

Windscape

An Ideas Competition Envisioning Renewable Energy for Cape Cod

Jurors Comments

In December of 2005 the jurors of the Windscape Ideas Competition reviewed 65 entries from 15 states and 8 countries. Credentials of the participants ranged from one high school student, to a nearly equal amount of college students and professionals. The diversity of the registrants provided for many distinct presentations, and illustrated the encompassing nature of the subject matter.

While all of the projects raised good questions of opportunity, the jury chose to examine closely the proposals that looked at the problem on multiple levels. Technological, social, environmental and cultural considerations are all elements that architects have to incorporate when proposing new ideas.

The designers were looking at the issue to rethink the issue. The jurors realized that it was a very difficult competition from a designer's point of view because of the lack of object and multiple elements of context. They awarded integration and systems thinking. The competition was about a complex relationship of ideas.

The Jury selected 8 submissions to make up a traveling exhibit that will begin at the Architects Building in Boston in early February and will move on to the NESEA conference in the coming spring. A first prize of \$3,000 and a second prize of \$2,000 were in addition to one special citation.

First place winner:

Energy Design Lab of Boston. The design team includes: Paul Michael Pelken and Markus Hermann.

The concept was clever, well designed, and well presented. The proposal stood out as the most intelligent one while successfully "breaking the rules" of the program. Their concept challenged the notion of the wind turbines, came back with a reaction and offered a way to reduce the number of turbines; arguing that we are responsible for our solutions. The design addresses the issue of a wind farm in the larger context of energy use, being a part of larger

solutions, and society's responsibility to participate in that.

The proposal of floating and suspended rings, was considered by the jury to be a minor point in the design solution. It is the idea of a deeply integrated solution that carried this entry.

Second place winner:

a team of three led by Rafal Wamka of Berlin, Germany, Ton Matton of Germany with Albert Jansen from the Netherlands. There was so much imagination and joy in this proposal. The central idea was far different, allowing turbines to march across the water and continue onto the land. The concept contests, instead of hiding the wind farms why not pull them onto the land; totally accepting them as an existing landscape. They propose that we celebrate the wind farms, and even watch a drive-in movie amongst them.

It may be that wind turbines don't fit into existing landscapes, but instead they make new ones. The farms can have a relationship and connection to communication and culture.

The team drew on the rich history of Holland to illustrate that the subject has been pioneered and addressed successfully. The Netherlands landscape was never ruined by the old windmill landscapes. Also, Holland has a ministry for water and for energy and they update their plans every five years because water is so critical. Perhaps this concept is poking at us, and saying to our culture, "guys what is the big deal here". Overall, it was a very sophisticated response; it makes the commentary and offers a solution.

Special Citation:

Jay Critchley of Provincetown MA and John Paul Raymond of Leicester MA

The comment is a deliberate parody of how everything could go drastically wrong because of tourism and the protective attitude of these areas. The proposed Martucket Island is unbelievably awful... but this kind of stuff exists. The outspoken artist is screaming that Nantucket is all about rules and it cannot handle a wind farm. The board uses humor and a tongue in cheek interpretation to address important social and political issues.

You wouldn't expect to see this idea come into the architectural contest. The artist writes something that takes on serious issues, but the seriousness comes through due to writing style and humor. It sends a message: You think wind farm is going to be bad, try this. That is very funny. The entry wins a citation for accurate satire.

Jurors:

The selection of winning entries was made by a distinguished national jury of artists, architects, landscape architects, and environmental or renewable energy advocates including:

Robert Campbell FAIA, Architecture Critic, **The Boston Globe**
Winka Dubbeldam, Principal, Archi-tectonics, New York City
William G. Reed AIA, LEED, Integrative Design Collaborative
Michael Singer, Artist
Laura Solano, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates

Participants in the Traveling Exhibit include:

100% Juice by Karen Lewis, Lexington, KY and Jason Kentner, Columbus, Ohio
Wind Tripping by Wendy Mok, San Francisco, CA and Anyeley Hallova, Atlanta, GA
The Algae in my pocket by Michael Edler, University of Texas at Arlington
Untitled by Alayna Fraser, New Haven, CT
Wind Corridor: From Sea to Land for Sustainable Society by Yoko Kawai and Takaya Kurimoto, Hamden, CT