

# POP-UP: Vitruvius Redux



## The Challenge

In her article "Pop-UP Populism," on the growing phenomenon of Pop-Up architecture, Kelly Chan writes:

*Vitruvius's virtues roughly translate to "utility," "durability," and "beauty." But for centuries now, this association of great architecture with fixed and timeless permanence, along with the entire Vitruvian triad, has been losing traction. Our environment has been built, altered, and rebuilt in overlapping waves. While some buildings stand the test of time, most seem to expire in relevance. Grand architectural and planning schemes are increasingly rare. In fact, we fast-forward to today, and it seems that we are collectively swinging towards a polar opposite of Vitruvian values. We are moving towards an architecture in which the permanent is becoming a lot less permanent.*

(<http://www.artinfo.com/news/story/802841/pop-up-populism-how-the-temporary-architecture-craze-is-changing-our-relationship-to-the-built-environment>)

A related movement articulated by New York's Projects for Public Spaces calls for a new set of Vitruvian principles: "Light, Quick and Cheap," as response to contemporary cities struggling to do more with less, to find creative, innovative and quick ways of addressing urban issues, and to respond to their communities in a meaningful fashion. Projects such as Brooklyn's DeKalb Market, Oakland's Popuhood, San Francisco's parking stall parks, and a multitude of gallery and market installations are manifesting and testing these new principles. Temporary in more than the temporal sense, these designs eschew disposability in favour of changeability: they are responsive to change in use and time.

Students are invited to engage in an exploration of POP-UP as an architectural and structural concept. To that end, we encourage students to conceptualize and design a POP-UP architectural installation that incorporates the goals of being:

- [truly] sustainable
- temporary
- socially relevant
- responsive to site

While they may range from utilitarian to exquisite in their execution, all responses must come to terms with one simple problem: the clear incorporation of POP-UP in a design that utilizes steel as the primary element for structural form.

## Competition Statement

The intention of this design competition is primarily to provide students of architecture in Canada with a unique opportunity: to enter into a design process that brings together, of necessity, concept and reality. It is important for students of architecture to grasp the fact that structural design lies not just in the realm of the engineer, but can be a means for architects of arriving at a meaningful realization of architectural ideas. It is when theory meets physical necessity that architecture can become really interesting.

To that end, this competition calls upon students to conceptualize, and realize in detail, a structure of simple program that explores POP UP! The exploration will, of course, include issues related to program and site, but the emphasis in this competition is upon the architectural exploration through form and material, on the essential relationship between architecture and structure.

The reality of this competition comes in two forms: through the requirement for buildable details, primarily utilizing structural steel; and through the collaboration with the steel fabrication industry on those details. This collaboration is an important component of this competition, as a secondary objective is to expose students to both the opportunities and restraints inherent in realizing conceptual design.

The conceptual component of this competition will come through the recommendation that this competition be run through either a studio, or a lecture based course, most probably within a structures course. Under the guidance of faculty sponsors, students will conduct the design process as an academic exercise, within the guidelines set out in this brief. As an academic project, the design process will adhere to the standards set forth by the students' school of architecture.

## Technical Requirements

The ultimate goal for a team's submission should combine good architectural design with sound structural considerations and material choices. The presentation of the design should provide easy access to all components of the project clearly and creatively.

Entries in this competition should predominantly use structural steel in the design. By specifying structural steel as both architectural and structural elements, the designers demonstrate an understanding of the building properties of the material, and the architectural possibilities. Entries that include specifications of steel sizes, shapes and/or product specifications will be given stronger consideration by the jury.

Teams should also consider the practical application of their design. The potential for buildability will be given strong consideration, as the potential exists to build the winning entry. While theoretical studio projects are strongly encouraged, submissions should reflect a clear vision of the project's place and purpose.

## Collaborative Process

Collaboration between designer(s) and fabricator is encouraged as a means of obtaining architectural excellence combined with practical potential. This collaboration reflects the reality of architectural practice, and will enhance the students' ability to realize conceptual design within the framework of real construction.

Students and faculty sponsors are encouraged to draw upon the experience and expertise of their local steel fabricators as part of the design process. For a list of local fabricators interested in participating with students, please contact Patricia Penney-Rouzes at the Steel Structures Education Foundation.

## Eligibility

This competition is open to all full-time students registered in an accredited program of architecture in Canada. Students may work individually or in teams. Entries that include students in Engineering are encouraged. Each entry must have at least one faculty sponsor from the architecture program.

## Submission Requirements

The full submission requirements are posted on the SSEF website ([www.ssef-ffca.ca/competitions](http://www.ssef-ffca.ca/competitions)). Submissions not conforming to these requirements will be disqualified.

Although copyright of design is maintained by the entrants, submission of design images as part of this competition releases the right of use of submitted images to SSEF. Entrants will be appropriately credited when their images are used.

## Awards

Award of Excellence:	student team	\$3,000
Award(s) of Merit:	faculty sponsor	\$1,500
	student team	\$2,000
	faculty sponsor	\$1,000
Up to two Awards of Merit will be awarded		

## Schedule

September 14, 2012  
May 31, 2013  
June 15, 2013  
September 20, 2013

October 2013  
November 2013

Competition announced  
Deadline for receipt of entries  
Adjudication and announcement of winners  
Award of Excellence presented at SSEF annual general meeting in Whistler, BC  
and exhibition of winning entries  
Publication of winning entries  
Touring exhibition of top ten entries



For further information please contact:

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