

# GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS

**DEC 2011**

Adopted from UNESCO / UIA Competition Guidelines.

## Introduction

These are the Architects Registration Board Competition Guidelines. They provide a system for clients to select the best viable design for their proposed project and aims to safeguard the interests of promoters and of architects alike.

The client's desire to see a wide range of sketch designs from several architects before commissioning one is understandable, but to ask an architect to submit a sketch design is to ask them to do the essential creative work for which they should be properly paid. If more than one or two architects are commissioned, payment to each would be expensive for the client. In an architectural completion held under these Guidelines however, Architects are allowed to compete against each other without charging a fee but rather receive compensation for the time put into preparation of competition material. The client gets the opportunity to

For Architects, an architectural competition provides the opportunity to prove their talent and ability and get important commissions they would otherwise have not accessed in any other way. It also ensures that each architect competes on like conditions and within the same limitations.

In addition, both the client and the architect are assured by these guidelines that the entries will be judged only by those who are qualified to interpret the competitors' presentations and to judge if the design selected meets with the promoter's requirements.

## Definitions.

For purposes of these guidelines, the following definitions apply:

*'Architect'* refers to a person fully registered and permitted to practice in Uganda or recognized as such by the Architects Registration Board.

*'Assessor'* refers to a member of a jury set up for purposes of adjudicating an architectural competition held under these guidelines.

*'Board'* refers to the Architects Registration Board of Uganda.

*'Competition'* refers to an architectural competition as described in Article 1 of these guidelines.

*'Competitor'* refers to a person or firm eligible, duly qualified and registered to participate in an architectural completion under these guidelines.

*'Promoter'* refers to the client or sponsor soliciting for design submissions.

## **GUIDELINES.**

### **ARTICLE 1: TYPES OF COMPETITIONS.**

An architectural competition can be defined as categorized below and shall have the various combinations of types possible to realize the promoter's objectives.

Definition By Purpose:

- 1. Project Competitions:** These lead directly to the erection of specific projects on defined sites. The sponsor's goal in holding such a competition is to:
  - a. *Select a design solution* for the project that is judged the best of the competition.
  - b. *Select an architect* who will be commissioned to develop the design and realize the project.
  
- 2. Ideas Competitions:** These are for projects that are not intended to be built. They are useful as:
  - a. Explorations of significant design issues, but limited insofar as they stop short of realization.
  - b. Stimulation of architectural interest in untried possibilities in such areas as memorial, symbolic architecture, city planning and urban design, etc.

Definition By eligibility:

- 3. Open Competitions:** These are addressed to the entire national or international architectural community. They may be entered by any registered architect, or students and/or other design professionals, in association with an architect.

They are appropriate under the following circumstances:

- a. The nature of the project suggests that all architects have an equal opportunity to be selected on the basis of design merit.
- b. The project requires the widest exploration of potential solutions made possible by an open competition.