

MAY 2010

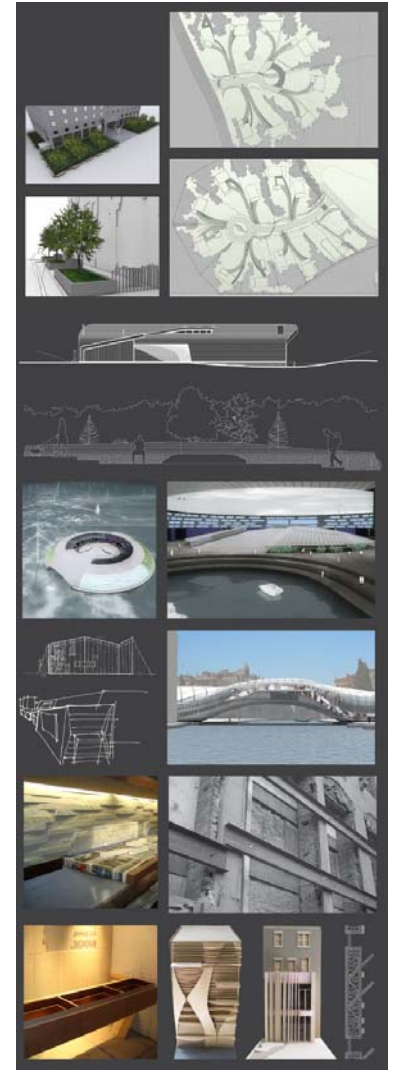
The New Practices New York 2010 Portfolio Competition is sponsored by the AIA New York Chapter to review the portfolios of emerging New York City based firms. AENA was proud to present our work for recognition at the biennial competition. As a platform the competition served to recognize and promote new, innovative, and emerging architecture firms that have utilized unique and commendable strategies in the projects they undertake and the practices they have established. This competition is distinguished from others in that attention is focused on how the winning firms' practices have been uniquely shaped to better facilitate and exploit the type of projects they undertake.

AENA is a collaborative based firm that practices fully integrated design. Our design studio is structured to facilitate communication and promote sharing of ideas from diverse areas of expertise and varying viewpoints. We work in an open studio environment that encourages interaction between designers and experienced trade professionals to produce innovative design work that incorporates analysis at many levels. Our design process inherently challenges standard solutions and quickly reveals false assumptions through thorough examination of our proposals that emphasize good design and technical innovation. Design solutions are vetted with multiple reviews by design and trade experts drawing on work previously completed as well as wide-ranging analysis of site specific conditions. Internal competitions are used as a source of new design solution along with extensive research of precedents, new materials, and construction techniques. Due to our integrated approach to project delivery, we provide internal resources with a broad range of specific expertise that allow informed design and cost decisions to be made while providing the opportunity for innovative solutions.

AENA's critical practice evolved from the commitment of our dynamic and experienced team to fully understand design, construction, and financial parameters of each project allowing us to value particular project constraints by developing design solutions that are cost effective. Our integrated approach to project delivery was derived in an effort to better control the design process in order to elevate the quality of completed work. Since design is often based on field conditions and close understanding of costs incurred, our team is able to channel expenditures in the most beneficial manner for each project. We base our decisions on long term environmental impacts following the firm belief that green design provides long term sustainable cost benefits and reinforces positive human interaction. We find that the public review processes has influenced our design approach due to ever increasing requirements for input by a broad base of constituents and governmental authorities having jurisdiction. We focus our design process as it is shaped by input from outside influences. Our high level of design customization and innovation is achieved through our integrated project delivery which provides flexibility in design decision making, selection of materials, and scheduling advantages.

We focus on maintaining close client relationships by emphasizing our broad range of services and diverse project experience. Project selection is based on understanding the client objectives through our experience and our ability to provide the needed services in an effective manner. We do not offer services in areas where our focus does not contribute to our strengths or risks a successful outcome.

AENA was founded as an architectural firm by dynamic and experienced group of skilled and enthusiastic professionals. The multicultural background of our team has influenced the nature of our practice and continues to provide insight to our design approach. The studio is based on the concept of the mobile office, with work taking place in multiple locations that are linked electronically. This allows design solutions to be developed directly in the field or at our workshop during construction activities. We utilize digital media and traditional sketching and modeling techniques to produce design solutions. Our hands-on process differs from traditional bidding and negotiation allowing unique collaboration and partnerships. The use of full scale mock-ups and diverse sourcing of materials leads to alternative design solutions based on available materials and practical construction methods that contribute to our community and environmental goals.



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