional or office subscribing the project. Sending the material implies agreeing with publishing the project on the internet platform created for the event, in the catalogue and in the exhibition, if they are selected.
- All written materials must be submitted in English.

*it is preferable to send conceptual drawings (if any).

**it is preferable that the text refers to the concept of the project and describes the theoretical basis of the work.

Where to submit?

- Please submit the project materials in English, to the Arhitext Design Foundation via email to: festival@arhitext.com by **midnight on 20 April 2011**.
- All materials must be submitted digitally.

- The Arhitext Design Foundation will send back an e-mail of confirmation within maximum 2 working days. If you don't receive our e-mail of confirmation within maximum 2 working days please resend the materials.

Due

Date:

The Arhitext Design Foundation must receive all submissions by 12:00am (GMT+2) on April 20, 2011.

Project Selection:

The curator Mr. Bogdan Ghiu, together with the curatorial board will review and select the 50 projects to be exhibited in the regional exhibition in Timisoara, based on the following criteria:

- responsiveness of the project to the exhibition's statement;
- the ability of the project to address the problems of a country or region and to define particular tendencies in a country or in a region;
- responsiveness of the project to the local or regional context and on-going tendencies;
- consistency and coherence of the project's discourse and approach.
- the material sent has to meet the technical requirements for publication as specified in the present call.

The curatorial board is comprised of:

Bogdan Ghiu – Romanian writer, poet and translator, has received several awards, like: in 1997 the Award of the Romanian Union of Writers for the poetry volumes Poemul cu latura de un metru (Ed. Cartea Românească, 1996) and Arta consumului (Ed. Cartea Românească, 1996), in 2003 the Award of the Romanian Union of Writers for translating Charles Baudelaire, Inima mea dezvăluită (Ed. Est, 2002) and Henri Bergson, Energia spirituală (Ed. Meridiane, 2002) and in 2004 the Order of "Cultural Merit" in rank of Knight given by the President of Romania.

Arpad Zachi – architect, editor in chief of Arhitext magazine and co-founder of the magazine, professor at the "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning, Bucharest, practicing urban planning at Urban Design, Bucharest.

Mihai Pienescu – Romanian architect established in France, senior editor of Arhitext magazine, co-founder of the magazine, practicing architecture at Mihai PIENESCU - architecte d.f.a.b in Paris, diplomat of the "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning from Bucharest.

Livia Ivanovici – architect, junior editor of Arhitext magazine, curator of two national architecture exhibitions made by Arhitext Foundation, collaborator of Studio Basar and curator Alina Serban in making the Romanian Pavilion for the 53rd edition of Art Biennale in Venice.

Malina Contu – art historian, senior editor of Arhitext magazine, associate professor at the University of Bucharest, Department of Art History and at the "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning, Bucharest, Department of Theory, curator at the National Museum of Art of Romania, European Art Department.

Ionut Butu - architect, junior editor of Arhitext magazine, curator of Rintala-Eggertsson exhibition made by Arhitext design Foundation, editor of the book "The evolution of Bucharest", author: arch. and urban planner Andrei Panoiu.

Sabin Bors – philosopher, junior editor of Arhitext magazine, independent researcher and textual artist living and working in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, covering aspects of contemporary philosophy, public space, architecture, politics and contemporary art, translator.

Outcomes of open call:

- international Exhibition
- bilingual catalogue with both theoretical and critical articles
- regional architecture online platform

Deadlines:

- open call submitting of projects: 20th of April 2011
- open call selected projects announcement: 20th of June 2011
- exhibition taking place and catalogue being launched: 7-9 of October 2011

***Albany, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldavia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine.**

About Arhitext design Foundation: Arhitext design has represented, for more than 20 years, a tool for the constant screening of the Romanian cultural space and for the harmonization with the international cultural trends in the fields of architecture, art and design. Supported in its endeavors by (Romanian and foreign) architects and established theorists of these fields, Arhitext Design foundation has managed to valorize the concept of sustainable development through its projects, to encourage the critical spirit and thus to outline new tendencies and to identify present and future values. Through the projects undertaken, Arhitext design intends to achieve one of its most important goals: to initiate a process of formation and construction of a Romanian cultural context. That is why some of the most important aspects considered by the Foundation in its endeavors are inter-disciplinarity and the exchange of ideas between various related fields. The objectives the Foundation set out to achieve 20 years ago were reached one by one, Arhitext design becoming a platform for the exchange of ideas, for the observation of critical and theoretical stances which concurrently form and shape a cultural context we continually need.