



CENTER

EMAIL: OFFICE @ MAKCENTER.ORG
WWW.MAKCENTER.ORG

835 N. KINGS ROAD
WEST HOLLYWOOD
CALIFORNIA 90069

323 651 1510
FAX 651 2340

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press contacts:

Kimberli Meyer
(323) 651-1510
kmeyer@makcenter.org

Katie Klapper
(323) 874-9667
kklapper@earthlink.net

**"VERTICAL GARDEN" OFFERS INNOVATIVE IDEAS FOR
LANDMARK SCHINDLER HOUSE**

**MAK Center & SCI-Arc Present
Groundbreaking Competition & Exhibit**

(West Hollywood) As a four-story condominium rises at the south border of West Hollywood's Schindler House, SCI-Arc (Southern California Institute of Architecture) has partnered with the MAK Center for Art & Architecture to explore how new landscape dimensions might buffer the landmark property from its increasingly vertical neighbors. Known as the first Modernist residence to completely integrate the design of interiors and exteriors, the low-rise Schindler House is inseparable from its gardens. To address this condition and posit new ideas relating to landscape, public art, urban growth and architecture, the partners have invited fourteen cutting-edge, emerging design talents to participate in the Vertical Garden Competition. The results are on view in a free public exhibition in SCI-Arc's North Lobby through July 10, 2006.

The designers invited to participate in the Vertical Garden Competition include: A|UM Studio, Ed Keller and Carla Leitao; Juan Azulay + David F. Fletcher; Emergent/Thomas W. Wiscombe; Griffin Enright Architects; Heather Flood, HOLA; Jeffrey Inaba; Darin Johnstone Architecture; Elena Manferdini, Atelier Manferdini; Marcelo Spina, PATTERNS; Jason Payne + Ramiro Diaz-Granados; Florencia Pita, mod; Alexis Rochas, I/O; David Erdman, *servo*; and Taalman Koch Architecture and Kountzman/Coleman. Many of the competition teams also include SCI-Arc students.

The proposals were judged by a jury comprised of: Eric Owen Moss, Director of SCI-Arc and Eric Owen Moss Architects; Peter Noever, Artistic Director & CEO, MAK Vienna;

MAK

CENTER

EMAIL: OFFICE @ MAKCENTER.ORG
WWW.MAKCENTER.ORG

835 N. KINGS ROAD
WEST HOLLYWOOD
CALIFORNIA 90069

323 651 1510
FAX 651 2340

Chris Burden, Los Angeles-based artist; Michael Rotondi of Roto Architects; and Kimberli Meyer, Director of the MAK Center Los Angeles.

To encourage the most advanced thinking, the Vertical Garden RFP entertains a variety of possible forms, including the integration of high-technology; an event/exhibition space which could include a projection screen, billboard, stage or similar; a temporary, low-impact art installation; or a garden consisting of landscape only.

Competitors bring a variety of experience to the project. Beyond professional training as architects, landscape designers and urban designers, they offer expertise in new media, film and visual effects; exhibition design; interiors, furniture, fashion and product design; advertising, graphics, information and web design; and sculpture, music and multi-media art production. Many of the competitors work collaboratively and most engage a multi-disciplinary approach to their work. They are known to explore materiality, digital and dynamic technologies, and systems analysis.

Citing all the projects for their high level of professionalism, the judges selected four for special notice: *Bird Blur* by Taalman Koch Architecture and Kountzman/Coleman; *MAK t6 VACANT* by the Juan Azulay + David F. Fletcher team; *Fake Plastic Trees* by the Marcelo Spina team; and *Paradox Box* by the Griffin Enright team.

While many competition entries propose screening devices, two of the selected projects are strikingly innovative in their use of this tactic. *Fake Plastic Trees* offers a network of curved and splayed plastic PVC pipes designed to deliver water to hydroponic plantings, while simultaneously providing seating and climbing opportunities to users. Not merely a barrier, the project creates usable space, and its water-based origins and verticality contrast appealingly with the earth-boundedness of the Schindler House. *Bird Blur* proposes a living scrim of birds flying between two birdhouse towers (dubbed Bird Lick Sticks®). Entirely kinetic, this dynamic solution uses the most minimal of built interventions to effectively create a screen that isn't an object at all.

Another competition approach fends off neighboring apartments on all sides by manufacturing an assertive volume around the low-lying Schindler House. *Paradox Box* surrounds the Schindler House with a spiral of double helix ramps, with an auditorium excavated below ground and a roof garden (Sky Meadow) rising above area rooflines. Left intact, the house may be experienced from within or through a series of vistas opened along the rising ramps. *MAK t6 VACANT* incorporates entropy in a gothic scaffolding of light wires that supports what will in 30 years be a 45-foot forest of strangler fig trees. This morbid, imposing volume growing around the Schindler House is evocative of jungle-bound Mayan ruins and Angkor Wat, reminding us that nature ultimately dominates all human creations.

MAK

FOR ART + ARCHITECTURE, L . A .

CENTER

EMAIL: OFFICE @ MAKCENTER.ORG
WWW.MAKCENTER.ORG

835 N. KINGS ROAD
WEST HOLLYWOOD
CALIFORNIA 90069

323 651 1510
FAX 651 2340

The *Vertical Garden* exhibition is offered in tandem with a trio of other exhibitions, including the *AIA/LA Design Awards*; *Coop Himmelb(l)au: SKY-Arc*; and *Making the Eternal New: Recent Works of Moule & Polyzoides*.

SCI-Arc is located at 960 West Third Street in Los Angeles. Public hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For further information on SCI-Arc programs, the public may visit www.sciarc.edu or call (213) 613-2200. For further information on the MAK Center for Art & Architecture, the public may visit www.makcenter.org or call (323) 651-1510.

#

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST