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DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE ANNOUNCES WINNING IDEAS FROM THE *REINVENTING GRAND ARMY PLAZA* IDEAS COMPETITION AND UNVEILS LARGE-SCALE PUBLIC EXHIBIT

BROOKLYN, NY (Sept. 12, 2008) – From September 13 through October 13, New Yorkers will be able to join some of the world's top design professionals in reimagining Grand Army Plaza while standing right on site. Officially opening tomorrow, the *Reinventing Grand Army Plaza* exhibit presents the top 30 entries of an ideas competition organized by the non-profit Design Trust for Public Space. Launched last February in partnership with the Grand Army Plaza Coalition (GAPCo), the competition encouraged entrants to create bold visions for the plaza's redesign – from the feasible to the fantastic – that express the spirit of Brooklyn today. A distinguished independent jury selected the winners from over 200 international submissions.

Award Ceremony

Today in an award ceremony at the plaza, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz presented awards to the winning entrants: 1st Prize: \$5,000, 2nd Prize: \$2,000, and 3rd Prize: \$1,000. Local dignitaries in attendance included Department of Transportation Commissioner, Janette Sadik-Khan; Prospect Park Administrator, Tupper Thomas; Council Member Letitia James; and First Deputy Commissioner of NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, Liam Kavanagh. Immediately following the award ceremony, the Design Trust and GAPCo officially unveiled the top 30 competition entries displayed in a large-scale, outdoor exhibition surrounding Bailey Fountain in the center of the Plaza. World-renowned design firm Pentagram created the unprecedented exhibit, which allows visitors to imagine the new plans while experiencing the plaza as it is today.

"Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza is one of New York City's greatest unrealized assets," notes Deborah Marton, Executive Director of the Design Trust for Public Space. "Beginning the process of its reinvention with an ideas competition opened our minds to the range of innovative design strategies that could make the plaza more compelling as a destination and safer for pedestrians, motorists and cyclists." GAPCo spokesperson Michael Cairl agreed, "With the ideas competition, the world has taken note of the great potential of Grand Army Plaza and weighed in with its thoughts, illustrating the many ways that Grand Army Plaza could balance varied uses safely and hospitably to become a destination for the whole city, for the enjoyment of all. This is a primary reason why GAPCo came together in 2006 – to make Grand Army Plaza a place that brings communities together instead of separating them."

Jury deliberations of the anonymous ideas submitted resulted in a tie for first place – the acc&s² team (Nantes, France) for *Canopy*, and Guillaume Derrien and Gauthier le Romancer (Paris, France) for *Please Wake Me Up!*. While different in approach, both first-prize winning schemes improve access from surrounding communities, provide activities and flexible spaces, and reorganize traffic patterns to increase clarity and safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. Second prize was awarded to *Urban Stripes*, by Vincent Hertenberger and Andras Jambor (Paris, France). Finally, a local team was awarded top honors – Garrison Architects (Brooklyn, NY) received third place for their entry, *A Center for Brooklyn*.

Opening Celebration

On September 13, the exhibit opens to the public with a celebration from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the center of the plaza, featuring live music, food, guided exhibit tours, and opportunities to speak with competition entrants about their visions for the plaza. The highlight of the afternoon will be a free performance by Brooklyn's own dance company, S.L.A.M. (Streb Lab for Action Mechanics) at 3:00 p.m. Visitors to the exhibit will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite ideas via text message; the results will be announced on October 8, 2008.

After the exhibit, the Design Trust, GAPCo and local communities will continue working with the NYC Departments of Transportation and Parks & Recreation, with the goal of producing a new master plan for the plaza. The first step will be a series of open community workshops that will use the 30 schemes featured in the exhibit as springboards for discussion.

Reinventing Grand Army Plaza is made possible through the generous support of SDS Procida, The Double R Foundation, Pentagram, The A. Woodner Fund, Richter + Ratner, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, and the New York State Cultural Affairs (NYSCA).

About the Design Trust for Public Space and the Grand Army Plaza Coalition

The Design Trust for Public Space (www.designtrust.org) is a non-profit organization that improves public space for all New Yorkers by bringing together neighborhoods, public agencies, and design professionals, making the city more beautiful, sustainable, and available to all.

The Grand Army Plaza Coalition (www.grandarmyplaza.org) is an alliance of Brooklyn community groups and cultural organizations working together to improve Grand Army Plaza.

The competition winners are:

FIRST PRIZE (Tie): acc&s²: Anne-Sophie C, Christian Matteau, Chrystelle Sanaa and Stephane Mauget (Nantes, France); and Guillaume Derrien, Gauthier le Romancer (Paris, France)

SECOND PRIZE: Vincent Hertenberger, Andras Jambor (Paris, France)

THIRD PRIZE: Garrison Architects; James Garrison, Brandt Graves, Simon Kristak, Vanessa Moon, Tim Peterson, Sal Tranchina, Aaron Tweedie, Darshin Van Parijs, Elliot White, and Michael King (Nelson/Nygaard) (Brooklyn, New York)

Honorable mentions went to (included in the *Reinventing Grand Army Plaza* Exhibit):

aotu architecture office ltd.; Hugues Leclercq
Shanghai, China

Architektur Neumann; Johannes Neumann
Hagen, Germany

Joshua Barkan
New York, NY, USA

Tsutomu Bessho
Forest Hills, NY, USA

Daniel Gonzalez Brenes, Mary Lydecker
Somerville, MA, USA

Babak Bryan, Jake LaChapelle
Brooklyn, NY, USA

Tyler Caine, Antonio Dellomo, Shelby Doyle,
Brandon Specketer
New York, NY, USA

Flora Chen
Jersey City, NJ, USA

Jean-Baptiste Cueille
Paris, France

Cutsogeorge Tooman & Allen Architects, P.C.
Craig Tooman, Asaf Yogev
New York, NY, USA

Vishwadeep Deo, J. Arthur Liu, Animesh Nayak
Brooklyn, NY, USA

Lori Marie Gibbs, Shin-pei Tsay
Brooklyn, NY, USA

Emilie Graham
New York, NY, USA

Handel Architects; Michael Arad
New York, NY, USA

Hipbone Design LLC; Diane Klein, Matthew Moore
New York, NY, USA

Rebecca Kainer
Philadelphia, PA, USA

Ashley Kelly
Brooklyn, NY, USA

Gilat Lovinger
Brooklyn, NY, USA

Pentagram Architects
James Biber, James Bowman, Dan Maxfield
New York, NY, USA

Phanat Xanamane Studio
Eugene Kwak, Phanat Sonemangkhal
New York, NY, USA

Quilligan Architects; Paul Quilligan
Dublin, Ireland

Andrew Sullivan
San Francisco, CA, USA

Na Sun, Xinghua Zhao
Jersey City, NJ, USA

TRA Studio; Angela Amoia, Jason Atkins, Sebastian Del
Castillo, Kellen Giuda, Chun Fang Huang, Dennis
Mendoza, Caterina Roiatti, Robert Traboscia,
New York, NY, USA

OKRA Landschapsarchitecten; Martin Knuijt
Utrecht, The Netherlands

Zurita Architects; Lorna Asseo, Til Globig, Sandra Pires,
Jordi Safont-Tria, Ricardo Zurita
New York, NY, USA