

Dear Competitors,

The organizers and panel of judges of the 3rd National ANP Associação Nacional de Paisagismo Urban Landscape Architecture Design Competition 2011 plan to make a site visit to Penedo to become familiar with the location of the project and the site's potential. We recommend that all designers visit the site if they are able to do so. Recognizing that this is not possible for everyone, on its website, ANP has posted a video about the city and the project site as well as a site plan; other plans will be posted shortly which show the location of the plaza project area relative to the city's historical center as well as provide an architectural reference to four new buildings which will be built adjacent (See 1.a. below). Even though these buildings are outside the competition project area, the physical proximity of the structures will impact the project's landscape design. We have added some other information below:

1) Area to be addressed in landscape design:

The area of the design competition consists of two squares separated by a road; on the site plan posted on the ANP website, the area designated "**Area Verde**" (green area) is the design competition project site. The site is flat without grade elevation and there are no trees. The only variation in level is in the old historic center – around 15 meters higher. In one of the two squares of the project site there is a small pond. The most common mode of transportation by the residents is pedestrian. They also use bicycles, scooters and motorcycles. Automobiles are less common.

a) On the site plan there are two other areas outside of the competition site:

The first, the area where four new buildings will be built:

Lot 1 - INSS (National Social Security Institute) and PSF (Family Health Clinic)

Lot 2 - Mais Cultura (Cultural facility)

Lot 3 - Forum (Tribunal of Justice)

In the second, larger area, there is a large pond.

These two areas are not part of the competition project area and should not be included in the design; they are included in the site plan only to provide the design competition designers with a reference to the physically adjacent areas.

b) The road between the two squares as well as the roads immediately adjacent to the squares should be considered in the project design. However, the cost of paving the sidewalks and streets should not be included in the project construction budget.

2) On the theme and use of the Praça da Cultura:

a) The theme is open. It is a public square and the participants may suggest the inclusion or exclusion of urban facilities, thus determining the future use of the square. It is important to note that although

Penedo is a small town, it has a very strong cultural vein and retains its historic character which is quite unusual for a small town in Brazil. This should be taken into consideration by the designers as they decide which, if any, urban facilities should be incorporated. The participants are free to suggest the urban facilities they think will be more appropriate – taking care with the total budget for the square (R\$400.000,00 – US\$235.000,00). Existing urban facilities include a small historical museum (Casa do Penedo) and a theater. Importantly, the project's socio-cultural impact and sustainability are questions that must be considered by competitors. Thus, research on the life of the citizens of Penedo, their needs and desires, it is extremely important.

b) Any large-sized buildings, restrooms, and eating areas may be proposed in the project design, but these do not need to be detailed for this conceptual design stage and the cost of their construction should not be included in the budget for the proposed project;

c) The cost of cleaning the pond should not be included in the project construction budget.

3) Possible next steps after construction of the winning design:

The Praça da Cultura project may be LEED certified by the GBC (Green Building Council) of Brazil if it meets all LEED prerequisites. The checklist for LEED certification is available on the GBC website. Different credits may be achieved depending on the design strategy adopted by the project team. For the project to be certified at the basic level, it must meet a minimum of 40 out of a possible 110 points.

LEED certification is desirable. It would not only increase the project's international visibility, but it also offers many benefits including environmental, economic, and occupant oriented performance and health advantages as well as reduced operating costs with increased efficiency of water and electricity.