



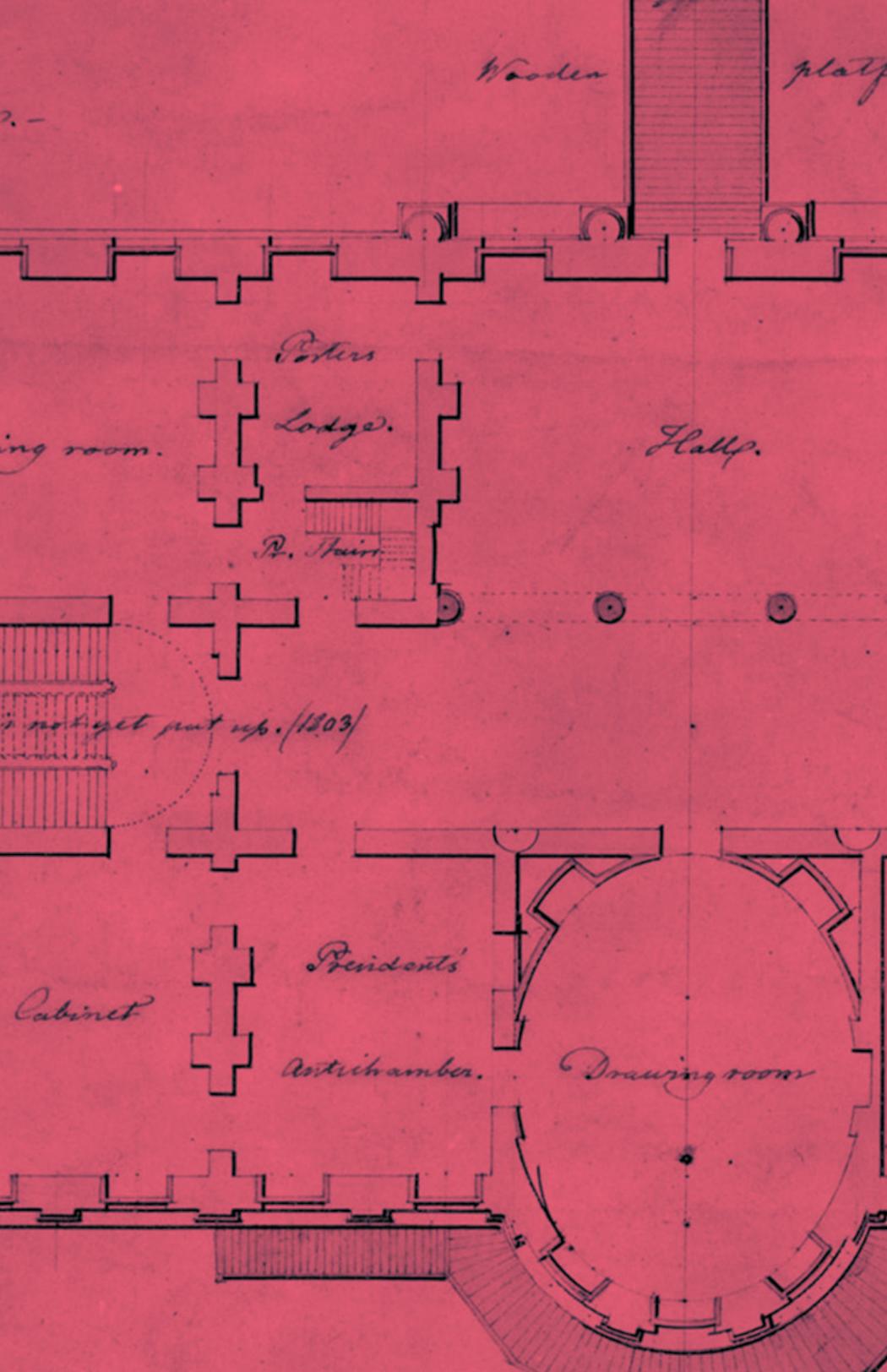
DESIGN A NEW

# WHITE HOUSE

AN ARCHITECTURE  
COMPETITION

by **Arch Out Loud**

Disclaimer: This is a conceptual competition and will not result in any realization of an actual building. No existing conditions will be altered due to this competition. The organizers are not associated with the United States Government in any way.



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# INTRO

## COMPETITION 1792

On a hot day in the middle of July, 1792, an important political figure met with commissioners to review submissions to the first-ever architecture competition held in their young nation. The figure was George Washington, the first president of the United States of America, and he was reviewing proposals for an “Executive Mansion,” a key feature in Pierre L’Enfant’s master plan for the capitol city. Quickly, and without hesitation, Washington selected a design put forth by an Irish immigrant, James Hoban, who had come to the newly founded United States after the Revolutionary War and established himself as an architect in Charleston. Washington was the sole juror for this competition and quickly selected Hoban’s design from only six proposals. Unbeknownst to most, Washington was already fond of Hoban’s work as the two had met previously while Washington was on a tour of the southern states.

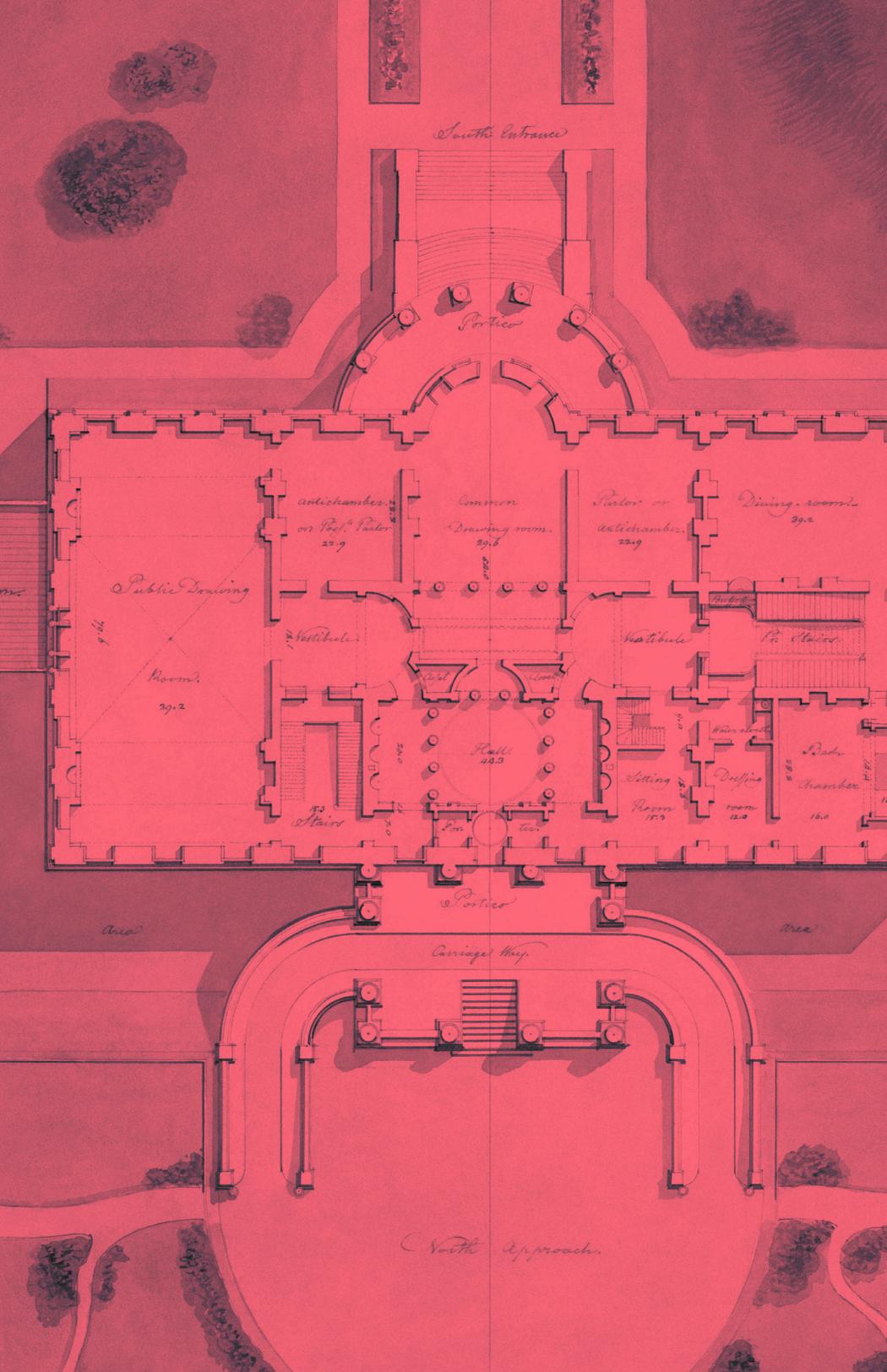
## CONSTRUCTION

After the competition, Hoban’s design progressed forward into the construction of the mansion. Much of the labor to build the White House was completed by slaves. The enslaved laborers were hired from their owners who collected compensation from project commissioners. Hoban himself owned slaves who were hired for carpentry skills in constructing the mansion. Hoban’s design was eventually realized when construction was completed on November 1, 1800 and President John Adams was the first to move in. George Washington never lived in the White House.

*Image:* Drawing of north elevation by James Hoban. Wikimedia.

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## CHANGES

Since the day President Adams moved in, the mansion has undergone many renovations, updates, and rebuilds. During the War of 1812, the house was almost completely burned to the ground by British soldiers. All but the exterior stone walls had to be rebuilt to the same condition it was before. In 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt started an extensive renovation that included the addition of a temporary executive office wing which would eventually become what is known today as the West Wing containing the Oval Office. One of the most significant renovations was completed under President Harry Truman in 1948 when he left only the exterior walls in place and completely gutted the interior in order to build a new steel structure on a concrete foundation. In 1961 Jacqueline Kennedy did a complete restoration of the house and redecorated with art and artifacts from museums and other prominent sources. This captivated the American public and was broadcast as a tour by Jacqueline herself in 1962. Every president has updated and made at least small interior renovations when they occupy the residence. Although this American icon has been added onto, and extensively renovated, it still remains true to the exterior image of the original competition design proposed by Hoban nearly 230 years later.

## COMPETITION 2021

Today this neoclassical residence sits at the center of the nation's identity. It has been the home of the president and their family members, but at the same time, a house that is owned by the American people and is a symbol of American politics.

However, what if a competition was held today for the home of the president of the United States? **What if the 18-acre site that serves as the grounds for today's White House were vacant? What if designers could establish a new identity for one of the most important buildings in the United States?**

*Image:* Plan of the White House by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, 1807. Library of Congress.

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# CHALLENGE

Back in 1792, one person was the judge of only six proposals to determine the image of what is arguably now the United State's most prominent house and a symbol of democracy.

**This competition is calling on designers to propose a new house for the President of the United States.** How would the image of this iconic piece of architecture change if it were to be redesigned now? What would a new design for the White House look like today?

It is critical to consider what ideals are embodied in this building. Designers should define what this building represents and how it represents those qualities.

Designers can propose **any size of building(s)** placed anywhere within the boundary of the current White House grounds. Designers can use the program list from the existing house or reinterpret it for their new designs.

Designers should **design as if nothing currently exists on the grounds.** Other than the president's home, there are no requirements for designing buildings and landscapes within the grounds. However, designers are free to propose additional elements if they choose to do so.

*Image:* North Elevation

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# OBJECTIVES & CONSIDERATIONS

- Investigate the fundamental **role of the house as a home** and the domestic space for the president's family.
- Investigate the many **functions and activities** that take place within the house and their relation to one another.
- Investigate what **symbolism**, if any, should be embodied within the house.
- Consider how **architectural qualities** can be used to represent ideals of the nation.
- Consider how **social and cultural aspects** of the present day United States affect the design. For instance, issues of race still exist hundreds of years later after slaves were used for the initial construction of the house.
- Investigate how the house and its grounds relate to the **surrounding context**.

*Project submissions are not required to meet all of the above objectives.*

*Image: South Elevation*

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# THE GROUNDS

In 1792 the site of what would eventually become the grounds for the White House was a wooded lot on the banks of the Potomac River. The house was strategically located in relation to the U.S. Capitol building along Pennsylvania Avenue to symbolize the connection. It is said that George Washington himself staked out the corners of the present day house.

Today the 18-acre White House site is surrounded by a bustling cityscape. Most of the buildings are of government use, some even serving the White House. Immediately north of the grounds is Lafayette Park, a gathering place in recent protests.

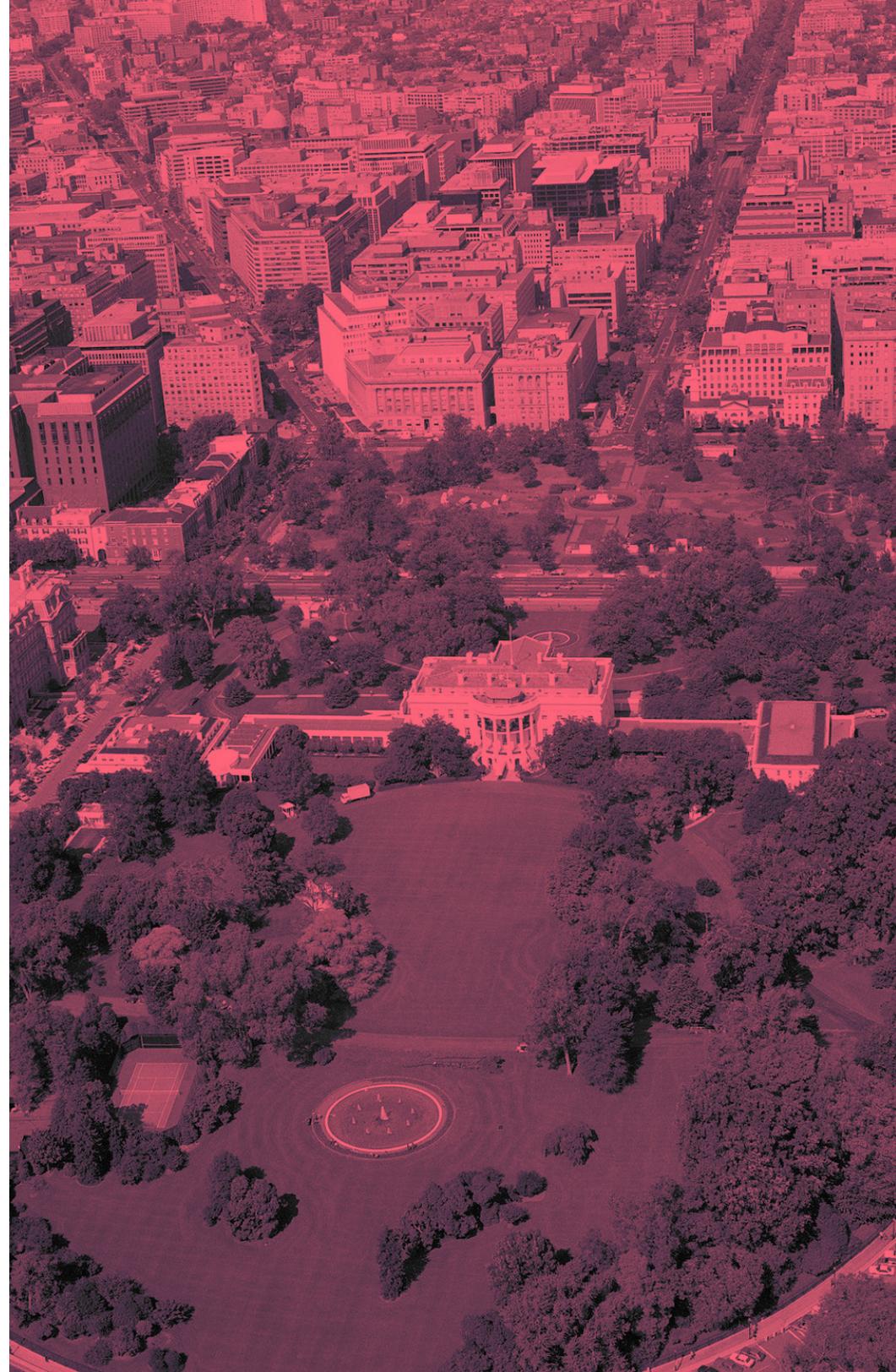
Within the site grounds of the White House are many outdoor recreation and event areas. These include the North and South Lawns, each with a fountain, the Rose Garden, the Kennedy Garden, the Children's Garden, a basketball court, a tennis court, a swimming pool, and a putting green. There are also a number of security checkpoints at entryways.

This competition **is only asking for the design of the president's residence**, however, designers can include other programs on the grounds if they choose to do so. Designers do not have to match the areas and programs on the grounds as they exist today.

Registered teams will be provided with a 3D digital model of the current White House grounds and surrounding city.

*Image:* Aerial view of White House and grounds. The U.S. National Archives.

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# THE HOUSE

At its most basic function, the role of the White House is a home. This often gets overlooked due to the many additional roles that the house takes on: a museum for the public, a military headquarters, an international event venue, a diplomatic office, a media press center, and more.

Within the house there are 132 rooms and 35 bathrooms. There are 412 doors, 147 windows, 28 fireplaces, eight staircases and three elevators.<sup>1</sup>

The Executive Residence (the main center portion) is made up of six stories: the Ground Floor, State Floor, Second Floor and Third Floor, as well as a two-story basement.

There are wings to the East and to the West of the Central Residence portion, both of which were added later. The wings hold offices and other ancillary programs supporting the president, the president's family and the president's cabinet.

The central residence alone has 11 bedrooms, five living / sitting rooms, nine meeting / hosting rooms, four dining / banquet rooms and three kitchens. However, these numbers are just estimates since not all room uses in the White House are disclosed. In addition, rooms often change uses over time and some rooms have multiple uses.

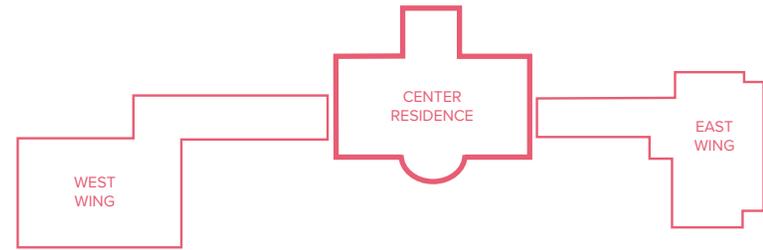
1. from [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov)

*Image:* White House Blue Room, Wikimedia - edited.

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# EXISTING PROGRAM

Below is a list of the current White House programs. For this competition, participants may use the existing program or reinterpret what program should be in the house. **There are no size or program requirements - both are at the discretion of the designer.**



## WEST WING

### **Ground Floor: Offices and Conference**

Lobby (B), Photo Office, Homeland Security Office, Photo Closet, Ward Room, Video Conference Room, Briefing Room, Situation Room, Video Conference Room, Kitchen, Navy Mess, Secret Service Offices, Swimming Pool, Press Corps Offices.

### **First Floor: President's Offices and Press**

Oval Office (President's Office), President's Secretary, Cabinet Room, Study, Dining Room, Senior Advisor Offices (x2), Chief of Staff Office, Vice President Office, National Security Advisor Office, Lobby, Press Secretary Office, Roosevelt Meeting Room, Press Briefing Room, Press Corps Offices, Press Kitchen, Palm Room.

### **Second Floor: Offices**

Office of Political Affairs, Legislative Affairs Office, Domestic Policy Council Office, National Economic Council Office, Public Liason, International Government Affairs Office, Senior Advisor Office, Counsel to the President Office.

## CENTER RESIDENCE

### **Sub-Basements: Services and Mechanical**

Mechanical spaces, Storage, Laundry and unknown program.

### **Ground Floor: Services and Meeting Rooms**

Carpenter's Shop, Chocolate Shop, Bowling Alley, Flower Shop, Curator Office, Secret Service Office, Library (B), Kitchen with Refrigerator Room, Doctor's Office, Receptionist for Doctor, Exam Room, House Keeper, Map Room (B), Diplomatic Reception Room, China Room, Vermeil Room (B),

### **First/State Floor: Reception and Meeting Rooms**

Entrance Hall, Ushers Room, Family Dining Room, Pantry, State Dining Room, Red Room, Blue Room, Green Room, East Room.

### **Second Floor: Family Residence**

Central Hall, Sitting Hall, Dining Room, Kitchen, Master Bedroom, Dressing Room (B), Living Room (B), West Bedroom, Closet Hall, East Bedroom (B), Yellow Oval Room, Treaty Room (B), Queen's Bedroom, Lincoln Bedroom, Sitting Rooms (x2) (B).

### **Third Floor: Family Residence/Recreation**

Center Hall, Offices (x6) (B), Game Room (B), Bedroom (B), Bedrooms (x6) (B), Solarium, Sitting Room, Music Room, Work Out Room, Cedar Room, Linen Room, Kitchen, Storage Rooms, Greenhouse.

## EAST WING

### **First Floor: Reception and meeting rooms**

Visitor's Foyer, Family Theater, Garden Room, Offices.

### **Second Floor: Offices and Misc.**

Calligraphy Office, General Offices, First Lady's Office.

( B ) indicates a connected bathroom

- 1) Please note that all bathrooms are not listed and some rooms may be unlisted due to various reasons
- 2) information from [www.whitehousemuseum.org](http://www.whitehousemuseum.org)

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# AWARDS

## **\$5,000** OVERALL WINNER

*+PRESS PUBLICATION  
& BOOK FEATURE*

## **\$1,000** RUNNER UP

*+PRESS PUBLICATION  
& BOOK FEATURE*

## **\$1,000** RUNNER UP

*+PRESS PUBLICATION  
& BOOK FEATURE*

## **\$1,000** RUNNER UP

*+PRESS PUBLICATION  
& BOOK FEATURE*

## 10 HONORABLE MENTIONS

*+PRESS PUBLICATION  
& BOOK FEATURE*

## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

*+PRESS PUBLICATION  
& BOOK FEATURE*

*Image:* Protesters in front of north elevation. Flickr - Ted Eytan.

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# JURY



**KRISTY BALLIET**  
BAIRBALLIET  
FOUNDER, PARTNER



**SEKOU COOKE**  
SEKOU COOKE STUDIO  
FOUNDER



**FELECIA DAVIS**  
FELECIA DAVIS STUDIO  
FOUNDER



**SARAH DUNN**  
URBANLAB  
FOUNDER



**CRAIG DYKERS**  
SNOHETTA  
FOUNDER



**JIA YI GU**  
SPINAGU  
FOUNDER



**DAIMIAN HINES**  
HINES ARCHITECTURE +  
DESIGN  
FOUNDER



**JASON PUGH**  
NATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION OF  
MINORITY ARCHITECTS,  
PRESIDENT



**NICK ROSEBORO**  
ARCHITENSIONS  
FOUNDER



**PASCALE SABLAN**  
BEYOND THE BUILT  
ENVIRONMENT,  
FOUNDER



**MARC TSURUMAKI**  
LTL ARCHITECTS  
FOUNDER

ADJAYE ASSOCIATES,  
ASSOCIATE

**PLEASE GO TO  
[WWW.ARCHOUTLOUD.COM](http://WWW.ARCHOUTLOUD.COM)  
TO SEE THE LATEST JURY**



*Image:* National Women's Party protest at north elevation, 1919. Library of Congress.

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# SCHEDULE

DEC 13, 2021	Competition Start Date
MAR 15, 2022	\$45 Advanced Entry Ends
APR 26, 2022	\$65 Early Entry Ends
MAY 24, 2022	\$85 Regular Entry Ends
<b>MAY 25, 2022</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>
JULY 2022	Results Announced

All deadlines are by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST) on the listed date.

# DELIVERABLES

(x4) 8" x 10" (20.32 cm x 25.4 cm) graphic representations

(x1) 8" x 10" (20.32 cm x 25.4 cm) project text summary (under 200 words)



One of the graphic sheets must be an exterior perspective.

All materials should be submitted as a combined PDF document.

Graphic representation boards may not include text other than number labels (ex.①②③). Graphic boards will be reviewed by jury members alongside their respective text summaries, where number labels may be defined. Upon competition results, all recognized proposals will appear with the text summary directly beneath graphic representations. No team member names or affiliations can be included on the submitted materials.

*Image:* White House Easter Egg Roll on south lawn, 1966. White House.

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# RULES / GUIDELINES

- Teams can have up to four members.
- Participants can be from any country.
- Interdisciplinary teams are allowed, although it is recommended that at least one member have an architectural background.
- Under no circumstances can members of the jury see, review or have any knowledge of a proposal prior to the submission. Doing so will automatically disqualify the proposal from the competition.
- Registered **teams will be provided with a 3D digital model** of the current White House grounds and the surrounding city. Accuracy between the model and current existing conditions is subject to change and to be used at the discretion of the participants. Files provided are .3DM (Rhino), .SKP (Sketchup), and .DWG. Arch Out Loud is not responsible for any conversions to different file types.
- No company logos can be used on submissions.

*Image:* Renovation of North entry under President Truman, 1951. National Archives.  
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# TERMS

**This competition is an ideas competition and will not result in any realization of an actual building.** Additionally, no existing conditions will be altered or removed due to this competition.

Arch Out Loud is **not associated with the United States government** and was not hired to run this competition.

Arch Out Loud was **not hired or contracted to organize this competition.** Every aspect of this competition was fully developed by Arch Out Loud.

Arch Out Loud reserves the right to make any changes to this document and competition. It is the responsibility of participants to check the Arch Out Loud website.

Arch Out Loud does not own any of the real sites used for the competition site nor will the sites be altered in any way as a result of this competition.

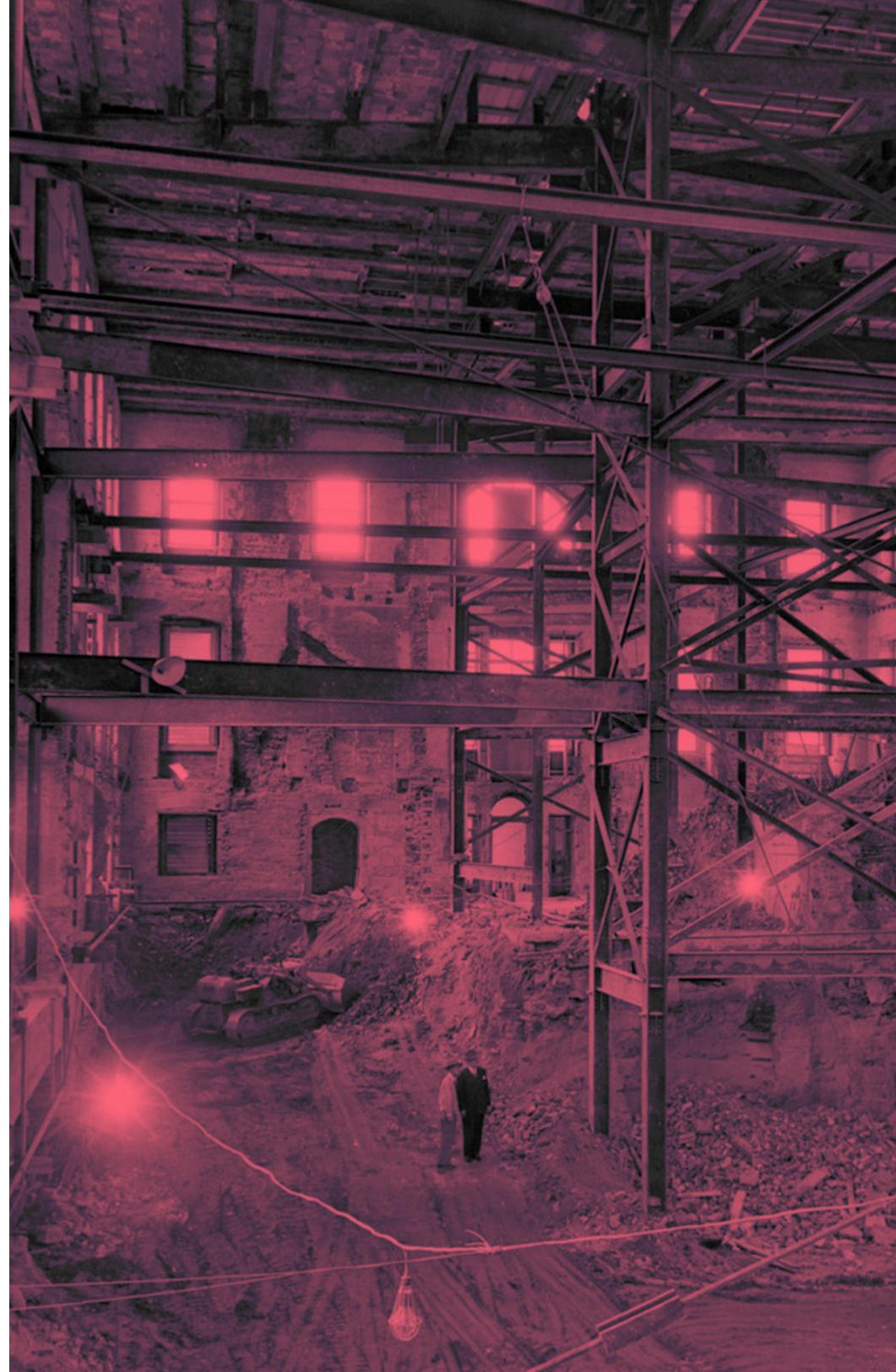
Arch Out Loud is not responsible for any in-person research done on or around the competition site. Please abide by local laws.

Breaking of rules and regulations set in this competition brief or on the Arch Out Loud website will result in the disqualification of the given team without any refund of registration fees.

## *ownership*

All material submitted to the competition will become equal property of Arch Out Loud and therefore give Arch Out Loud all rights to publishing and using the material. Authors of the materials will be properly credited in publications. Arch Out Loud maintains the right to modify any information in its files in order to better adapt it to any publishing methods.

*Image:* Reconstruction of entire interior while maintaining exterior walls, 1950. National Archives.  
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# REGISTRATION & SUBMISSION

Join now by registering at  
[www.archoutloud.com/white-house](http://www.archoutloud.com/white-house)

Upon registration you will receive a confirmation email with your order receipt. The “Order No.” in the upper right corner is your team’s unique identification. Please use this number to name your submission file. Also, provided in the confirmation email will be a link to the 3D digital model.

Submit your designs at  
[www.archoutloud.com/white-house-submit](http://www.archoutloud.com/white-house-submit)

Teams must have a registration number in order to submit. Any materials submitted prior to registering will not be considered. File names should only include your team’s unique identification number.

Materials must be submitted by  
May 25th, 2022 (11:59pm EST)

If you have any trouble with registering or submitting please email [info@archoutloud.com](mailto:info@archoutloud.com)

*We look forward to seeing your proposals*

*Image:* Northeast corner of White House during renovation, 1950. National Archives.  
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