INTRODUCTION

CTRL+SPACE is an online platform that creates and promotes Architectural Competitions.

In the daily practice of Architecture, competitions are an important part of the formative experience. When applied to concrete needs, by the mediation of context and content, they demonstrate the added value that architectural discussion can bring to the solution of issues of the community.

We provide a launching platform for a community of architects that have interest in making a contribution in their specialty field, keep creatively active and give more visibility to their professional practice.

We intend to create an ideas exchange platform and bring into light emerging talents.

We aim to promote discussion of contemporary architectonic and urban topics applied to a specific need and context among professionals who are motivated to the valorization of Architecture.

OBJECTIVE

This is a single stage Ideas Competition with the aim of identifying the best proposal of a Public Space in the riverfront of Porto, Portugal.

This Competition is open to all students and professionals of areas related to Architecture. Multidisciplinary teams are encouraged. We invite you to create innovative solutions to tackle the challenges presented. The winning design will demonstrate a high degree of expression and creativity in fulfilling the program requirements, in accordance with the specific design guidelines here presented.

This is an Ideas Competition; therefore all submitted projects should be for concept design. All proposals will be reviewed by an international five-member jury. The awarding shall be made in according to the conceptual merit of the works presented.
Urban Pools were popular in the bigger cities of Europe and North America in the 19th and 20th Century. Some of these were floating bathhouses that allowed for safe swimming and bathing closer to the city where beaches were at a great distance. Some of these river pools in Switzerland are still active today.

The water quality improvement in urban rivers is renewing the interest in this typology, as is noticeable in the Scandinavian countries with recent projects of urban baths in Copenhagen and Oslo. In Porto, during the summer months, there is already the local habit of diving into the river, in the upstream fluvial beaches or, for the daredevils, from the lower platform of the Luis I Bridge.

The river water presents still a high degree of pollution, but the image of people swimming in the Douro River could be a testament to future developments of its water quality.

This sector of the city of Porto has very good conditions to enjoy sun and water in an urban context. The questions raised are of how can this location be revitalized into a place for living and recreation? How can we make this a year round activity attractor? How can this be an instrument of education of the general public to the importance of the preservation of water quality?

Here is presented an opportunity to test a different approach on how the city, through its public space could reconnect with the River.

Due to the seasonality of the swimming pools program, we suggest flexibility to the program that would enable to cope with the winter months with a similar degree of activities.

We intend an exciting and innovative structure that provides a safe area for swimming in the Douro River for people of all ages. It should promote new uses, a better awareness of the river and generate spontaneous activities at the edge of the water.
The city of Porto has always had a strong connection to the water. Douro River has been traditionally the center of all economic activities, the source of economic growth from merchants and made famous by the exports of Port Wine.

In recent years, the city is experiencing a strong regeneration due to a bigger presence of tourism, it has been acclaimed European’s Best Destination in 2014, to which the city is adapting but is still of need of accommodation of a broader set of activities devoted to leisure and well-being.

The Ribeira sector has been traditionally the denser part of the city by the river. A wide array of activities makes this up, by far, the liveliest section of the riverfront. The ever increasing wave of tourism is leading this sector towards a saturation state, overcrowded with informal commerce, cruise boats boarding, outdoor restaurants and bar terraces, which fail to attract locals and can be overwhelming for visitors.

To the East of Ribeira, beside the Luis I Bridge is located the site chosen for this Competition. It has always been an overlooked part of the city, historically outside the fortified city walls, evident by its lower housing density. In direct continuity with the most touristic section of the riverfront, there is great potential to be hosted the same dynamics and services.

The identity of the city is also very related to the outdoor living, whether through sports or leisure and social activities in the public spaces. The challenge here is what strategies to use to generate lively places where people can interact, to create a meeting space by the river.
The riverine front of the city is a continuous circuit that comes from the Atlantic Beaches to the West all the way to the city center, following the course of the River. Formally there has always been a barrier in the city, enforced by the presence of the Luiz I Bridge, which has virtually limited the growth of the public activities further; nevertheless, there is a clear possibility to interlock the proposed intervention with the existing one, through the crossing under the bridge.

This sector of the city is a very dynamic one: its linear configuration is at the moment solely a linear pedestrian path. It has the potential to provide a framework to a wider set of informal activities. Participants are challenged to generate a welcoming hub for urban and water activities. A new structure that should integrate and address the needs of current users: fishing enthusiasts, joggers, cyclists and a whole set of public amenities in the river bank.

A problem noticed is a lack of connectivity with the Douro River in the Porto side; this competition aims to uncover new ways for the city to reconnect to the water element. This suggested intervention can take the form of a public space or element that acts as an urban attractor, holding a new set of activities that enrich the urban life, providing more quality to locals and visitors as well as opening new perspectives over the city.
The Program for this Public Space is a suggestion of a set of activities that will renew the connection of the public to the water level, as well as help reorganize the section of the riverfront.

Swimming Pools
This is the only compulsory element of the program. It aims to promote swimming as a fun and healthy activity in a natural environment.

The pools can be enclosed basins, open to the stream or even floating bahts, creating an improvement of the city amenities. Being open to the general public, the needs of different types of users - children, adults and the disabled - should be taken into account. Consider the needs of an average of 300 simultaneous users.

A set of complementary spaces and activities should also be contemplated: a Sun deck, diving platforms, changing rooms, lockers and showers.

Restaurant – 100 sqm
This element will provide a more static moment and constitute a complement to the overall dynamic activities. A small kitchen and serving area should be included, as well as toilets.

Sanitary facilities / Public Toilets – 50 sqm
In addition to gender-separated toilets, it is mandatory to consider the needs of disabled users.

Bars / Kiosks / Commercial Spaces – 250 sqm
A series of commercial spots could be suggested, for beverage selling in the summertime, informal market places that could be temporarily interoplated and easily dismantled. These elements could also account for an improvement of the nightlife in this location.

Pier / Boarding Dock / River cruise terminal
The presence of boats and other vessels requires a direct access, through ramps or piers. They will aid the boarding of touristic boats, fishing boats, as well give access to the water to sportive activities such as rowing and canoeing. A clear separation by types of users is encouraged.

Cycle paths / Jogging tracks
Here should also be observed strategies to increment informal sportive activities, to promote a healthier lifestyle and leisure.

Open-air Performance Space
In order to generate a wider range of activities, an open performance space is suggested. This can accommodate small public performances, artistic and film projections or open air theatre.

To this proposed program each participant is free to add elements that will improve the functional and aesthetic quality of the overall intervention.

There are no height restrictions, but the overall proposal must be harmonious with its surrounding.

Structurally, no engineering calculation is to be presented, but structural elements should be represented in order to provide some degree of realism and feasibility to the project.

The proximity to the mouth of the river makes this section of the river susceptible to the influence of tides and a pronounced water level fluctuation. The normal variation that should be considered is of 3 metres from low-tide to high-tide.

The selected area of intervention has an approximate total area of 20 000 sqm. The proposal should be located within the established limits and have a maximum Total Area of 10000 sqm.
Registration and Project Submission are handled completely through the Ctrl+Space website and email. All elements related to the competition should be submitted in digital format. The language of the competition is English. All relevant text should be written in this language.

REGISTRATION CODE:
The entrant individual or team should choose a Registration Code for which to be identified, composed of two Latin alphabet letters and four digits, ex. "XX1234". This code will be mentioned in all the file names submitted in the process.

The process is composed of three elements:

1 JPEG file - A1 size (150dpi)
This is a Layout Board in horizontal format with all the information that the contestant sees fit to adequately communicate their proposal: plans, sections, 3d visualizations, diagrams or descriptions. The image must be tagged in the upper right corner with the Registration Code, in a way that is clear and readable to the judging committee. Apart from the entrant number and project name, no other form of identification is allowed.

This file should be named after the registration code, ex. "XX1234.jpeg"

1 Booklet A4 max. 10 pages
This document is intended to add more detail and depth to the solution. In this booklet the contestant should present all the information that the contestant sees fit to adequately communicate their proposal: text and graphic.

This file should be named after the registration code, ex. "XX1234.pdf"

Entry Form – Filled out with the Team Information
This element will not reach the Jury, it will be used to match the entries with the results of the Jury’s final deliberation. This file should be presented in .pdf format and be named after the registration code, ex. "EntryForm_XX1234.pdf"

These elements should have a combined total of 20Mb size limit and sent to the email info@ctrl-space.net with the subject “Project Submission – XX1234”, in which “XX1234” is the Registration Code, as stated.

In order to obtain a fair evaluation, anonymity is required. In any of the submitted documents the names or pseudonyms of contestants are not allowed, with exception of the Entry Form. The anonymity of the participants is guaranteed by the electronic system for project submission and evaluation.

These are mandatory requirements under which the submission is incomplete. Entries that are received after 23:59 of February 1st 2015 will not be accepted.

After submission and verification of all the files, the contestant will receive a confirmation email. By submitting a proposal, the contestants approve of the terms and conditions of this competition.
OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER JANUARY FEBRUARY

5000€ IN PRIZES

COMPETITION TIMELINE
- Oct. 17th – Launch of the Competition
- Feb. 1st – FINAL DATE FOR PROJECT SUBMISSION until 23:59 GMT
- Feb. 2nd – Feb. 20th – Jury evaluation
- Feb. 21st – WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

REGISTRATION
- Oct. 17th – Nov. 26th – First Stage Registration - 40€*
- Nov. 27th – Jan. 16th – Second Stage Registration - 60€*
- Jan. 17th – Feb. 1st – Final Stage Registration - 90€*

Registration and payment is made through the competition website. All dates referred have as limit 23:59 GMT. Upon validation, a confirmation e-mail will be sent to the registered e-mail with the Documentation Pack - CAD plan, site photographs, maps, aerial images.

*VAT (23%) included

PRIZES
A total fund of 5000€ in prize money will be awarded to winning entries and awards of merit, distributed in the following way:

First Prize: 3500€ || Second Prize: 1000€ || Third Prize: 500€

5 Awards of Merit, with no monetary prize

The prizes include bank commissions, taxes and/or paypal commissions.

To all the awarded proposals, online promotion will be made through our Media Partners, a wide array of websites and blogs operating in the field of Architecture, Urbanism and Design.

REGISTER NOW
A wide range of knowledge in Architecture and Urbanism was taken in account in order to present a group of professionals with authority in evaluating the subjects and underlying problematic of the proposed competition. The Jury is composed by an international group of architects, whose experience and professional paths prove their profound knowledge and ability in Architectural Design:

Asterios Agkathidis, Arch. - Assistant Professor, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom
Asterios Agkathidis studied architecture in Thessaloniki and the RWTH Aachen, completing his postgraduate studies in Advanced Architectural Design at the Staedelschule, Frankfurt in 2001. He became a partner in the architectural practice b&k+ in Cologne until 2004, then at VMX architects, Amsterdam until 2005. He later founded the architecture and research laboratory a3lab.org Frankfurt-Thessaloniki. His work has been published, awarded and exhibited widely. Teaching and lecturing experiences include AABV/Nuremberg, TU Darmstadt, University of Thessaloniki, the Islamic University Malaysia, the Columbia University and the Staedelschule Architecture Class. He was Visiting Assistant Professor in the Lebanese American University and Senior Lecturer at Raffles Design Institute Shanghai. Today he holds a lectureship for digital architecture at the University of Liverpool, specialised in Digital Architecture.

Juan Socas, Arch. - Assistant Professor, Ecole d'Architecture, Lyon - France
Juan Socas graduated from the Escuela Tecnica Superior de Arquitectura de Sevilla, and is presently Assistant Professor at the Ecole Nationale Superieure d'Architecture de Lyon. He has worked in Porto, in 2008 with Alvaro Siza. Presently his professional activity is being developed in Grenoble, France. He has taken an active part of his career in the effort of Ideas Competitions, earning First Prize in Mercado de abastos de San Pedro de Alcántara, Malaga; First Prize in the Revitalization of Barrios Bajo y Alto de Sanlucar de Barrameda Competition, in Cadiz; First Prize in the Parque Metropolitano Palmeos en Algeciras Competition, in Cadiz; as well as Finalist in many others. He has been on architectural missions to Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy, Estonia and India.

Cesare Batelli, Arch. - Professor, IE University of Seoppia - Madrid, Spain
Cesare Batelli, an artist and architect, was born in Italy in 1963. He teaches architectural design at the IE University of Seoppia Madrid. He mainly devotes himself to experimentalities in the art field and visionary architecture as well as to realizing architectural designs in different scales. He graduated at the Venice School of Architecture with an architectural design developed in the Moscow about Geography and Architecture and obtained a master’s degree in architecture at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Staedelschule in Frankfurt under the direction of Frits Minnema. He has travelled and worked in several European Countries (Venice, Moscow, Barcelona, Frankfurt, Madrid). He joined the publishing group of the magazine “Utopica” as only for several architecture magazines such as AZ, Novis, Utopica and so on. He has given lectures in many European Universities. In 2002 he embarked on a solo professional career founding his own firm Visionary-Architecture and maintaining some collaboration relationships with world famous Studios such as EMBT.

Jose Carlos Cruz, Arch. - Principal at Jose Carlos Cruz Arquiteto - Porto, Portugal
Jose Carlos Marques Cruz was born in Porto in 1957 and graduated in architecture in FAUP in 1986. He began his professional activity in the firm of his father in Porto, in 1987. In 1997 he started his own practice, working with a large range of projects in different scales. Current projects include a residential development in Porto, a large office building in Coimbra and several others. He has been on architectural missions to Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy, Estonia and India.

EVALUATION CRITERIA
Apart from the personal evaluation criteria of each member of the jury, some other factors of qualification will be as follows:

- Innovation and relevance of the proposal
- Aesthetic quality of the overall project
- Clarity and comprehensibility of the design.
- Functionality, interpretation and application of the proposed program
- Technical quality of the project and feasibility in its construction.

The jury’s decision shall be final and irrevocable.

*Any contact with any members of the jury is discouraged. All authors of projects that are proven to have tried to influence the decision of any member of the jury will be rightfully disqualified.
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The entrant, individual or team, agrees to abide by the rules of the competition as determined by the Organizer. The organizing committee of the competition reserves the right to reject a proposal if it does not comply with the Submission Requirements.

This Competition is open to all students and professionals of areas related to Architecture. Multidisciplinary teams are encouraged. Work by individuals or teams are accepted to a limit of four people per team.

The intellectual property rights shall remain the property of the entrant; any disputes that might arise are of their sole responsibility.

By submitting an entry, the individual or team associated with the work authorizes the competition organizer to use the work in future promotional activities, with due credits to the authorship.

This competition will be decided in an open, anonymous process in a single stage by a jury, whose deliberation is final and irrevocable.

The Competition Organizer reserves the right to cancel the competition in the cases when fewer than 5 projects have been submitted or all submitted projects fail to comply with the announced terms and conditions. Upon cancellation of the competition all participants shall be notified within 3 days from the decision to cancel and properly refunded of their subscription fees.

For this competition are not eligible all people or businesses who have been involved in its organization. This includes all representatives or employees of the Competition Organizer; jury members or any person with a close relation to the jury members; any other individual that might influence directly the deliberation of the jury members.

The payment of the monetary prizes will be made up to 30 days after public announcement.

The Competition is governed by the present program; all issues that are not clearly stated will be taken up to the Jury Committee that will be empowered to decide.

By promoting this Ideas Competition Ctrl+Space – Architectural Competitions does not claim, in any way, rights or ownership over the plot where the competition takes place. This is private property, under which we chose to place this investigation for the purpose of ideas discussion. The organizers do not intend to realize the winning entry.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Registered participants in the competition may address their questions to the Competition Organizer to: info@ctrl-space.net

All questions should be written in English, and will be answered privately by email and/or publicly in the FAQ section of the website.

It is highly recommendable to regularly consult this section of the website. It may provide additional information, updated information or clarification to the present Competition Brief.