

INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE URBAN LANDSCAPE

A competition for revelation through photography

The great era of public works in America, from the late nineteenth century until the early 1940's, signaled a program of developing infrastructures that were monuments to human achievement and progress. Highways, bridges, dams, canals, stone viaducts, reservoirs and lighthouses, all landscapes of the technological sublime, were painted, photographed, written about and celebrated within the popular culture.

As populations and technological complexity increased, the criteria of efficiency and optimization became dominant in the design of infrastructure systems and urban environments. In the period following World War II, the social celebration of a technologically-enhanced environment faded into grudging acceptance of necessary, highly utilitarian systems that operated increasingly out of sight and out of the understood context of everyday life. Somewhere during that time the term 'public works' shifted to the more technocratic term 'infrastructure'. Roadways, energy distribution, water supply, land drainage and waste management were designed and installed as separate, isolated, single-purpose systems in urban environments, often hidden from public view.

The goal of this competition is to reveal the irrepressible presence of infrastructure in the landscape, and to begin to re-position infrastructure as systems providing collective identity and urban legibility, adding to the urban experience, shaping urban form and incorporating both social and ecological functions. It is a call to advocate for the profound social, cultural and ecological possibilities in re-conceptualizing infrastructure as a visible part of a complex, interconnected urban network.

The Competition

The competition calls for submissions of a photographic representation that reveals beauty, or a striking quality, in the artifacts and systems of infrastructure. The competition is **open to all**, and entrants are limited to one submission that must comprise the following:

- 1 photographic image with a maximum size of 11x17
- The photograph must be mounted on foam core, with the entrant's name and contact information in an envelope on the back
- The entry must include a separate sheet with a title/caption, and a 150-200 word narrative that complements the image in some way
- A labeled CD with the image at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi, image title/caption, narrative, and name/contact information for the entrant

By submitting your work you are giving permission for the display of your work in one or more exhibits, and publication in a catalogue, without compensation.

Submissions should be left at the reception desk in the School of Architecture and Planning, Pearl Hall, UNM, by **5 pm on Wednesday, March 31, 2010**. Mailed submissions must be RECEIVED by close of day March 31 at: Infrastructure Competition / School of Architecture and Planning / 2401 Central NE / MSC04 2530 / 1 University of New Mexico / Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

The **Jury** for the competition is:

Miguel Gandert Professor of Communication and Journalism, UNM

Laurie Moye Coordinator, Regulatory Relations and Public Participation, PNM

Roland Penttila Supervisor, Stormwater Management Section, CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Carolyn Robbins Siegel Architect, Albuquerque Bio Park; Member, Albuquerque Arts Board

Jim Stone Associate Professor of Art + Art History, UNM

Awards + Outcomes

The jury, at its sole discretion, may make a \$500 award for the first place winner, two merit awards of \$200 each, and up to three honorable mentions. The decisions of the jury are final.

All of the entries (or a selection, depending on the number of entries) will be **exhibited** in the School of Architecture and Planning, Pearl Hall, from April 14 to April 30.

The intention is also to have an exhibition at a downtown Albuquerque venue.

A **catalogue** of the entries, or a selection of entries, may be published.

Submissions may be picked up from the reception desk in the School of Architecture between **June 1 and June 11, 2010**. Submissions will not be retained after June 11th.