

THE SPEAKERS' CORNER DESIGN COMPETITION **STONEYDOWN PARK WALTHAMSTOW**

INTRODUCTION

Waltham Forest Council has secured funding to construct a permanent neighbourhood Speakers' Corner in Stoneydown Park in Walthamstow. Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design (CSM) students have been invited to submit innovative yet practical scheme designs. The winning design will be selected by the Stoneydown Speakers' Corner Committee and developed by the Council for construction in early summer.

CLIENT

The project is being run by MA Creative Practice for Narrative Environments (MACPfNE) in collaboration with the Speakers' Corner Trust and Waltham Forest Council. The local community, and in particular Stoneydown Park Speakers' Corner founding committee, and students and staff from local schools and colleges, have been involved in defining the brief and will continue to play a major role throughout the project.

BACKGROUND

Over the last year MACPfNE students and staff, in collaboration with Speakers' Corner Trust have been working with local schools in Walthamstow to explore setting up a Speakers' Corner in Stoneydown Park. School children explored the concept of Speakers' Corner and how they would like to express their views. They then explored how these ideas can inform the design and location of a Speakers' Corner in the Park. Following on from the success of this work, and coverage on BBC London, the Local Council have put forward funds to realise the project.

THE SITE

Stoneydown Park is a small local neighbourhood park. It is fronted by Pretoria Avenue, a busy road with local shops, the residential Longfield Road and by two primary schools, Stoneydown Primary School and St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School.



REQUIREMENTS

1. Competition entries should :
 - engage with the larger question of the relationship between public space and the public sphere in the 21st Century.
 - show an understanding of the aims of Speakers' Corner Trust and the purpose of the Speakers' Corner.
 - have a basic grasp of the cultural history and character of the area.
2. Competitors must attend the open consultation day in order to understand:
 - the character and interests of the local communities.
 - how and when the local community and various sectors within it currently use the park .
 - who will be the main users of Speakers' Corner and how they would like to use it.
 - the community's /council preferences for locating Speakers' Corner.
3. Design proposals should include ideas of how the local school children could be involved in the development of the design and/or its construction.
4. Design proposals should consider how Speakers' Corner can enhance the appearance and amenity of the park.
5. Speakers' Corner should be designed to be accessible to all.
6. Materials and construction methods should be sustainable.

BUDGET

The council have allocated £2000 for the construction of Speakers' Corner. An additional £ 5,000 are available for the construction of steps and a ramp at the marked location (see image below). Proposals should consider how the two projects could potentially be combined and how they might be used to augment the Speakers' Corner perhaps, for example, as seating areas.



SUBMISSION

- One A1 panel submitted as a PDF file. The PDF is intended to be printed. It must include a written rationale of 300 words, plans, elevations, and sections and a clear envisioning of Speakers' Corner in use.
- Model of the design proposal on site

SELECTION / JUDGING PANEL

Submitted designs will be displayed in a local community centre and perhaps by other means. Local residents will vote for their favourite design and their preference will influence the Speakers' Corner Committee when it meets to decide which design is to be further developed and realised by Waltham Forest Council.

TIMETABLE

- Competition Launch : Thursday 4th February 2010 (901 Red Lion Square / 1:30pm)
- Any group wishing to participate must register interest by e-mail to s.shechter@chelsea.arts.ac.uk by Thursday 11th February
- Open Day Planning : Thursday 18th February 2010 (901 Red Lion Square / 10:00am - 13:00 pm)
- Consultation Open Day: Tuesday 2nd March 2010 (Stoneydown Park / 10:00am - 19:00 pm)
- Design review: Thursday 16 th March 2010 (901 Red Lion Square / 16:00am - 18:00 pm)
- Submission Deadline : Thursday 22nd April 2010 (901 Red Lion Square / 10:00am)

CONTACTS

For any queries please contact - Shibboleth Shechter - s.shechter@chelsea.arts.ac.uk
Further background on the project is available from <http://www.speakerscornertrust.org/>

Upon entering the competition students will be required to sign an IP agreement assigning the IP to the college should their work be selected to be installed.