AIA Houston ARCH ARCHITECTURE CENTER HOUSTON

Michael G. Meyers Competition
2020 Design Competition

MENIL PARK COMMUNITY LIVING

As cities become ever more complex and the need for housing increases, we are challenged with providing ample access to the other facets of our daily life. It can be difficult to provide community spaces in urban neighborhoods. Therefore, as we continue to enter this new era of digital connection, it is important to evolve the ways in which we connect directly with our community. Many residents of cities forgo spacious yards and gardens for smaller units that offer a greater range of nearby community spaces. The increase in density and need for public amenities lends itself to a wide range of architectural explorations.

This year, the design solution for the MGMC is to design a Mixed-Use Living Community in Houston, Tx. The building will have two main components: Housing Units and Community Spaces. Housing Units are typically private and for one family, while community spaces serve as amenities for the residents and public alike. Think about how these two elements balance each other out and blend into the fabric of the neighborhood. There is also an exterior site requirement to provide green space for the community.

This new Mixed-Use Living Community will be located in the heart of Houston's Montrose Neighborhood, adjacent to the Menil campus. It will be up to you to decide which path to take with your design strategies. Think about how your housing component interacts with your community programs and vice versa. Be sure to consider the context and surrounding landmarks in the area. Don't forget this is foremost an ideas competition!

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

The design for The Menil Park Community Living

1. Include a comprehensive description of your building explaining the concepts behind your interior and exterior design. See essay requirements. Give your design a name.

2. Develop a distinctive solution that considers the established urban and natural surroundings. Your design solution should integrate and accomplish at least two (2) sustainable strategies (see the last page of this document for suggested topics*). Your solution should be pedestrian friendly. *Sustainable strategies are not limited to the suggested topics on the last page of this document

3. Develop interior and exterior spaces that show an understanding of how these spaces are created within the required program elements. Consider the use and relationships of the programmed elements, as well as the relationship between the indoor and outdoor spaces, and the overall flow through the space.

4. You are encouraged to explore the use of interesting materials, structural components, and environmental strategies. Your drawings should clearly illustrate these components. Consider the context of surrounding museum, neighborhood, and community spaces

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

SITE ELEMENTS
Consider how you will approach the site as a pedestrian or in a vehicle. How does one enter the building? What views of your building do you want to emphasize? What does the landscaping look like? What other elements accent your design and contribute to the experience of visiting the space? What special features will enhance the visitor experience? Does your design blend into the context of the surroundings or stand out? How will this space relate to the surrounding urban area? Will it be isolated from the street or use the city as a backdrop?

You will have 3 sites to choose from. Site A which is 70,000sqft, Site B which is 50,000 sqft, and Site C which is 30,000 sqft. Maintain a 10 ft set back on all sides of your building. Each site presents different advantages and challenges to the project. The larger the site, the more room for Housing Units there are, correlate the number of units to the size of your site. (aka, Site C may have 8 units, but site B & A should have more). Your project must include open green space which should occupy at least 30% of your site. However, the outdoor public space should still be considered in your design.

Exterior Space Incorporate/ Develop 2 Ideas (min)

- Façade Development
- Urban Green Space
- Natural Daylighting
- Energy Efficiency
- Plaza / Garden Space
- Passive Cooling / Climate
- Green Roof
- Solar Orientation
- Culture & Context
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Other innovative sustainable concepts / practices

BUILDING ELEMENTS
15,000 – 55,000 SQFT APPROX.

When designing your building, there are some critical issues to keep in mind. How to residents interact with community spaces? What is the public and private dynamic of the housing program? What is it like to live in an urban environment? What makes your building stand out from or integrate with the

neighborhood? What is the relationship between your chosen program elements? How does your building cater to the surrounding neighborhood and the City of Houston as a whole? Remember to think about sustainable strategies.

Keep in mind that you may include additional programmatic elements if it is necessary for the function of your building or eliminate a programmatic element if it is unnecessary for the function.

Main Anchor:

Multi-Family Housing, (units can be modular or inconsistent)	~ 8,000 – 25,000 sqft
Including but not limited to:	
Total Units: 8 – 25	
Unit Size: 750 sqft. – 1,500 sqrft.	
Building Circulation:	~25% of total sqft

Community Spaces:

Choose 3 of the following

1. Community Garden	~ 1,000 – 3,000 sqft
2. Café	~ 2,000 – 4,000 sqft
3. Outdoor Market	~ 3,000 – 5,000 sqft
4. Fitness Center	~ 4,000 – 8,000 sqft
5. Retail Shop	~ 5,000 – 10,000 sqft
6. Co-Working Office	~ 8,000 – 15,000 sqft

Public Spaces

Including but not limited to:

Exterior Green Space / Public Park / Dog Park	~ 30% of Total Site Sqft
Access to Public Transportation, Bike Rack, EV Charging Stations	

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

As our daily circumstances are changing constantly, we understand the need to adjust the requirements for the Michael G. Meyers Design Competition to allow as many students as possible to participate under the different situations they might be facing.

The design competition is first and foremost an *ideas* competition.

- The design narrative will play an important part of telling the story of the students' design.
- Technology is not a requirement for the production of the students' work, but if you have access you are more than welcome to use it. Students will still need to submit the required drawings (site plan, floor plan, elevations, sections, perspective, and any other hand sketches to aide in the design process) but will not be required to submit them to the scale as indicated on the program. Drawings should be to *a* scale when drawn to appropriately represent and communicate the students' idea. Hand drawings on an 8.5x11 will suffice if that is what is accessible to the student. Judging does not depend on the amount of technology, software, or equipment used. Get creative with the resources available to you!
- Design narrative and drawings are to be submitted as scans or images in JPG or PDF format – combined into PowerPoint Presentation of no more than 20 slides

1 - Narrative

Your descriptive narrative should include some detail to explain your design. Please limit your narrative to one 8 ½ x 11 sheet @ 12 point Arial font, approx. 500 words.

Required descriptions in your essay:

- Describe your main concept and how this concept has influenced your design.
- Describe the community support. Who are they? What do they experience when engaging with the development? How does your development cater to the needs of the community?
- Describe the community/patrons. Who are they? What do they experience arriving to the development and entering the building?
- Describe how the surrounding context influences the design of your building.
- Describe the patron's experience in your building. What makes your building unique? What will make your users excited to spend time in your building?

- Describe your sustainable strategies and how your proposed multi-use development will benefit the community.

2 - Drawings

Each of the following requirements should be presented on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper or digital file. **Drawings should be to *a* scale when drawn to appropriately represent and communicate your idea.** – ***Drawings should be photographed or scanned, labeled and included in a PowerPoint Presentation.*** Judging does not depend on the amount of technology, software, or equipment used. Get creative with the resources available to you!

- **Site plan**, showing outdoor features and site improvements and the roof of the shelter (and other buildings if applicable).
- **Floor plan** of the building showing walls, doors, windows, furniture, countertops, plumbing fixtures, room names, and other descriptive information that defines the space.
- **Unit floor plan** of 1 (one) single Unit in your housing complex. Showing what a typical unit looks like. It should show walls, doors, windows, furniture, counter tops, fixtures, names, and other information
- **Exterior building elevation(s)** showing façade, roof heights, building materials, windows, and other descriptive information.
- **<u>Building section</u>**:

1. **Building section** of the building showing spaces and how they are connected or divided walls and exterior wall material **OR**
2. **Enlarged section** of a particular space of interest (I.E.: the entry from interior to exterior). Be sure to show materials.

- At least one accurate **perspective** drawings at any scale of an interior or exterior view of your project.
- Any **hand sketches** that document your design process.

3 – Model*

- **Model** of the project *(building only, no site model)* is required for team projects
- Models are not to exceed a 36” x 24” base.

- Models are not required for individual entries but are encouraged so get creative. Models are to be submitted through pictures digitally with the rest of the project documentation.

Deadline for Submissions:

Details for submitting projects will be shared with students and teachers in May 2021. Project due date is Friday, April 30, 6pm.

Awards:

Design is a creative process, and this is an ideas competition. Engineering calculations are not required for mechanical, electrical, or structural systems. All participants will receive a certificate of recognition from the American Institute of Architects. There will be a balanced evaluation by jurors from architectural, academic, and other relevant fields of expertise. Awards include college scholarships. While the quality of presentation is important, any contestant of any ability may receive an award based on the strength of a concept or inventiveness of an idea.

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Sustainable design strategies

Site

Preserve green space or return developed land to more natural state
Be aware of drainage, minimize potential erosion
Be smart about transportation
Be aware of extent of impermeable surfaces, eg; roads and paving
Be aware of the effect of your site on adjacent properties

Water

Be smart about how much, and how you use and or reuse water.
Think about ways to conserve water.
(Use native and adaptive plants, and minimize use of potable water.
Adopt water technologies that reduce amount of water used.

Energy

Be smart about how much, and what type of energy is used.
Think about ways to conserve energy.

Materials

Consider the impact of products used in the construction of the Building;
this would include materials with recycled content, salvaged, rapidly renewable and local materials.

Indoor Environment

We spend the majority of our time indoors and we should optimize the quality of that environment.
Think about ways to bring lots of daylight into the building for visitors and workers
Think about the types of materials you use inside the building and how they could affect the health of the occupants