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VIETNAM ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

COOPERATION PROGRAMME ITALY - VIETNAM

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF 11.10.2010

Contest of ideas

HISTORICAL HANOI 2013

REHABILITATION OF DONG KINH NGHIA THUC SQUARE AND OF HANG DAO STREET, IN THE DISTRICT OF THE THIRTY-SIX OLD STREETS

Promoters:

VIETNAM ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

In partnership with:

**ARCHITECTS', PLANNERS', LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS' AND CONSERVATIVES'
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PROVINCE OF GENOA**

And supported by:

HANOI ARCHITECTURAL UNIVERSITY

HANOI CITY PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE – OLD TOWN DEPARTMENT

**Under the High Patronage of the President of the Republic*

** under release*

and with the patronage of:

Architects', Planners', Landscape Architects' And Conservatives' National Council

** Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

** Embassy in Italy of Vietnamese Socialist Republic*

** Vietnamese Embassy in Italy*

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Art. 1

Subject of the contest of ideas

While implementing the Memorandum of Understanding signed on October 11th 2010 between the Promoters - VIETNAM ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS, (hereinafter "VAA"), and ARCHITECTS', PLANNERS', LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS' AND CONSERVATIVES' PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PROVINCE OF GENOA (hereinafter "the Professional Association"), it is herewith announced by VAA a contest of ideas, to be held in a single phase and anonymously, by which the city of Hanoi is proposed to initiate a renovation intervention on one of the most significant parts of its historical centre.

The urban axis at issue is of most relevance. It includes the portion of the Old Town overlooking the Hoan Kiem Lake, Dong Kinh Nghia Thuc Square, the first stretch of Dinh Tien Hoang road, and Hang Dao street. Such areas are contour planned in the papers enclosed to present call.

Hang Dao Street is the first section of the main axis that connects the lake to the Dong Xuan market, while the portion of the area overlooking the lake is currently the "gateway to the Old Town" and place for social gatherings.

Historical news about the development of the city

The historical district of Hoan Kiem is the historical core of the ancient mercantile town. Founded at the beginning of the 11th century outside the Imperial Citadel, the former residence of the Emperor and of His family, it once provided for all the needs of the court. In the historical centre, also known as "District of the roads of the 36 trades", streets bear still today the names of the goods once - and still nowadays - manufactured and sold. The urban fabric reflects therefore the ancient spatial organisation, as well as its composite texture of buildings in front of which, and within which, the life of the community and its businesses depict a breathtaking, inextricable urban fresco.

Not coincidentally, Europeans who arrived in there by the time of the colonial expansion described as "tube houses" the estate units that outline the building layout and define the urban texture of the historical centre.

These units show very peculiar dimensions and proportions; they occupy batches of

moderate width, sometimes contained within 2.5 metres, though often deeper than 40 metres. Therefore, the type of building they host and which historically developed upward to no more than 2-3 floors – a number which in recent decades dramatically overturned – is divided into a sequence of settings which, at various levels, overlook terraces, patios and walkways, all of them connecting and, at the same time, separating rooms one another.

Throughout the course of ten centuries – Hanoi was founded in 1010, with the historic name of Thang Long – this unique volumetric articulation, in combination with the very proportion of batches, enabled the traditional "family home" uphold multiple generations of the same family, also in large numbers; for each new need for living spaces, the length of the batch enabled actually estate units expand towards the allotments located on the short side opposite the road.

In this almost unlimited *ius aedificandi*, the only "rule" for builders to stick to was not to insert windows along the walls of the long sides of the batch, in order not to prevent adjacent neighbours from increasing their respective volumes and perhaps, also, to block any even "visual" intrusion into each other's privacy.

During the "American War", being the Hanoi area the best protected of the Country, an uncontrolled urban migration occurred from the countryside, even from areas far away from the capital, and so massive as to upset the developed pattern, both in terms of estate assets and of typology. This happened also owing to the forced acquisition by State of previously private real estates and their subsequent fractionation, in order to accommodate in the same building many different families instead of multiple generations of the same family.

As a relevant consequence of this uncommon housing situation it has turned out, as before mentioned, the alteration of the original building model.

Buildings had actually to undergo incongruous horizontal, vertical and even longitudinal splits, so to gain the distribution corridors (necessarily narrow in tight batches) required to lead to portions of building now become "independent".

Since 1975, the last year of the "American War", until today, Vietnam has increasingly developed. Its growth has recently become somehow turbulent, Hanoi being expected to become one of the twenty most populous capitals of the world, while adding to current 3.5 million town people about 6.3 million foreigners coming from the closer urbanised

areas.

The rapid economic development has attracted both foreign investors and international tourists, paving the way to the opening of cafés, restaurants, hotels, craft shops and souvenirs shops.

In order to prevent and combat the negative effects of a too rapid transformation, the Vietnamese Ministry of Construction drew up in 1995 some guidelines for the conservation and restoration of the Old Town. In addition, 5 April 2004 the Old Town was appointed by the Ministry of Culture and Information of Vietnam as a part of the National Historical Heritage.

Art. 2

Objectives of the ideas contest

The subject of the contest will focus on the urban design level, while fostering to a functional renovation of the sites described in Art. 1 and contour planned in the papers enclosed to this call, also considering the social and cultural background related to them.

According to the Memorandum Of Understanding signed on 11th October 2010, the contest aims to gather design proposals able to give answers in terms of environmental, urban, architectural and road network restoration, in compliance with the commercial and craft fabric closely connected to the use of public space and with its multi-functionality, which is ever changing over a 24 hours.

Within the above mentioned road axis, specific items of design will be in particular Dong Kinh Nghia Thuc square and Hang Dao street, as well as the first section of the road stretching along the Hoan Kiem lake.

Purpose of the project is the capability to understand and analyse the *status quo* while reorganizing and putting it in relation to new actions intended to enhance the improvement of both environmental quality and "fruition" of the area at issue.

The square is nowadays more of a "roundabout" designed to route traffic from converging roads, and it is rather devoid of distinguishing features, except for the fine Hoang Van Long building, colonial French style, which is currently used to business. In the middle of the square stands a small fountain flanking a huge construction from the Nineties, a building rather disliked by urban residents, who nicknamed it «Ham» (shark jaw).

As to the square, projects are supposed to enable the transformation of the contour planned area through interventions able to empower it with a new identity made possible

by architectural, urban and urban design elements, while matching the need of a better connotation also by revisiting the design of the “Ham” building, currently misplaced if compared to the architectural items of the square space around. These operations are also intended to enhance the functions of the area both as urban linkage and as means of access to the historical centre, by preserving, on one hand, its relevance as hub of a traffic which gets intense and intense after hours, when walking along the Hoan Kiem Lake turns out as one of locals' favourite ways to spend time; on the other hand, by restoring its central function of primary mover of urban aggregation and therefore of veritable square: a place where to stop and meet, and build up those human relationships which are also vital elements of the Vietnamese society.

As to the portion of Hang Dao street in question, new interventions should facilitate a correct understanding of the unique architectural features of the buildings, which range from the old residence to the temple, from French to eclectic architecture. Hence the need for an improvement of the environment quality in terms of street furniture: current context is actually not adequately representative of the tradition and style of Vietnamese life, while being the result of a recent degradation due to increase and circulation of motor vehicles in the last fifteen years. Hence the need for new road signage, with particular reference to the characteristics of the neighbourhood, to the history and to the tourist trade routes, as well as for rationalization of all those outer items such as air conditioners, banners, antennas, curtains, etc., which currently mark out the urban texture while building up at the same time negative interferences. Particular attention is to be paid to the choice of suitable materials in respect of traditional ones, as well as to the development of solutions to vehicular traffic, with a view to extending the time slot linked to pedestrianisation, which today is only partial. In this context, one thing to be safeguarded is the transit of commercial vehicles, which is vital for trade. Not to overlook is also the drawing up of feasibility studies of reserved areas for motor vehicles (scooters), which still are people's main means of transportation. Also in case of pedestrianising, this intervention is overriding, because the use of such means is an inalienable part of residents' lifestyle, and will therefore require the study of alternatives to pedestrian traffic flow, and of new lighting paths.

Design solutions should turn out as operating modes which, basing on the existing guidelines for the Old Town, may prove compatible with the continuation of work on the

other streets at issue, as well as on the local historic texture in general.

Priority is to be given to the use of materials enrooting the historical tradition and therefore closely linked to the uncommon capacity of local workers, still today masters of an experience-based construction knowledge which makes them able to restore and rebuild medium-small sized houses with no aid of technicians. But also important will be the integration of current technology-based materials able to empower the related framework with significant improvements without altering it at all.

Art. 3

Accompanying documents

The area item of the contest is contoured in the general contest plan enclosed to the present call for competitive proposals. The whole set of documents enclosed to the present request for bids is made of the following attachments:

- General layout of the competition area, in 1:1000 scale, with a contour plan of the area subject to the contest [Attachment A - Autocad file];
- Layout of the competition area, in 1:500 scale, with a contour plan of the area subject to the contest and of the relevant buildings [Attachment B - jpeg];
- Drawings of the buildings that make up the square [Attachment C - Autocad file];
- Drawings of the buildings of the stretch of road (Hang Dao)subject to intervention [Attachment D - Autocad file];
- Related photo-straightening [Attachment E];
- Movie of the areas at issue and documentary photos [Attachment F].

The whole documents-set, including the present call for competitive proposals, is disclosed and may be downloaded on the website of the Professional Association indicated on the cover page of the present document. [*In square brackets the file-names*]

Art. 4

Constraints of the contest of ideas

While formulating their proposals, competitors are supposed to primarily consider some situations and conditions which may not at all be modified:

1. in the areas at issue the existing road network has to be taken into account;
2. the area at issue will have its prevailing market-oriented connotation preserved; therefore participants are requested to maintain all minute economic activities traditionally taking place on the streets;
3. with a view to enhancing the aforementioned characteristics, competitors are supposed to outline distinct zones for vehicular traffic (although, desirably, regulated), for the parking of motorcycles, and for pedestrians.

Art. 5

Contest Papers and proposals submitting guidelines

Project ideas must be communicated by the following papers:

1. technical and financial report, explaining design choices and general criteria, consisting of a maximum of 6 (six) typescript pages, UNI A4 format;
2. 3 (three) sheets A0 format, portrait mode, containing:
 - general overview of the intervention in 1:1000 scale;
 - floor plans, sections and significant drawings of the square and of the road axis subject to the contest, in 1:500 scale or less;
 - studies on street furniture, with sketches, views, details, photomontages and "renderings", and whatever else considered as useful and appropriate to facilitate the reading of the draft, in scales chosen by the candidate.

Documents must be submitted also on CD, in digital format, respectively "PDF" format files stored in non-rewritable mode. A Power Point slide-show of projects is also required.

Art. 6

Submission of proposals

Contest participation is anonymous. Allowed languages for correspondence and project presentation are Italian and English. Proposals contained in the documents described in Art. 5 must be delivered by hand or sent by registered mail with advice of delivery (A.R.), or by means of a courier, wrapped in a package duly sealed and countersigned on the closing flaps. In order to ensure participants full anonymity, wraps will be destroyed at the sole care of the Technical Secretariat.

Inside the wrap, packages must include:

1. an opaque envelope, with a size of cm. 30 x 40 or so, with no name of the sender, containing the design proposals mentioned in Art. 5, included the CD; the envelope must be stated "Design documents" and show on the top right the alphanumeric code chosen by the participant; this code will consist of eight digits to be typed in as many insets, each of them of 2 cm from the side, for a total length of 16 cm; the same code has to be repeated on the top right of each of the project drawings/graphic arts.
2. an opaque envelope, A4 size, with no name of the sender, containing a sheet stating the participant's (or group of participants') personal data, address and details of enrolment on the relevant professional register, signed with a legible signature by all participants. The envelope must also enclose a statement pursuant to Art. 13 of the present call, as well as a copy of the identity document of the subscriber(s). The envelope must be stated "Documents" and show the same alphanumeric code as affixed on the envelope referred to in point 1 of this Article, on the top right, consisting of eight digits for the maximum space of 2 cm in height and 16 cm. of length.

The envelope must be received at the following address:

Ordine degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori
della Provincia di Genova
Piazza San Matteo 18,
16123 Genova
Italia

On the envelope, in addition to the name of the sender, must be clearly written the following heading:

"HISTORICAL HANOI 2013: REHABILITATION OF THE DONG KINH NGHIA THUC SQUARE AND OF DAO HANG STREET IN THE DISTRICT OF THE THIRTY-SIX OLD

STREETS".

In no case, under penalty of exclusion, competitors may violate the anonymous disposition of the contest by marking the envelopes contained in the package with symbols, signs or whatsoever identifiers. The infringement of contest rules aimed to guarantee participants full anonymity will therefore turn out as straight cause of expulsion from the contest.

Art. 7

Request for information

Any contingent queries and requests for clarification must be e-mailed to the Technical Secretariat of the contest to infogenova@archiworld.it within and not subsequently to the deadline indicated in Art. 15.

The Professional Association will not accept requests for clarification received after this deadline. The object of the letter must show the following heading: "Contest of Ideas - Hanoi".

Questions and answers will be published anonymously on the website of the Professional Association within the time period indicated in Art. 15.

Art. 8

Mode and deadline for the submission of proposals

The transmission of the package may be carried out by post, courier or in person.

The package must be **mailed, shipped or handed**, on pain of exclusion, at the address set out in Art. 6, within and no later than the deadline indicated in Art. 15.

As to shipments, the date will be attested by the date of the postmark or of delivery to the carrier, which must not be subsequent to the above mentioned due date and time. Shipped packages will nevertheless have to arrive no later than on the due date indicated in Art. 15, **under sole liability of participants** and under penalty of disqualification. Also the package delivery is under sole responsibility of the sender; the Professional Association shall in no way be held responsible in case, and whatever reason, the package has not arrived at destination in the prescribed time. In case of hand delivery, documents must be handed during the opening hours of the Professional Association, i.e.:

- Monday to Thursday, from 09.00 to 13.00 and from 14.00 to 17.00.
- Friday, from 09.00 to 15.00.

Art. 9

Subjects admitted to the contest

The herewith announced contest is open to Italian architects, who can contribute along with Vietnamese fellow architects members of their relevant Professional Associations.

In case of group-participation to the contest, the authorship of project proposals is awarded to all group members by same titles and rights.

Each participant must submit no more than one single proposal; it is therefore precluded, under penalty of exclusion, the opportunity to participate both on individual basis and on group basis, nor in linkage to more than one proposal.

Art. 10

Board of Examiners: designation, composition and tasks

The Board of Examiners will be composed of n° 2 (two) commissions, one from Italy and the other one from Vietnam. Commissions' members will be chosen by representatives of the Professional Association and of other primary city institutions, as to Genoa, and by leading figures of local institutions, as to Vietnam, as follows:

Vietnamese Commission

1. Mr. Pham Tuan Long: Head of the Hanoi Old Quarter Management Board (or his delegate);
2. Mr. Nguyen Van Hai: Director of the Hanoi Department of Planning and Architecture (or his delegate);
3. Mr. Nguyen Vu Phuong: director of the Department of Architecture by the Hanoi Architectural University (or his delegate);
4. Mr. Nguyen Tan Van: President of the Vietnam Association of Architects (or his delegate).

Italian Commission

1. President of the Professional Association of Architects, Planners, Landscapers and Conservationists of Genoa (or his delegate);
2. Director of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Genoa (or his delegate);
3. Regional Director of the Department for the Preservation of Ligurian Architectural and Landscape Heritage (or his delegate);

4. One member appointed by the National Council of Architects, Planners, Landscapers and Conservationists.

The Professional Association of Genoa and Vietnam institutions will also appoint two further alternate members to take over in case of impediment of one or two members to participate in the work of the Board of Examiners. The appointment of examiners will be subsequent to contest proposals submission deadline; examiners' names will be disclosed on the purpose-built web-site of the contest created by the Professional Order, as well as on the website of the Professional Association itself.

While performing its work, the Board of Examiners will be supported by the Technical Secretariat.

Any session of the Board of Examiners will be valid only in the presence of all members.

During the first session, each Board of Examiners will elect its President by a majority vote.

The work of the Board of Examiners is private and confidential, and will be disclosed through written records enclosing the graded list of examined proposals.

The work of the Board of Examiners will be carried out in two steps:

Step n. 1:

The Italian Commission will short-list the best 10 (ten) projects, according to the evaluation criteria described in Art. 11. Short-listed projects will subsequently be sent to the Vietnamese Commission, for the start-up of the second step.

Step n. 2:

The Vietnamese Commission will examine the short-listed projects received by the Italian Commission, so to assign the final scores and list up the final ranking.

Art. 11

Criteria and evaluation methods for the received proposals

Once excluded all projects judged as not complying with the present call, and in respect of the adopted methodology of work, the Board of Examiners will rank up the eligible proposals, for a maximum score of 100 points, according to the following evaluation factors:

1. architectural quality and coherence of the proposal, assessed by reference to historical and environmental context (up to 30 pts.);
2. coherence of the proposal with the objectives stated in the call, pursuant to Art. 2, (up to 20 pts.);
3. innovative solutions regarding the use of materials able to improve the environment and to enhance sustainability (up to 20 pts.);
4. appraisal of a symbolic element of value adding for the square (up to 15 pts.);
5. partnership with a Vietnamese architect a/o studio (10 pts.).

Art. 12

Technical Secretariat: designation, composition and tasks

The Technical Secretariat will be established by the Professional Association. It will be charged with:

- cooperating with Vietnamese counterpart organisation for the publication of the present call;
- receiving and responding to questions from competitors;
- receiving and keeping the packages containing competitors' documents-sets;
- providing for the opening of the envelopes and custody of the contents;
- forwarding the envelopes containing competitors' packages to the Italian Board of Examiners;
- forwarding to the Vietnamese Board of Examiners the shortlisted ten projects, always by guaranteeing participants anonymity;
- supporting and recording the Board of Examiners's work;
- communicating to all competitors the final ranking.

Art. 13

Results of the competition and amount of prizes

The contest will end up with a merit ranking and with the attribution of No. 3 prizes as specified below:

1. idea ranked 1st place will be awarded a prize of € 12,000.00
2. idea ranked 2nd place will be awarded a prize of € 8.000,00
3. idea ranked 3rd place will be awarded a prize of € 5,000.00.

For three more outstanding projects will be given an expenses refund of € 2.500,00 each.

The best three awarded competitors (or groupings) will also be given a return plane ticket Italy-Hanoi for one person, so to enable them to take part to the awards ceremony and to the scheduled exhibition of the projects in Hanoi.

The prize awarding will take place within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of the ranking list.

Art. 14

Incompatibility

Under penalty of exclusion of submitted projects, the contest is not accessible to:

- any member of the Board of Examiners and alternates, their spouses and parents and relatives, up to and within the third degree;
- any employer a/o whoever has any employment or steady professional relationship to any member of the Board of Examiners;
- any Councillor of the Professional Association of Architects, Planners, Landscapers and Conservationists of Genoa and any member of the National Council of Architects, Planners, Landscapers and Conservationists.

Art. 15

Contest time-schedule

The main deadlines of the contest are as follows:

- contest publication in Vietnam: **20.05.2013**
- closing date for the receipt of queries and requests for clarification: **07.06.2013**
- closing date for the collective response to queries: **14.06.2013**
- closing date for the projects' shipping or hand delivering:

12.00 on 02.09.2013

- closing date for projects collection by the Professional Order of Genoa: **09.09.2013**
- closing date for the work of the Board of Examiners: **26.09.2013**
- Scheduled award, prize giving ceremony and opening ceremony of the exhibition of the winning and pointed out projects by "Casa Italia", in Hanoi. **08.10.2013**

Art. 16

Ownership and usage of submitted proposals

The Professional Association of Genoa is now for then granted the right by the Authors of the awarded ideas to use their proposals, of which they remain intellectual proprietors, as educational material on the occasion of exhibitions and/or publications.

The City of Hanoi reserves the option, if anything, to utilize the awarded ideas by asking for authors' contribution over the design stages to come. Therefore, should the City of Hanoi decide to go ahead, in whole or in part, with the performing of the intervention item of the present contest, the City of Hanoi reserves the option to possibly assign the work to the Author(s) of winning ideas, whereas the same Authors may ask for contributing by integrating their proposals.

Art. 17

Exhibition and publication of proposals

The Professional Association reserves the right to show the short-listed proposals in an exhibition to be held both in Hanoi and, if anything, in further exhibition to be held in Genoa a/o in Italy within the year following the year of the contest, and, on occasion, to have them published.

Art. 18

Return of proposals

After the date of closing of the exhibits referred to in the previous article, competitors are allowed to directly collect all proposals, except those awarded, or, alternatively, to have them shipped at their expense. Thereafter, the Professional Association is not at all responsible for the preservation of the material submitted for the contest.

Art. 19

Obligations of competitors

Participation in the contest implies full acceptance without reservation of all provisions contained in the contract; competitors' failed compliance with mentioned provisions will automatically imply disqualification.

By participating in the contest, participants allow the Professional Associations of Genoa and of Hanoi to the use of the submitted projects for both possible exposure and publication, as described in Art. 17.

Art. 20

Confidentiality and controls

It is hereby stated that personal data will be collected and processed for the sole purposes related to contest proceedings.

Parties is allowed access to their data, as well as the right to ask for corrections, integration and any other rights provided for the above mentioned purposes.

Art. 21

Publication of the call

This call for competitive proposals shall at first be published in Vietnam on the magazine KIEN TRUC and then on other information media. Moreover, it will be published both on the website of the Professional Association and on the website of the National Council of Architects', Planners', Landscape Architects' and Conservatives' Professional Association in Italy. Proper information will also be published on a daily newspaper distributed throughout Italy.

Moreover, the contest will be presented in Vietnam by a Press Conference managed by the Association of Architects of Vietnam and supported by the Italian Embassy in Vietnam as well as by the Professional Association in Genoa.

The results of the contest proceedings will be published on the purpose-built website of the contest, as well as on the on both websites of the Professional Association and of the National Council of Architects', Planners', Landscape Architects' and Conservatives' Professional Association.

A proper award ceremony on scheduled date will follow, as well as an exhibition.