

# BEYOND THE WALL

## A MANIFESTO FOR THE UPCOMING WORLD

*If there is a hard, high wall and an egg that breaks against it, no matter how right the wall or how wrong the egg, I will stand on the side of the egg. Why? Because each of us is an egg, a unique soul enclosed in a fragile egg. Each of us is confronting a high wall. The high wall is the system which forces us to do the things we would not ordinarily see fit to do as individuals . . . We are all human beings, individuals, fragile eggs. We have no hope against the wall: it's too high, too dark, too cold. To fight the wall, we must join our souls together for warmth, strength. We must not let the system control us -- create who we are. It is we who created the system.*

*Haruki Murakami, Jerusalem Prize acceptance speech*

The Latin noun "murus" comes from the Sanskrit root "minor" or "fix a pole on the ground". The pole is intended as a primary element of the construction technique used to build fences even before the filling techniques would transform this divisive factor in what we now refer to as the architectural form. The wall can be understood both as the foundation of the architectural construction system, both as a symbol of separation, both in its plural meaning "the wall", as a historic urban boundary. Over the centuries the term "wall" has been enriched with many meanings, some of those related to technical aspects, some other ones geo-political, others to those metaphorical. Some walls are considered excellent examples of engineering and aesthetic sensibility, like the Great Wall of China and Hadrian's Wall. Other walls are perceived as historical memories of traumatic events such as the Berlin Wall or examples of political tensions between states as the US-Mexico Border. The wall may be a minimum object, such as the structural element of a house or a land border, as the barrier between Turkey and Syria. Each wall has a story, a reason to be a memory. Too often we tend to judge the presence of a wall without first questioning about the fundamental reasons that make it up, without looking at the complexity that generated it.

Architects and urban planners have been for centuries the designers of walls and it is precisely this element that we would like to analyze within the competition. Each participant is required to question the concept of "wall" in order to propose a project that helps how to interpret the present and generate new visions for the future. The wall must not be viewed purely as an architectural element but used to generate a spatial and significant project also in the urban and landscape scale. Each participant is free to decide whether the wall is positive or negative element, everted or introverted, present or absent, single or multiple, constructive or ephemeral, reduced or expanded, functional or ludic. The 1933 Le Corbusier "Plan Obus" for Algiers as well as the 1969 Superstudio "Continuum Monument" inspire more relevant and consistent visions in this field. Starting from a very pragmatic analysis of the wall, all participants must submit through a clear and eloquent visual process their design work on the wall (or deconstruction of the wall). They must make explicit costs, techniques as well as the formal results. Through their projects they will have the possibility to express agreement or disagreement with the great theoretical question of this element that, finally, has to become architecture, urban plan or landscape. A wall, is not only a wall.

## BRIEF

Candidates are requested to select an existing border, wall, boundaries located within a compact urban tissue of any city all over the world, or in any possible terrestrial or extra-terrestrial landscape and following the most appropriate formula according to the main characteristics of the context, they are asked to design a solution (create a wall, destroy it, implement, cut...), able to re-activate the intensity of use of that space. Thus, candidates should demonstrate the capacity to conceive the architectural project as a process concurring to the definition of the urban pattern, by interpreting its physical, cultural, economical and social features. At the same time they should be able to control the complexity of the architectural process, combining morphology, typology, technology and aesthetics at the different scales. A special focus is required towards the Manifesto: a short declaration of intents and principles related with the delivered project.

## AUDIENCE

The competition addresses people from urban, architectural, economics, human science, social and communication disciplines interested in developing a personal approach and improving their architectural sensitivity according to urban transformation needs.

## JURY

Projects will be selected and evaluated by the Faculty of the Master in Urban Vision & Architectural Design of Domus Academy.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Short written Manifesto of the project in A4 format (max 1 page) in pdf digital file.
- Boards of project in A3 format (max 4 boards) 300 dpi resolution file in PDF digital file.
- Portfolio of projects
- Detailed curriculum vitae
- Motivation statement
- Copy of Degree Certificate
- Academic Transcripts
- Domus Academy Application Form\*

The candidates are asked to send their materials in one sole file in .PDF format. Any further attached material will be considered a plus and will be evaluated by the jury.

\* **Application fee is waived for competition participants.**

## PRIZES

- One scholarship covering 60% of the total tuition fee of the Master Program
- One scholarship covering 50% of the total tuition fee of the Master Program
- One scholarship covering 40% of the total tuition fee of the Master Program
- Two special mentions covering 20% of the total tuition fee of the Master Program

Prizes will be calculated on the standard tuition fee amounting to €28.600 (for non-EU passport holders - diploma fee is not included) and €16.990 (for EU passport holders - diploma fee is not included).

## SCHEDULE

The works must be delivered to Domus Academy by and no later than **April 17<sup>th</sup> 2017**.

Candidates will be informed about the results of the competition by e-mail on **May 11<sup>th</sup> 2017**.

## ENTRY DELIVERY

Projects in digital format must be sent to the following address:

**www.competition.domusacademy.com**

or sent by e-mail to:

**competitions@domusacademy.it**

Paper works must be sent to:

Domus Academy

Beyond the Wall Competition

Master Program in Urban Vision & Architecture Design

Via Carlo Darwin, 20

20143 Milan - Italy

When you submit your project, you will receive a confirmation within 48 hours that your submission was received. If you do not receive a confirmation, let us know at:

**competitions@domusacademy.it**

## MASTER PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Cities are experimental laboratories where humans formulate and refine responses to our basic needs: for shelter, relationships, movement, commerce. In the Master in Urban Vision & Architectural Design program, you will learn strategies for transforming a city, from private developments to public space. You will envision future urban and architectural scenarios, according to complex dynamics and evolving requirements.

## ELIGIBILITY

Candidates holding a first-level academic diploma or BA degree, or about to graduate within the academic year 2016/17 and with a knowledge of the English language (IELTS 5.0 academic or equivalent certificate).

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Every moral or authorship right as to the project remains property of the author.
- The projects sent to Domus Academy will not be returned.
- All the material must be the result of an unpublished work developed by the candidate, not to be used in other previous occasions.
- Domus Academy is entitled not to award the scholarship if the projects are deemed not to meet the suitable standards defined by the jury. The jury will judge at its own discretion and its decision is final.
- The scholarship presented in this public announcement cannot be combined with other economic reductions offered by Domus Academy.
- The scholarship will be deducted from the balance of the tuition fee.
- The assigned scholarship which will not be confirmed could be transferred to the next candidate in the ranking list.
- Participants that will be selected accept that part of their work will be published on Websites and/or Social Media channels of the institutions involved.

**INFORMATION**

**competitions@domusacademy.it**

