ECOLOGY CENTER
FOR
BALANDRA BEACH

CCCAP Student Design Competition 2019
Coalition of Community College Architecture Programs, Inc.
4838 Drummond Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-5429
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The Project

Ecology Center for Balandra Beach, Puerto Balandra, Baja, California.

Site

The approximately three-acre site is located in Puerto Balandra, Baja, California. Balandra Beach is located approximately two miles from La Paz, Mexico. There are no setbacks, but you must locate your building in the designated area indicated on the attached map and site plan.

Objectives

This project explores our human relationship with water, ecology, and the natural environment. The use and control of natural light to define the spaces created and to facilitate the use of the space as an observation and educational space is of primary importance. In addition, the use and control of natural ventilation and the use of sustainable materials are important.

Successful designs will be driven by a clearly articulated design concept and must engage the context of the ocean and land. Your design should be a site specific act, relating directly to the unique features of the project site. Projects should seek a deeper connection to the city of La Paz, becoming emblematic of the unique physical, political, historical, social and cultural aspects of the site and city. Successful projects will create a narrative with the site through the creation of connections and memorable spaces for visitors. Designs must create both physical and emotional connections between visitors and the natural environment, creating an awareness of our human relationship with water and the natural world. Your project should embody the idea of environmental stewardship and sustainability.
Objectives (continued)

The spaces should:

- Convey an architectural statement reflecting the significance of Balandra Beach and the surrounding environment.
- Promote the educational mission of Balandra Beach.
- Incorporate natural light where appropriate as this is a critical component to the success of this project.
- Promote sustainability in the use of materials and energy.

The building and exterior spaces are to demonstrate to the highest degree possible the ability of architecture to respond to the unique needs of the users and the site. The designer must take into account the fragile nature of the site particularly, the existing flora and fauna.

The spaces are to demonstrate to the highest degree possible the ability of architecture to respond to the unique needs of the users and the site through the creation of space. In addition, the control of natural light and ventilation and its distribution are the most important design factors. The architecture must demonstrate this in a positive and meaningful way.
Program Requirements

The following are **minimum** requirements that must be incorporated into your design:

**Public Spaces**

- Main Entry Vestibule 150 SF
- The Information/Reception Desk Area (Adjacent to Entry Vestibule) 200 SF
- Exhibit/Interpretive Center & Theater 2000 SF
- Café 450 SF
- Café Storage (Adjacent to Café) 100 SF
- Garbage (Adjacent to Café) 100 SF
- Restrooms (2 @ 200 SF each) 400 SF

Total Square Footage for Public Spaces 3400 SF
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Programmatic Requirements

Program Requirements (continued)

Education & Laboratory Spaces

- Classrooms (2 @ 600 SF each) 1200 SF
- Interactive Laboratory 800 SF

Total Square Footage for Education & Lab Spaces 2000 SF

Office/Support Spaces

- Directors Office 125 SF
- Staff Office (Adjacent to Director’s office) 200 SF
- Conference Room (Adjacent to Director’s office) 200 SF
- Mechanical/Electrical 150 SF
- Building Storage 150 SF

Total Square Footage for Office/Support Spaces 825 SF

Total Square Footage for All Spaces 6225 SF
Programmatic Requirements (continued)

**Exterior Spaces**

- **Outdoor Classroom/Amphitheater**: 1000 SF
- **Dock/Shoreline**: 1000 SF
- **Park Spaces**: 3000 SF

**Total Square Footage for Exterior Spaces**: 4000 SF

- **Roof Terrace/Observation Area (Optional)**: Square footage at the discretion of the student.
- **Parking**: Existing parking lot to be redesigned. (See Slide No. 11).
Public Spaces

Main Entry Vestibule
The main entry vestibule should serve as the public entrance to your building and spatially direct people towards areas of interest.

The Information/Reception Desk Area
Provide a space for orientation and initial gathering for visitors. This space should include an information desk. The total area of the reception desk area is approximately 200 sq. ft. The Reception Desk Area will accommodate 2 assistants.

Exhibit/Interpretive Center & Theater
This space is the main exhibit space for environmental education exhibits. This space should be flexible, capable of accommodating educational exhibits in a variety of formats and media, including both permanent and temporary exhibits. This space should also include a small video theater space for film screening with seating for 10 persons. The total area of the Exhibit/Interpretive Center & Theater is approximately 2000 sq. ft. This space will be used to introduce visitors to a contextual topic of Balandra Beach and surrounding natural environment. For example, the flora and fauna, history, geology, etc.

- **Flora** is defined as follows: All the plants that live in a particular area, time, period, or environment.
- **Fauna** is defined as follows: The animals of a particular region, habitat, or geological period.

Café
Provide a Café with seating for 15 patrons. Seating may be both indoor and outdoor. This space should have a high level of visibility. This space includes area for a sales counter, product display, and back of counter prep areas.
Café Storage (Adjacent to Café)
Provide a small storage area for non-perishable food and supply storage.

Garbage (Adjacent to Café)
Provide a garbage room that opens directly to the outside for ease for garbage collection. This room must accommodate two (2) 95 gallon roll out standing garbage containers.

Restrooms
Provide one accessible restroom (2 water closets) per each gender. This space should be highly accessible to the public. Restrooms must be designed in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act.

Education & Laboratory Spaces

Classrooms
Design should include (2) classroom spaces that will be used for educational activities. Each classroom should accommodate a minimum of 24 seats with movable classroom style table seating. Classrooms should also have a sink, counter space, and built-in storage for supplies and educational activities.

Interactive Laboratory
Include a laboratory space for conducting small scale scientific experiments. This space may also be used to provide interactive educational programs which include a hands on research portion. The lab space should have several lab style work tables. The laboratory space should also include two lab sinks, counter space, and built-in storage for scientific equipment.
Office/Support Spaces

Directors Office
Provide one private office space for the Ecology Center director. This space should have at least a desk, side table and chair.

Staff Office
Provide an open office area that can accommodate at least two staff work areas. This space should also provide space for general storage, copy and printing areas.

Conference Room
Designs should include a conference room with conference style seating and a projection screen. This space should also include a courter surface and built-in storage.

Mechanical/Electrical
Provide a back of house space for mechanical, electrical, and plumbing equipment.

Building Storage
Provide a back of house space for general building storage.
Programmatic Requirements Defined

**Exterior Spaces**

**Outdoor Classroom/Amphitheater**
Include an open, exterior classroom for educational events. This space should seating areas and a stage for small performances or lectures. This space must accommodate up to a maximum of 30 people seated comfortably. Consider the design of seating areas as an architectural element.

**Dock/Shoreline**
Projects may manipulate and redefine the existing shoreline, within reason. Designs may choose to incorporate temporary dock space for a small research vessel.

**Park Spaces**
Designs should incorporate a variety of outdoor public spaces and seating areas designed to take advantage of the natural setting of the site. Terrace areas may be considered an extension of the building, providing additional public space for the education center, café or exhibit areas. Consider defining exterior spaces with architectural elements that relate to the concept or formal characteristics of the building. Designs should 'master plan' the entire site into a cohesive park plan that includes the Ecology Center fully integrated into its existing context.

**Roof Terrace/Observation Area (Optional)**
An optional space may be provided on the roof (or in an elevated element) to accommodate outdoor use and to provide a platform for viewing. This space must be fully accessible, and will require ramps or an elevator.

**Parking**
Dedicated parking for this facility will be accommodated through the existing parking area designated on the site plan. However, Parking for a minimum of 16 visitors (including 2 disabled Parking spaces), and 6 dedicated spaces for the Center Employees must be provided.

**Exiting and ADA Issues**
Exiting is an essential part of this design problem. The major exhibit space must have a minimum of two fire exits. Students are required to take into account additional ADA issues such as clearances, door clearances, etc.
Miscellaneous requirements:

1. A single digital file of two, 24”x36” design panels, portrait direction only.
2. File format & size: File must be *.pdf and less than 20MB.
3. Official language is English.
4. Personal information that includes applicant's identification should not be included in submittal. Only the title and the registration number should be specified on the design panel page.
5. Registration number – to be provided after the completed registration is received.

Design Panel requirements (include graphic scale on all scale images):

1. A Project Description Document (maximum 500 words) which explains the visitor center theme and design concept. Provide an adequate description of the approach taken in both the design process and the execution of your proposal.
2. Floor Plan (floor plan and site plan may be combined into one image)
3. Site Plan
4. Building section(s)
5. Exterior Rendering
6. Interior Rendering
7. Physical model
8. Any additional drawings that help the jury understand your design.

Note: Scale of all drawings and model(s) are at the discretion of the student.

Note: Submissions that do not conform to these requirements will not be accepted.
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Project Location
Ecology Center for Balandra Beach
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Site Information: Project Site Area
Ecology Center for Balandra Beach
CCCAP Student Design Competition 2019
Coalition of Community College Architecture Programs, Inc.
Site Information: Project Site Area
Ecology Center for Balandra Beach
CCCAP Student Design Competition 2019
Coalition of Community College Architecture Programs, Inc.
Site Information: Project Location Looking North
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Site Information: Project Location Looking North
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Site Information: Project Location Looking North
Site Information: Project Location
Ecology Center for Balandra Beach
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Site Information: Site Access
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Site Information: Wind & Sun Analysis
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Sample Context
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Sample Context
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Sample Flora
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Sample Flora
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Sample Fauna
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Important Dates

Competition Schedule

Registration:
- February 1, 2019 through March 1, 2019

Submission Deadline:
- May 10, 2019
  - 5:00 PM Central Daylight Savings Time

Announcement of Winners:
- June 8, 2019

Exhibition of Winners:
- CCCAP National Conference June 6-8, 2019
  Las Vegas, Nevada
Miscellaneous Information

Awards
First Place: $300
Second Place: $200
Third Place: $100

- Honorable Mentions may be awarded at the discretion of the Jury.
- Winners presentation boards will be displayed at the 2019 CCCAP Annual Meeting and on the CCCAP website.

Jurors
Jurors for the CCCAP Student Design Competition are distinguished practicing architects and academics whose primary focus is architectural design.

Eligibility
Entry is limited to community college architecture students or students in 4-year and 5-year architecture programs in their first two years of study. Students may enter as individuals or in groups of no more than three students.

Questions Regarding Competition Documents
Participating faculty will have from February 1, 2019 through February 15, 2019 to review all competition documentation and to submit questions regarding said documentation. After February 15, 2019, no additional questions will be accepted. The Competition Committee will respond to all participating faculty no later than March 1, 2019. All questions to be submitted via email as follows:

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