

## **PLASMA**

### **DESIGN AND SELF-BUILDING OF A NEW PUBLIC SPACE**

Participate, create and build your idea!

#### **THEME OF THE COMPETITION**

The ICARO student group in collaboration with the creative collective OPIFICIO111 launches the first edition of PLASMA: an initiative aimed at enhancing an unused public space located in the historic center of Cosenza through the design and self-construction of new urban furniture elements in wood.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPETITION**

The university-based initiative aims to reflect on the theme of urban and cultural recovery of the historic center through architecture, design and public art.

The goal is to give a practical, economic and reversible response to new social needs by experimenting with alternative methods of intervention in the public space, optimizing available resources and highlighting the virtuous characteristics of easily available materials such as wood.

PLASMA wants to promote new ways of interaction and stimulate reflection on the social and cultural importance of urban common spaces.

The small interventions, although reversible, will be an opportunity to turn the spotlight on an area that is important for the community and for the history of the Old Town of Cosenza.

PLASMA will also be an opportunity for discussion with the creatives of OPIFICIO111, with designers, architects and teachers who will guide the participants along the path that will lead to the definition of a new space to be given to the life of the historic center and its inhabitants.

#### **URBAN CONTEXT and AREA OF INTERVENTION**

CONTEXT\_ The Piazza dei Follari, Cosenza

The intervention area is located in the historic center of Cosenza, also known as Cosenza Vecchia.

The historic center, in its architectural forms, represents the apex of the expansion and culture of the Bruzi.

The public space object of the competition is located in the Vergini district which, since medieval times, has welcomed the largest concentration of noble families in the city, whose homes were next to churches, schools, public spaces and convents. The district takes its name from the Convent of the same name of Santa Maria delle Vergini.

Between the alleys of the Vergini district, on the right side of via del Liceo, the beautiful Piazza dei Follari opens up.

#### **AREA OF INTERVENTION**

The intervention area is identified in the spaces of external relevance of the new laboratories that OPIFICIO111 will open in the district. These develop along the ground floor of a three-storey building that is part of the monumental complex of the Virgins

dating back to the fifteenth century, and open in via dell'Accademia, on the west front of Piazzetta dei Follari, defining its morphology.

Inside, OPIFICIO111 will activate laboratories and workspaces open to the public, coordinating numerous workshops and cultural activities related to art and design, in order to re-functionalize the space, transforming it into a multipurpose cultural place for aggregation, creativity and social innovation.

Outside, the area in which the works will be designed is composed of two pertinent spaces arranged on two different levels: the first for access to the laboratories, while the second located at a lower level is a green area adapted to a play area. For children of which only a few anchors remain to the ground due to the neglect that has lasted for over ten years. This space, once redeveloped, will be open to the public for activities organized by the association itself.

- ORTHOPHOTO

- PLANIMETRY - ZOOM PLANIMETRY

- PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE INTERVENTION AREA

### **OBJECT OF THE COMPETITION**

PLASMA is a design competition that intends to involve students, creatives and young enthusiasts, in order to provide their contribution to the enhancement of a space that has been historically designed and experienced as a place of sociability and community.

How?

Through the creation of 3 (three) proposals in wood, able to respond to multiple needs at the same time and to repeat themselves by articulating the space in a different way over time. The target to which the new public space will be destined is very broad: children, young people and the elderly.

The goal is to give a practical, flexible, economic and reversible response to new social needs, optimizing the resources available and highlighting their qualities.

Participants are therefore required to design 1 (one) outdoor wooden object \* that meets the objectives of the competition, placing themselves in one of the following thematic areas:

#### **1. ARTISTIC INSTALLATION**

Intended as a three-dimensional work of art without a specific function. Objects belonging to this category will also be evaluated on the basis of their contextualization and therefore their relevance to the history and culture of the place of intervention.

#### **2. OUTDOOR STREET FURNITURE**

Intended as an object with one or more specific functions. Objects belonging to this category will be evaluated also on the basis of their flexibility, usefulness and ability to respond to multiple functions.

#### **3. CONNECTIONS**

Intended as signage objects in repetition used to guide visitors to the new public space and headquarters of OPIFICIO111. Objects belonging to this category should, if possible, be visible even at night.

\* PLEASE NOTE: participants are asked to design only one object. This object, however, can be repeated respecting the indications on the amount of material available. The objects that will be made at the end of the competition can therefore be more than three.

The flexibility of the object and its ability to repeat itself and configure itself in a different way will be rewarded in the evaluation phase

The competition is open to all students, creative and passionate, and will be divided into TWO PHASES.

- The first phase involves the selection of the most deserving projects which, through direct comparison with OPIFICIO111 will be guided to the final phase.
- The final phase, on the other hand, will end with the selection of 3 (three) projects, which will be created by OPIFICIO111 in collaboration with the authors of the winning works and directly accessible to all participants.

### **PLANNING INDICATIONS**

#### **MATERIAL (S) AVAILABLE AND ASSEMBLY**

Participants must comply with the limits on the material made available for the competition. The challenge proposed by the initiative is in fact to be able to optimize the material available in the best possible way, giving an economic and sustainable response to the fundamental objectives of the competition. The materials available, for each participant, will be:

- \_ ° 1 phenolic plywood panel of pine dim. 122 x 244 cm thickness 18mm
- \_ ° 2 Spruce strips, length 4m section 4 x 7cm approximately (rough section, will be reduced after adequate planing)

What does it look like?

This material is made up of pine wood veneers superimposed on one another orthogonally to the other and in an odd number, glued together with the use of phenolic glues by hot pressing. The glues used are resistant to humidity and therefore make the product suitable for outdoor use. Typically used in construction, pine phenolic plywood, thanks to its particular composition, stands out for its good mechanical characteristics and the advantageous weight / performance ratio.

- \_ ° 60 screws Ø 3; L. 30 mm;
- \_ ° 60 screws Ø 3.5; L. 35 mm;
- \_ ° 60 screws Ø 3.5; L 40 mm;
- \_ ° 60 screws Ø 4; L. 50 mm;

\_pins

There is also a budget of € 40 per participant for any additional components \* such as: hobby material, electrical components or electronic devices, brackets, ropes, twine, hooks, etc. It is also possible to use recycled materials that individual participants are able to recover and reuse. These will be correctly inserted in the project proposal and eventually supplied.

All additional components used must be specified in terms of quantity, size, model, cost, and compulsorily available in any DIY store, hardware store, etc.

\* PLEASE NOTE: the additional components are to be considered only for the completion of the object and do not in any way replace the material available.

### **FINISH**

The project can be finished with the use of impregnating agents, varnishes or oils and waxes, depending on the intended use. In external use it is recommended to treat the product with impregnating agents which, combined with the quality of the bonding, will keep it in excellent condition for a long period of time. The result and the effect of these processes depend on the adaptability of the components with respect to the material, therefore, it is recommended to use it by a more expert hand, and it is required to specify the steps and stratifications necessary for a correct laying of the compound. It is **IMPORTANT** to consider that during the construction of the objects the use of a protective impregnating agent is already foreseen.

### **PROCESSING**

The admitted processes will be:

#### **- CUTS**

When setting up the cutting operations it is good to remember that the blade cuts for a thickness of about 5mm in order to optimize the material. It is possible to use layering to create thicker material sections. 90° CUTS OF ANY SIZE, 45 ° CUTS ON A MAXIMUM WIDTH OF 10cm are allowed.

#### **- HOLES**

In diameter of traditional drill bits: from 3mm to 10mm. Holes for hole cutters: 19mm - 22mm- 25mm - 32mm - 38mm - 44mm - 54mm - 64mm

(in this case it is possible to reuse the circular portion of the cut board).

#### **- JOINTS AND JOINTS**

#### **- GLUING - DRAWING**

#### **- NAILING: 45 ° junction**

#### **- HALF WOODEN JOINT FOR CROSS CONNECTIONS**

#### **- SCREWING**

**- POCKET SCREWING:** hides the screw - **ASSEMBLY OF MULTIPLE PIECES:** to create a joint.

**PLEASE NOTE:** In case of need, it is possible to ask for clarification before the deadline. The jury reserves the right for clarification on the matter during the evaluation phase of the projects.

### **MODALITY OF PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION**

The competition is open to all students, both creative and passionate.

It is possible to participate, individually or in groups (max. 4 people providing for the presence of a duly registered student), by sending the following documents by 02.06.2021:

- 1 (one) pdf file in UNI A3 format, which acts as a poster of the project.

- maximum 3 (three) pdf files in UNI A3 format, free orientation, containing all the documents necessary for a clear understanding of the project proposal and its implementation.

(e.g. plans, elevations, sections, three-dimensional views, inserted photos, photographs of three-dimensional models, diagrams and explanatory diagrams of the construction methods relating to the indications of the announcement)

The files of the documents must be printable and must not exceed the size of 5MB each. The proposed works must be accompanied by a text of a maximum of 1000 characters, explaining the project idea. It must also be specified in which thematic area the work is located, under penalty of exclusion from the competition:

1. ARTISTIC INSTALLATION
2. OUTDOOR STREET FURNITURE
3. CONNECTIONS

\* PLEASE NOTE: All members of the design group are recognized equal titles and rights and the authorship of the ideas expressed in the project proposal. It is not allowed that the same person or group is part of more than one group, nor that it submits several distinct project proposals, under penalty of invalidation of each proposal submitted. Participants must assign to one of the members of the group the role of representative, who, in case of winning, will maintain relations with the organizers in the name and on behalf of the members of the whole group.

#### SIGNING UP

It is possible to register for the competition using the REGISTRATION FORM at the link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RkAUto9>

Failure to comply with the indications of art. 6 will result in exclusion from the competition.

#### **SELECTION COMMITTEE AND EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The competition will be divided into TWO PHASES (see art.4)

- The first phase involves the selection of the most deserving projects that will be guided to the final phase.

- The final phase, on the other hand, will end with the selection of three (3) winning projects.

The proposals will be evaluated by a commission composed of:

- FACTORY111
- Prof. Arch. Alberto De Capua
- Arch. Antonio Aricò
- ICARO Student Group

The work of the Commission, whose judgment is binding, takes place by assigning the relative score to each project proposal, with a maximum of 100 points.

All proposals will be evaluated for relevance to the chosen theme, contextualization, ease of implementation.

QUALITY OF THE PROPOSAL max. 20pt.

FEASIBILITY AND EXECUTIVITY OF THE PROPOSAL max. 30pt

CONTEXTUALIZATION max. 20pt.

Each proposal, based on the thematic area in which it is located, will be evaluated respectively for:

CREATIVITY AND ORIGINALITY OF THE PROPOSAL max. 30pt (ARTISTIC INSTALLATION)

FUNCTIONAL FLEXIBILITY OF THE PROPOSAL max. 30pt. ( STREET FURNITURE)

ACCESSIBILITY max. 30pt (CONNECTIONS)

### **PRIZE**

The three project proposals selected in the final phase will be carried out in collaboration with the artisans of OPIFICIO111 in the place subject to the competition, reporting the name of the author or authors on their respective works.

### **QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPETITION**

To receive information and / or explanations regarding the articles of the call, you can contact the email address [icaromediterranea@gmail.com](mailto:icaromediterranea@gmail.com) within 5 days from the date of delivery of the first phase of the competition.