

BORDERS: KOREAN DMZ UNDERGROUND BATHHOUSE – RESULTS SUMMARY

PRESS STATEMENT

Architectural research initiative **arch out loud** has released the winners of its' DMZ Underground Bathhouse international open-ideas competition.

arch out loud challenged designers to explore the possibility of creating an underground bath house within the Korean Demilitarized Zone which responded to the surrounding geopolitical conditions. New forms of non-military architecture could occupy the border zone and begin to ease the existing tension. The role tourism can play in opening relations across a border begs the question: How does architecture position itself in the middle of this condition of tension?

With nearly 300 proposals and over 900 participants from all over the world, the designers of the DMZ Underground Bathhouse competition confronted the very sensitive zone with a variety of poetic and sublime approaches. Program and narrative were common components in proposals for releasing tension through the bathhouse.

The competition jury consisted of Stan Allen, Moon Hoon, Jing Liu, Lola Sheppard, Minsuk Cho, Kristy Balliet, Anna Neimark, Seunghyun Kang, Nicholas Bonner, Yehre Suh, and Matias Del Campo.

The winners of this competition will be featured in the second issue of *the out loud journal*, "BORDERS + ARCHITECTURE". The *out loud journal* features results and analysis of arch out loud's competitions along with an interdisciplinary collection of essays surrounding the journal topics.

Full results for the DMZ Underground Bathhouse competition can be viewed at:
www.archoutloud.com/dmz-results

JUROR COMMENTS

Comments are about various projects and/or the overall competition

"With such a charged setup, the competition poses difficult questions and issues for architecture. The more successful submissions were ones that tried to address the conflict through spatial programs, scenarios, and narratives."

" [The project] points to the illegibility and the illegitimacy that is experienced by one side toward the other."

"The projects are also gestural in creating intense metaphorical experiences in an overall peaceful grandeur for a proposed unity."

“The [project] offers opportunities for collective and individual experiences that intertwines in tactical ways.”

“The powerful tension between large scale object and human body can be read as a sublime commentary about the DMZ zone.”

“While the new entry on the ground recreates the political segment as part of the history, the underground space introduces a new field that is multi-directional or non-directional, where people can reorient, communicate, and unify.”

“words gallop thousands of miles without legs” “Rumors, gossips, fragments amplified into space and spatial experience. Fear, terror, joy anger all stems from it. A great commentary of the current situation...(I am hearing it)”

“ [The project] tells a story of relationship of human conditions with different ideologies in a theatrical and performative manner, where space itself exists as both functioning utilitarian bath and theater.”

“ [This project] gives a feeling of movement isolation, inability to escape, confined, controlled, and sacred. Simplistic, emotional and powerful contrasts with the craziness of what this man-made division represents.”

“The division of Korea, and the location, remains extremely emotional and use of this space releases that tension.”

WINNING PROPOSALS

1st Place: Crossing Parallel(s)

Participants: Jinhyun Jun, Minkyung Song, Kangil Ji

Office: STUDIO M.R.D.O. & Studio LaM

Location: New York, New York, United States

Runner-up: Cross

Participants: Xiaoyu Wang, Yutian Wang

Location: Brooklyn, New York, United States

Runner-up: Primitive Field

Participants: Yeonmoon Kim, Choonghyo Lee

School: Harvard University Graduate School of Design

Location: Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States

Runner-up: This Lofty Sky

Participants: Vuk Filipic, Anna Murynka

Location: Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Runner-up: Water Whirl

Participants: Philip Vandermey, Jessie Andjelic, David Vera

Office: SPECTACLE: Bureau for Architecture and Urbanism

Location: Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Runner-up: Hypotenuse Thermae

Participants: Zhe Peng

School: Tsinghua University

Location: Beijing, China

CONTACT

Please contact info@archoutloud.com with any questions or comments.

*The next **arch out loud** international open ideas competition is located in Tenancingo Municipality, Mexico and is exploring how architecture can play a role in addressing the global epidemic of human trafficking: www.archoutloud.com/trafficking*