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1. OVERVIEW

This international one-stage architecture competition invites all architecture students and young architects (≤ 40 years old) to develop and submit compelling ideas for the design of a contemporary **Art Center** located within the **Fortress of Cresmina in Cascais, Portugal**.

The **Fortress of Cresmina** is a significant landmark on a prominent landscape, a place of cultural heritage and historical significance with characteristics that must be fully preserved.

When generating a vision for an intervention located within such a remarkable place, it is essential that each proposal emphasizes, respects and celebrates the site and existing ruins within this spectacular landscape, providing visitors a unique experience.

2. COMPETITION

The **Art Center** aims to create a cultural destination and focus on the protection of the cultural heritage. The Art Center will provide a space to display Contemporary Art and gather the community together for performances, lectures and social events.

The Art Center will host cultural and public events while providing a quiet space for invited visiting artists to become involved with the community and engage in a public realm by producing and giving presentations, workshops and exhibiting their work.

| Site Description

Climate: Summer is warm and dry, sometimes with temperatures above 30°C, in Winter the temperature can drop below 5°C. The annual average temperature is 15,8°C. August is the hottest month in Cascais with an average temperature of 23°C and the coldest is January at 12°C.

Latitude: 38° 43' 22"N

Longitude: 9° 28' 43"W

Time zone: Portugal, Western European Time Zone

Altitude: 17 m above sea level

Climate: Mediterranean climate, warm and dry in the summer, cold and rain in the winter

Rainfall: Varies between 60 and 80 mm. The wettest month is November with an average of 113.9 mm of rain falling while the driest month is July with 4 mm.

Humidity: Varies between 75% and 80% in the winter with an accentuated drop in the summer.

Winds: North and NW wind directions are predominant.

| Site History

The **Fortress of Cresmina** is located at the southern end of the Cresmina beach, in Cascais, Portugal.

Located in the Natural Park of Sintra-Cascais and surrounded by cliffs, the Cresmina beach has a unique landscape. Of outstanding natural beauty, this beach is characterized by a large areal extension, with strong waves and winds leading to the formation of the Dune system “Guincho-Cresmina”.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, in order to strengthen the defense of the Tagus bar, nine fortifications and batteries protected the approach to Lisbon, the Tagus bar and the Lisbon harbor. Its main objective was the quartering of small garrisons that hindered the landing of enemy forces, while alarming the reinforced critical points in the defense of Lisbon.

The Fortress of Cresmina is an example of military architecture, isolated, on a rocky point of a cliff, on the southern edge of the Cresmina beach. It was one of the fortresses for strengthening the coastline of defense, each located in the most strategic areas.

From 1795 the Fortress of Cresmina began to lose its military significance and was disabled in the nineteenth century when the artillery was removed and the fortress was abandoned.

The Fortress of Cresmina has a polygonal plan with six sides of different dimensions. The quarter and powder storehouse were located at the rear. Access was made through a single door and there are still traces of two small rectangular spaces and the pavement slabs are still visible. Currently vacant, the Fortress of Cresmina is in advanced state of ruin.

| Program

ART CENTER

1. Reception Area

Lobby	60 m2
Restrooms	20 m2
Total	80 m2

2. Cultural Events

Lecture / Performance Hall	90 m2
Dressing area w/ private restrooms	20 m2
Gallery	120 m2
Workshops	80 m2
Storage	25 m2
Cafe	50 m2
Total	385 m2

3. Administration

Administration office	15 m2
Private restrooms	10 m2
Equipment / Mechanical room	10 m2
Total	35 m2

4. Artist Pavilion

Living and Studio	60 m2
Total	60 m2

5. Exterior requirements

Pedestrian path and sculpture garden

Total net area of the Art Center 560 m2

Total gross area of the Art Center 700 m2

Notes:

- Net area: Includes area to the interior surface of the wall
- Gross area: Includes area to the exterior surface of the wall

Detailed description of the program:

1. Reception Area

Lobby:

Reception space for guests and visitors.

Restrooms:

Service area for visitors and users of the public areas of the Art Center.

2. Cultural Events

Lecture / Performance hall:

The Lecture / Performance hall will accommodate 70 seats for seminars, lectures, public events, musical concerts, cinema and performances.

Dressing area w/ private restrooms:

Provide a dressing area with private restrooms off stage.

Gallery:

Area designated as a multi-purpose space with ongoing contemporary art displays, such as photography, drawings, painting, sculpture and videos. The gallery space must be oriented towards the outdoor space to enhance its relationship with the exterior.

Workshops:

Area for diverse educational activities related to the Contemporary Arts, including workshops and courses. Provide an open space able to create a variety of seating arrangement (25 seats).

Storage:

Provide storage that can be accessed from the 'Gallery space' and 'Workshop space'.

Cafe:

Provide an indoor / outdoor Cafe within the area of the 'Gallery' and the 'Lecture / Performance hall', with 16 indoor seats and 20 outdoor seats. The Cafe should allow easy access to the public restrooms and the main entrance.

3. Administration

Administration office:

Area designated for personnel in charge of the direction and administration of the Art Center. Provide one private office for 2 staff members.

Private restrooms:

Service area for personnel and staff.

Equipment / mechanical room

Provide an area dedicated for the mechanical and electrical equipment that services the Art Center and the Artist Pavilion / Studio.

4. Artist Pavilion / Studio

The Artist Pavilion aims to provide time and space for the creative work of artists, writers, composers, choreographers, researchers, filmmakers and other creative individuals:

- Provide a quiet space for an artist to live and work for a short period of time (1 / 3 months). Space should include a bed, wardrobe, kitchenette and a restroom.
- The Pavilion should be oriented towards an outdoor space to enhance its relationship with the exterior.
- The access to the Artist Pavilion / Studio should be independent of the Art Center, and the connection between the two should be articulated through outdoor space.

5. Exterior requirements

- Provide a pedestrian path and a sculpture garden outside the walls of the fortress. Areas to be determined by each participant's design proposal.

Notes:

The overall design of the Art Center must be sensitive to the surrounding context. Moving or removing existing walls to build any supporting structure will be avoided in all cases. Because this is an ideas competition, urban planning and building regulations will not be applied to the design proposal. Therefore there are no height limitations.

| 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.

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

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

| Evaluation Process

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 12, 2015
FAQ questions deadline	April 17, 2015
FAQ answers posted	April 24, 2015
Early Registration period	February 12 - May 12, 2015
Regular Registration period	May 13 - May 25, 2015
Registration Deadline	May 25, 2015
Submission Deadline	May 30, 2015
Jury Evaluation	June 05 - June 19, 2015
Announcement of Competition Results	June 30, 2015

Notes:

- FAQ (frequently asked questions) available on the **ArkxSite** website;
- All deadlines are established @ 23:59 hrs (Portugal, Western European Time Zone)

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 and young architects (≤ 40 years old). Each team may be composed of 1 up to 4 team members and may include multidisciplinary members (designers, engineers, artists, etc.) as long as a single architecture student or young architect is part of the team. All members of the team must be ≤ 40 years old on the date of the submission deadline. Jury members or those involved in any capacity with the preparation and organisation of this competition may not participate.

| Registration Process

All participants are required to register online and complete a payment prior to the deadline established by the competition schedule in order for their competition proposal to be reviewed and evaluated. The registration process can be completed in 2 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).

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.**

The team leader will then receive a **Registration Code** by email 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 12 - May 12, 2015	60€ + VAT*
Regular registration period	May 13 - May 25, 2015	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	90€ + 23% = 110,70€

Notes:

- The registration fee refers to a single competition submission.
- 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.

NIB: 0010 0000 51686920001 95

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.

| Refunds

Under no circumstances will the early or regular 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.

8. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

Format of digital panel:

- **(1) - A1 sized panel** (59,4 cm x 84,1 cm), **Landscape / Horizontal layout**
- **Registration Code must be located in the upper right-hand corner of the submitted 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: **AC00000.jpg**

Participants are required to submit the following text and drawings:

- **Text** describing the design concept.
- Graphic layout including **drawings and renderings** to be determined by each team; however, the **program areas** should be clearly identified on the panel.

| 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.

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 and young architects (≤ 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 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.

| 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 and will receive a digital certificate corresponding to their placement and participation in the competition.

| Disqualification

Competition submissions will be automatically disqualified if:

- any attempt of any form of communication is made with the jury members or any one from ArkxSite during the competition phase;
- any competition submission is received after the deadline as stated on the competition schedule;
- any competition submission panel includes any language other than English;
- any competition submission contains any mark, logo or other indication of the identity the author/s;
- any competition submission does not abide by the 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 vary, omit or make adjustments to this competition brief at any time during the competition phase. Any such changes will be made public on the website and an updated competition brief will be uploaded onto 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, only if and when it is justified by the originality and quality of the proposal's design;
- Participants shall have no claim 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 via email to our mailing list for the latest news and updates of all future competitions.

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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