



*For Immediate Release:
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**MORE THAN 270 PARTICIPANTS REGISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL SIDEWALK
SHED DESIGN COMPETITION**

*Competitors from 28 Countries Are Submitting Designs for a Safer, More Appealing Sidewalk
Shed in New York City*

The New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) and the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIANY) today announced that 273 designers from around the world have registered for the urbanSHED International Design Competition. The competition seeks to develop a new standard of sidewalk shed design that improves the pedestrian experience while maintaining or exceeding the required safety standards in New York City. The registration period has ended, and proposals must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, October 2. Of the 273 competitors, 177 are professional designers, including architects and engineers, and 96 are students. Nearly 20% of the registrants live outside the United States, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

Sidewalk sheds are typically built over public space to protect pedestrians during construction activity, and there are currently more than 6,000 sidewalk sheds installed and in use today at New York City's buildings and construction sites, spanning more than 1,000,000 linear feet. The competition, which was launched on August 13, is being sponsored by DOB, AIANY, Alliance for Downtown New York, ABNY Foundation, Illuminating Engineering Society New York City Section (IESNYC) and New York Building Congress with additional support from the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT), the NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) and the Structural Engineers Association of New York (SEAoNY).

“This competition provides a unique opportunity to re-design the landscape of New York City. We have received an amazing response, and it shows that there’s a worldwide interest in obtaining that opportunity,” said Buildings Commissioner Robert LiMandri. “This great City has continued to grow and evolve to better serve its people, and this one-of-a-kind competition is another step in that direction. Sidewalk sheds are a part of life in a vertical city, but there’s room for improvement when it comes to their safety, strength and design. I wish good luck to all of the participants and may the best design win.”

“A greener, safer and more street-smart sidewalk shed can transform the urban landscape,” said Rick Bell, the executive director of the AIANY. “Design matters, whether for grand new buildings, or for the street-side scaffolding that protects passers-by. Challenging the design community during the current construction lull to think about the future fits into the AIA New York Chapter’s commitment to encouraging the creation of livable and sustainable communities, for both today and tomorrow.”

“We are grateful to DOB for taking the lead on a competition that promises to help improve the look and feel of construction sites citywide,” said Richard T. Anderson, President of the New York Building Congress. “In a city that is constantly evolving, through new buildings and renovations in all five boroughs, construction sheds represent the building industry’s front door. The Building Congress and its Foundation have advocated just such a program that can enhance the relationship between the industry and the community at large, while supporting active construction sites.”

“IESNYC is excited to see how lighting design will enhance each of the hundreds of submissions and looks forward to the global perspectives on lighting that will emerge from all the submissions for the urbanSHED competition,” said Kelly Seeger, President of IESNYC.

“The overwhelming response to urbanSHED is just the latest example of the enthusiasm we’ve seen from all corners of the globe to bring a fresh perspective to our streets,” said DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan. “While sidewalk sheds might seem like a sacrifice we have to make, the entrants clearly see them as an opportunity to reshape our public space and improve our streetscape in unexpected ways.”

“Negotiating sidewalks should not be an ominous adventure,” said City Planning Commissioner Amanda M. Burden. “The design competition for a new city sidewalk shed provides a unique opportunity to rethink how these ubiquitous structures can bring amenity and delight to the pedestrian. I am anxious to review the design submissions to discover what creative and inventive minds have brought to this challenge.”

The competition is taking place in two stages. During Stage I, the jury will select up to three designs based on criteria such as the design’s safety, sustainability and constructability. Designs also will be evaluated on their impact on the streetscape and pedestrian experience, use of both natural light and the required electrical lighting, and improvements to structural components. The finalists will be announced during AIANY’s annual Heritage Ball at Pier Sixty of Chelsea Piers on October 8. Following Stage I, all of the submitted designs will be featured on the competition’s Web site at www.urbanshed.org – including the finalists’ proposals.

The finalists, who will be awarded \$5,000 each, will participate in Stage II, where they will further develop their designs to meet or exceed current technical and structural requirements to assure safety and stability. The finalists' designs also must be cost-effective to produce, install, maintain, and reuse over time. During Stage II, the jury will select a winning design and announce their decision in December 2009. The winner, whose design will become an approved standard, will receive a \$10,000 cash prize. As part of the top award, the Alliance for Downtown New York will facilitate the construction of a full-scale prototype on a job site in Lower Manhattan as part of its RE:Construction art program.

The jury is comprised of City Planning Commissioner **Amanda M. Burden**, FAICP; **David M. Childs**, FAIA, of the Municipal Arts Society; **Craig Dykers**, AIA MNAL, of Snøhetta; Buildings Commissioner **Robert LiMandri**; **Jean Oei** of Morphosis; Department of Transportation Commissioner **Janette Sadik-Khan**; **Craig Michael Schwitter**, P.E., of Buro Happold North America; **Frank Sciame** of the New York Building Congress; and **Ada Tolla** of LOT-EK. Susanna Sirefman of Dovetail Design Strategists is the competition advisor overseeing the development and management of the competition.

The finalists will receive recommendations from a technical advisory group of leading design and construction industry stakeholders including: **Fatma Amer**, P.E., First Deputy Commissioner at DOB; **Rick Bell**, FAIA, Executive Director of the AIANY; **Ken Buettner** of the Hoisting and Scaffolding Trade Association; **John Delucia**, Director of Street Reconstruction at the NYC Department of Transportation; **Skye Duncan**, Urban Designer at the NYC Department of City Planning; **Carl Galioto**, FAIA, senior principal at HOK New York; **Andrew Hollweck**, Vice President of the New York Building Congress; **Laurie Kerr**, Senior Policy Advisor on Buildings and Energy at the NYC Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability; **Caleb McKenzie** of IESNYC; **Brigit Pinnell**, Executive Director of the Jamaica Center BID; and **David N. Rackmales**, P.E., of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Competitors must submit illustrations of their design concept as it would appear when installed at the DOB headquarters at 280 Broadway in Manhattan. The current sidewalk shed installed at 280 Broadway exemplifies many of the complexities that shed contractors must face when erecting these structures, including heavy pedestrian traffic, car passenger access, street parking, public doorways, loading docks, parking garage entries, bus shelters, coffee carts, storefront, retail and DOT signage. Further information on the competition, including details on eligibility, schedule, and judging criteria, is available at www.urbanshed.org.

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