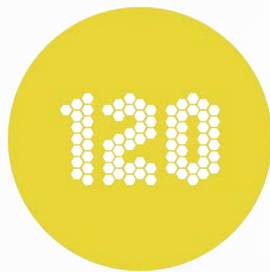


REFERENCE PAPER

March 25th, 2024



120 Hours welcomes you to this year's **reference paper**.
Read the paper thoroughly to prepare for the release of the assignment.

(April 1st, 2 PM UTC +02.00)

120 Hours

The world's largest architectural competition for students, by students.

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'The Competition'

For the **120 Hours** task of 2024, we are collaborating with the makers of the world renown documentary '**The Competition**' (2013).

The film in its entirety is not available to the public. View the trailer for the documentary from the link below. We recommend watching before proceeding.

<https://vimeo.com/59223875>



Synopsis: 'The Competition'

A documentary movie constructed as an almost uncomfortable but intensely fascinating account of how some of the best architects in the world, design giants like Jean Nouvel or Frank Gehry, toil, struggle and strategize to beat the competition. While nearly as old as the profession itself, architectural competitions became a social, political and cultural phenomenon of the post-Guggenheim Bilbao museums and real estate bubbles of the recent past. Taking place at the dramatic moment in which the bubble became a crisis, this is the first competition to be documented in excruciatingly raw detail.

Jean Nouvel, Frank Gehry, Dominique Perrault, Zaha Hadid and Norman Foster are selected to participate in the design of the future National Museum of Art of Andorra, a first in the Pyrenees small country. Norman Foster drops out of the competition after a change in the rules that allow the documentary to happen. Three months of design work go into the making of the different proposals, while, behind doors, a power struggle between the different architects and the client has a profound impact on the level of transparency granted by each office to the resident documentary crew, and which has a definite influence in the material shown in the film.

The presentations to the jury happen in one intense day close to election time in Andorra, becoming a hot event in the tiny country, with media all around the international stars that may help shape its future. Of the four remaining architects three show up to make personal presentations, every one of which becomes a fascinating study in personality, strategy, character, showmanship... and a dramatic moment in which any detail becomes both important and irrelevant, the line between failure and success perfectly imperceptible. But does the jury have the last word?

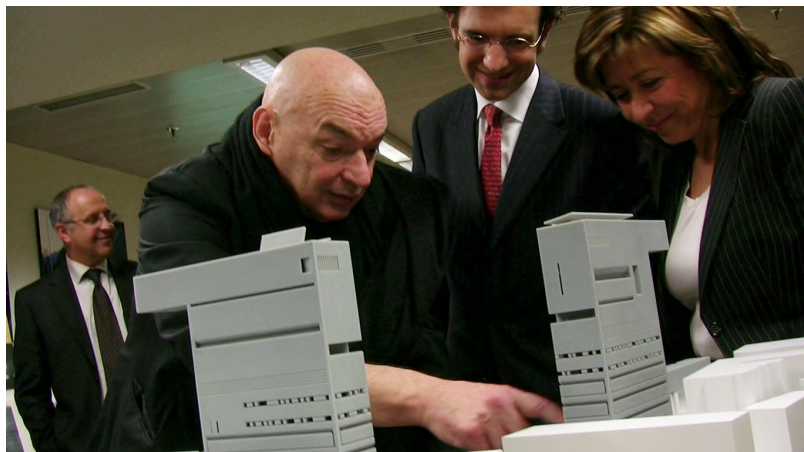
The Competition is the first film documenting the tense developments that characterize architectural contests. On October 10th 2013, The Competition opened the Architecture Film Festival Rotterdam (AFFR), with an audience of more than 500 people. The participation at the AFFR was at the same time the World Première of this documentary and since then it's being shown all over the world. An Official Selection film for programs such as the Vancouver Intl. Film Festival – VIFF'15, the Intl. Film Festival of Contemporary Art from Naples – Artecinema'15, the Intl. Festival of Film on Art from Montréal – FIFA'15; the Intl. Documentary Film Festival – DocumentaMadrid'14, the Intl. Festival of Film on Art from Florence – Lo Schermo dell'Arte'14, The Competition has been also awarded the Architecture Dissemination Award at the XIII Spanish Biennale of Architecture and the First Prize at the COAM Awards '14, an annually given award by the Architects Association of Madrid.



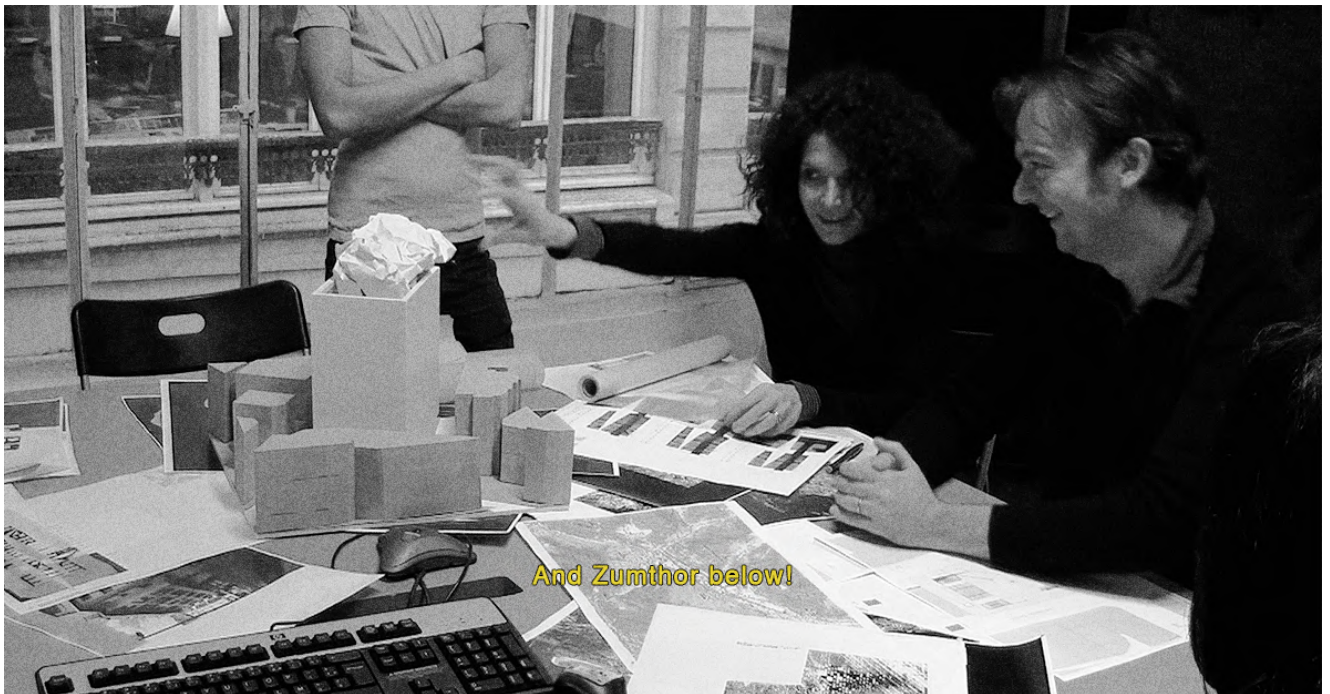
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Poster for 'The Competition'

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Stills from 'The Competition'



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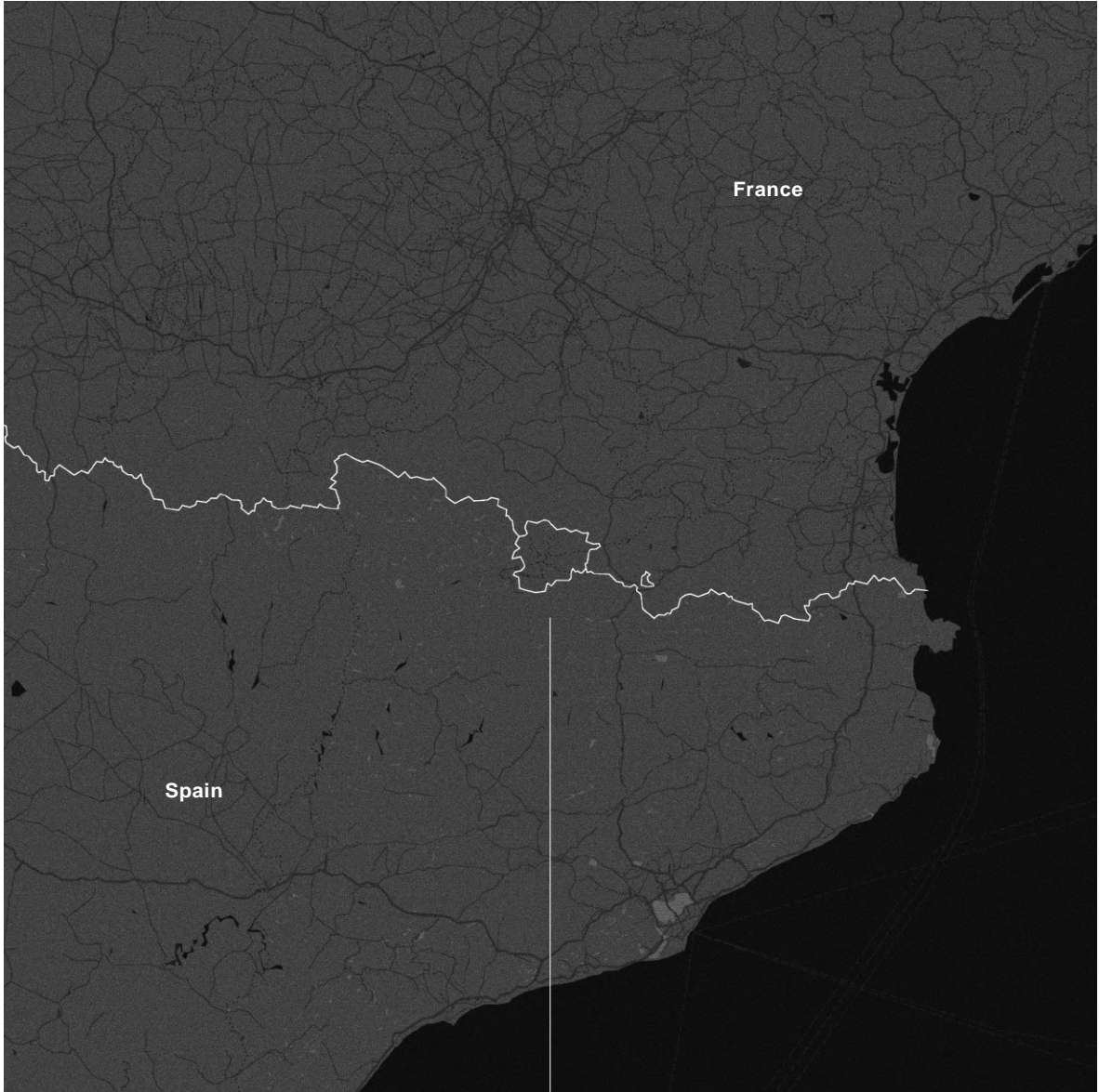
- 14 Articles
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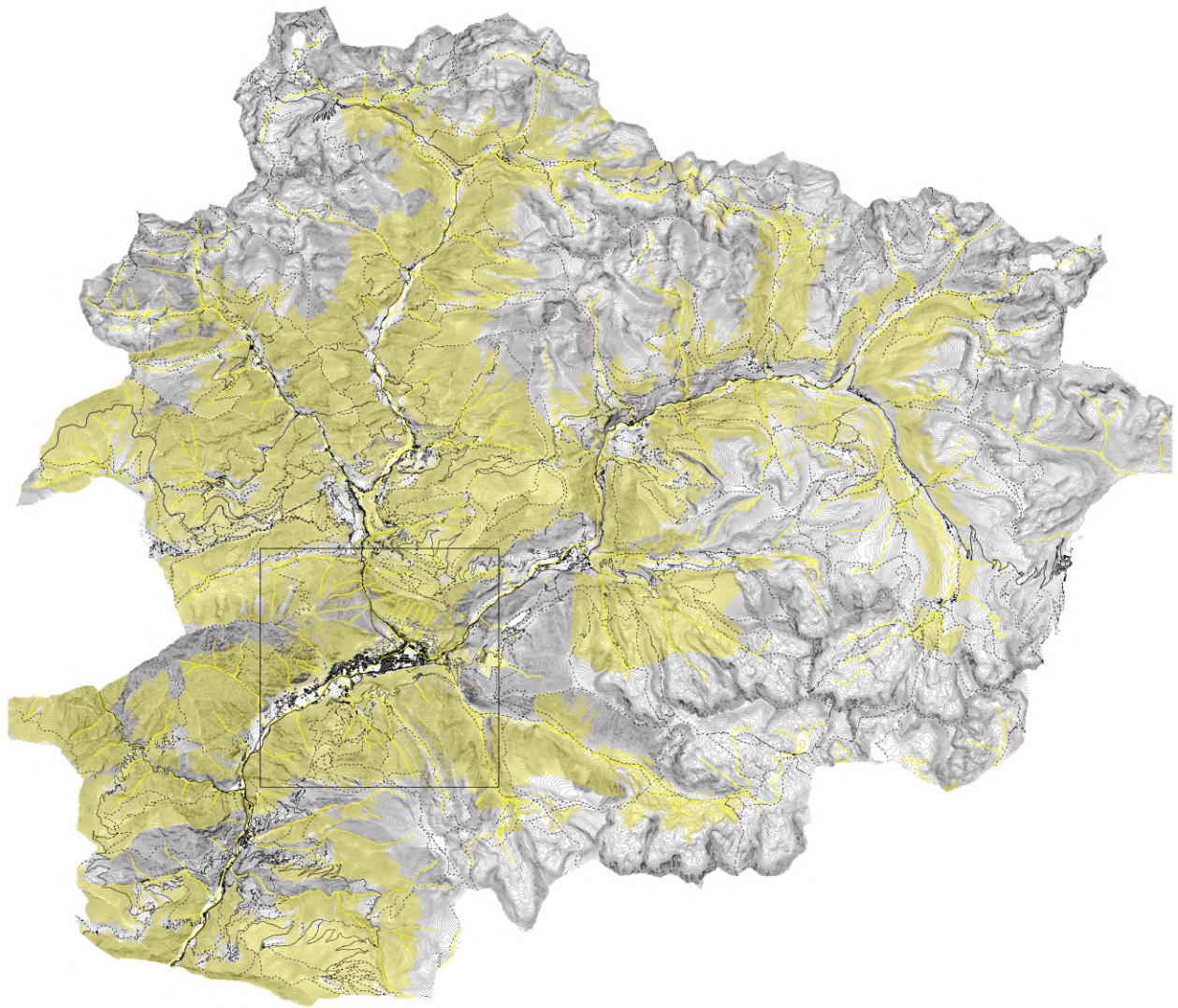
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Andorra



□ Andorra la Vella — Rivers ■ Vegetation ▨ Contours ■ Urban tissue ---- Pathways

▲ 0 2.5 5km

Andorra: At a glance

Andorra's culture is deeply rooted in its history and geography. The country's location in the Pyrenees Mountains has made it a melting pot of Spanish and French influences, creating a unique blend of traditions and customs that are distinctly Andorran.

One of the most striking aspects of Andorran culture is its Romanesque art and architecture. The country is home to many well-preserved Romanesque churches and bridges, some dating back to the 11th century. These architectural gems serve as a reminder of Andorra's rich history and its enduring connection to its past.

Catalan is the official language of the country, and it is spoken by the majority of the population. The language is a source of pride for Andorrans, who work diligently to preserve and promote it. Catalan is not only used in everyday conversations, but also in official government proceedings, education, and media.

Music and dance are integral parts of Andorran culture, with traditional folk festivals and celebrations held throughout the year. Traditional Andorran music typically includes instruments such as guitar, accordion, and drums, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. Popular dances like the sardana and marraix showcase the country's rich heritage and bring people together in celebration.

When it comes to cuisine, Andorra's food reflects its diverse cultural influences. The country's culinary scene draws inspiration from both French and Spanish cuisines, resulting in a delicious fusion of flavors. Fresh, locally sourced ingredients are at the heart of Andorran dishes, with popular specialties including escudella, a hearty stew, and trinxat, a dish made from cabbage and potatoes. Andorra is also renowned for its cheeses and cured meats.

Founded	1278
Capital	Andorra la Vella
Area	468 km ²
Population	85 101
Language	Catalan
Form of government	Monarchy



'Virtus Unita Fortior'
Collective progress is stronger

Facts

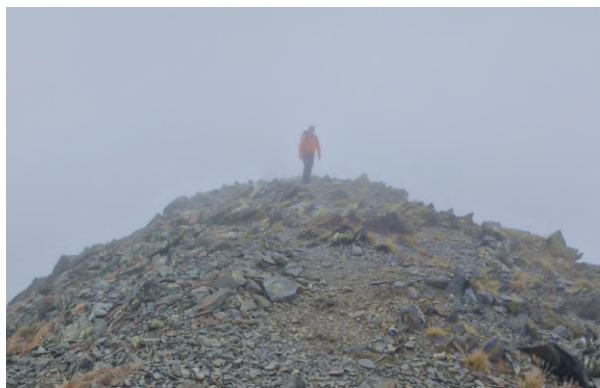
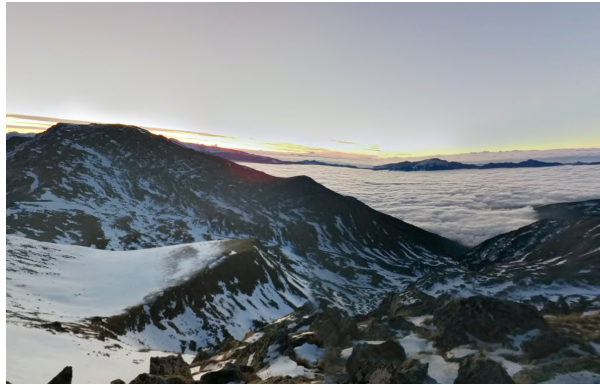
A	Often referred to as one of Europe's "little big countries"
B	51.7% of the population in Andorra holds foreign citizenship
C	89.5% of the population is Christian
D	Between 1278 and 1993, Andorra was a principality shared between Spain and France
E	Andorra is the largest winter sports destination in the Pyrenees
F	5.4 million tourists visited Andorra in 2021
G	The tourism industry employs 86% of the workforce
H	The life expectancy in Andorra is the fifth highest in the world
I	More than 90% of the land area consists of untouched nature
J	Ca. 4% of the land area is developed
K	Andorra has more museums per square meter than any other country (<i>except the Vatican City</i>)
L	10% of the country is on UNESCO's World Heritage List

Andorra through google streetview (1/3)



Andorra through google streetview (2/3)





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Intro: The 2008 Andorra Competition

While nearly as old as the profession itself, **architectural competitions** have been a social, political and cultural phenomenon of the post-Guggenheim Bilbao museums and real estate bubbles of the recent past.

In 2007, an ordinary, international public competition was called to seek out architects to compete in presenting proposed designs for the seat of the future **National Art Museum of Andorra**. The competition was initiated by the cultural ministry to encourage the construction of specific modern architectural designs in Andorra. These designs were intended to be examples of cutting-edge architecture on a global scale, and make Andorra a cultural hot spot.

In **2008**, the second phase of the competition enrolls, and participation is limited to Pritzker Prize winners and similar qualifications.

The documentary '**The Competition**' follows the second phase of the competition for the National Museum of Art of Andorra. Exclusive access offers a factual glimpse into the world of architectural innovation and rivalry. On a crucial day near Andorra's elections, the world renown participating architects made their presentations to the jury in a single intense session, becoming a hot event in the small country. The jury, led by government officials, would evaluate proposals based on predefined criteria, ensuring fairness and confidentiality throughout the process.

However, due to the **global financial crisis in 2008**, the museum was never built, and is yet to be realized.



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Competition site (Andorra la Vella)

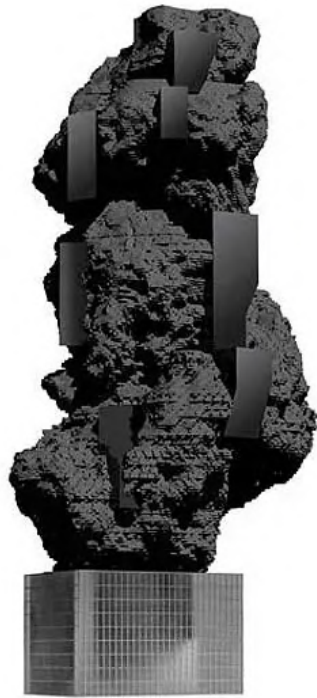
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Proposal by Zaha Hadid

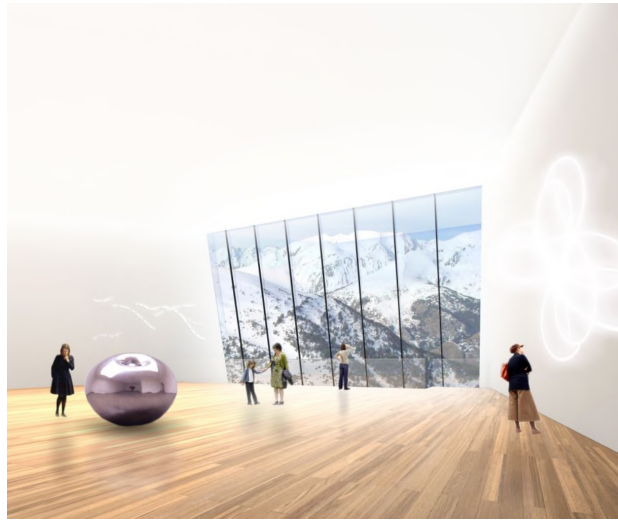
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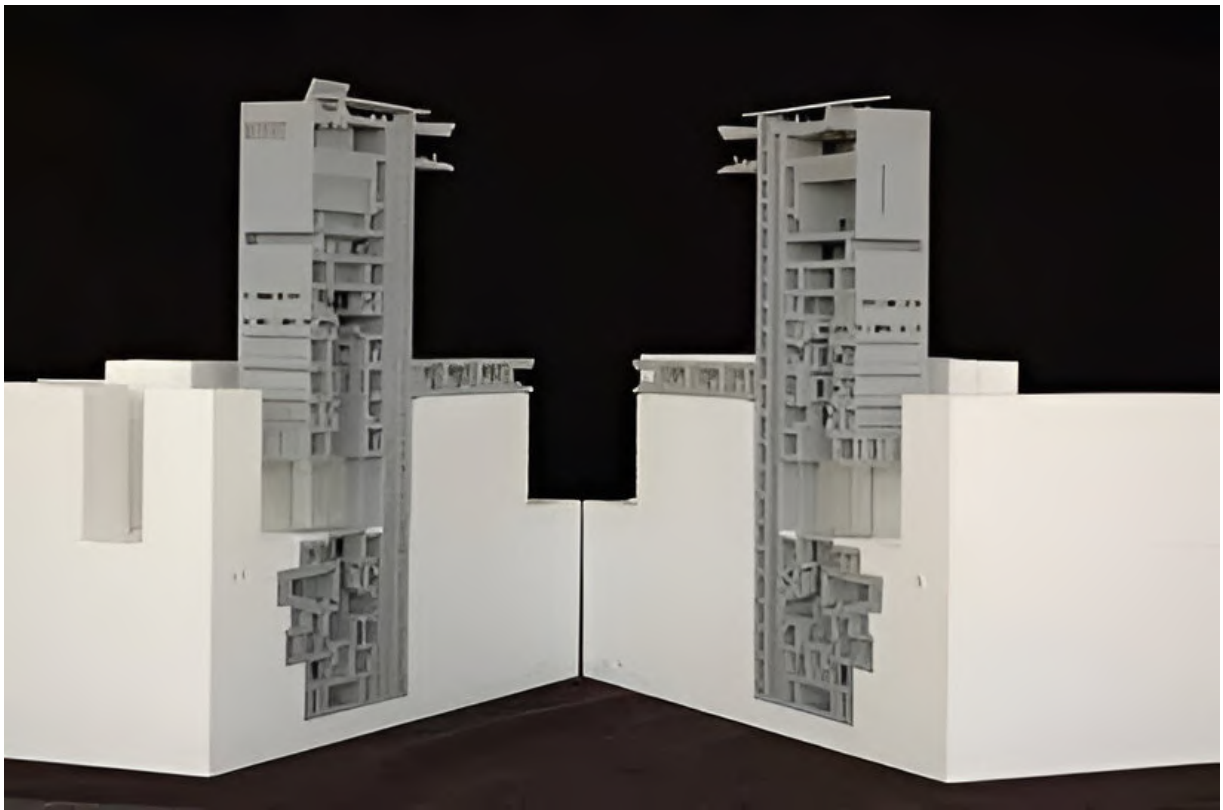
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Proposal by Frank Gehry

└



└ Proposal by Dominique Perrault ┘



Proposal by Jean Nouvel

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A. 1. 1. El Pais (Spain) 03.03.2014, p. 43
 "La película de la burbuja" by Anaxtu Zabalbeascoa



A. 2. 7. Competition (Germany), Enero - Marzo 2014, p. 10
 "Fuck, make some holes!"



A. 2. 2. Architectural Record (USA), May 2013, pp. 27 - 28
 "Starchitects Face Off in New Film" by Laura Mirviss



A. 2. 1. Icon (UK), nr. 121 July 2013 "Film", pp. 74 - 78
 "The Clash of the Titans" by Owen Pritchard



A. 1. 4. Volkskrant (Holland) 10.10.2013, pp.6-7
 "Starchitectuur" by Bob Witman



A. 1. 4. Volkskrant (Holland) 10.10.2013, pp.6-7
 "Starchitectuur" by Bob Witman



"A new documentary by Spanish architect Angel Borrego Cubero makes for compulsive viewing." (The Guardian, Oliver Wainwright)

"Ángel Borrego Cubero's wonderfully gossipy film The Competition (...) offers a revealing glimpse of life at a big – name practice." (ICON, Owen Pritchard)

"The film is a history lesson. And a chance to think about who and what decides how the buildings will be and what and for what buildings are needed". (El País, Anatxu Zabalbeascoa)

"[The Competition] offers a rare and comical look at the inner workings of some of the most prestigious firms in the business and sheds light on the ways star architects carefully curate their public images." (Architectural Record, Laura Mirviss)

"A real ethnographic piece that reveals the intricacies and processes behind the international architectural competitions". (edgargonzalez.com)

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Poster for screening of 'The Competition'. January 1st, 2014. Foyer der Architekturakultät
Innsbruck, Technikerstraße 21

Color scheme / graphic profile



The Competition

A documentary

One cameraman was sent
to each architectural office.
Three more were at the jury.
This is the result...

OSS presents The Competition. Produced and Directed by
Ángel Borrego Cubero. Edited by Simon Lund. Music
by César Bartolomé. With gratitude to the Government
of Andorra, Jean Nouvel, Dominique Perrault, Frank Gehry,
Zaha Hadid, Guston Tolla, Juli Minoves & Norman Foster.
Extended thanks to Lord Culture, Fundación Arte
y Derecho, UMP, SB and SR. Cameras by Gaël Urzáiz, Loreto
García, Sara Verd, Simon Lund and Ángel Borrego. PR by
Simona Rota.



The University of Hong Kong 香港大學
Department of Architecture 建築學系
Landscape City Architecture 景觀城市建築

Fri 08.06.2018
5:30pm, KB730 7/F
Knowles Building

Frank Gehry
Jean Nouvel
Zaha Hadid
Dominique Perrault
Norman Foster
directed by:
Ángel Borrego
Cubero



Poster for screening of 'The Competition'. June 8th, 2018. Knowles Building, The University
of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

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'The Competiton'

'The Competition' trailer; <https://vimeo.com/59223875>

Film synopsis; <https://www.o-s-s.org/work/the-competition/>

'The Competition' poster; © Office for Strategic Spaces (OSS)04:

Stills from 'The Competiton'; © Office for Strategic Spaces (OSS)

Andorra

Maps by 120 Hours

Coat of arms; https://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andorra#/media/Fil:Coat_of_arms_of_Andorra.svg

Photo of skiers; <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/3d/b2/74/3db27476b663e473e11b0fef4f4207f7.jpg>

Andorran folk clothing; <https://folkcostume.blogspot.com/2014/08/overview-of-folk-costumes-of-europe.html>

Google streetview photos; © Google 2024

The 2008 Andorra Competition

Siteplan by 120 Hours

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<https://www.iconeye.com/architecture/the-competition-an-angel-borrego-cubero-film>

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Articles; Press book © Office for Strategic Spaces (OSS)

13: Statements; Press book © Office for Strategic Spaces (OSS)

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Poster for screening of 'The Competition' (2014); <https://www.architecturaltheory.eu/filmvor-fuehrung-diskussion-the-competition-angel-borrego-cubero/?lang=en>