

CALLING

architects, artists, engineers

to submit proposal for sustainable studio/living units at ASociety's meadow farmland.

PROJECT PURPOSE

ASociety farm is looking for design submissions for 3 resident/studio structures for its expanding artist in residency program. 3 free standing structures will house resident artists as well as enhance existing farming activities. ASociety Resident artists will be engaged in developing media art projects with crossover activities of emergent technologies and organic farming. This call out encourages collaboration between artists, architects and engineers in order to demonstrate and promote unique, functional, and inspiring approaches to sustainable design and post-crash housing techniques.

ELIGIBILITY

This call out is open to all artists, engineers, individual architects, architectural firms, architectural organizations. Entrants are encouraged to work and partner with individuals and/or organizations from outside their discipline.

AWARD

Winner will be commissioned to realize the project at the ASociety farmland in late Spring 2009.

PARTNERS

TBD

DESIGN CRITERIA

The structures will be built in the back 40 of the ASociety farm near the pond and vegetable gardens. Proposals should consider how the existing farm-based environment impacts the personal experience. ASociety residency program intends to engage artists and farmers with an experience that build connections to the natural world and the applied possibilities of sustainability.

REQUIREMENT:

Max. 300 sqft per unit based on the concept , 'Small is beautiful'.

Resident amenities: bed, kitchenette, desk/table. (toilet and shower can be considered)

Energy self sufficient

Grey water system or alternative for waste water.

Longevity and low maintenance of the structure and systems

The units should be mobile and relocatable on the farmland.

The 3 units should be of the same design idea with or without variation.

The units should be in dialogue with natural landscape.

*The units are mostly planned for 3 seasons unless simple efficient insulation schemes can be designed.

MATERIALS

1. **Recycled and Recyclability:** Consider using pre-consumer and post-consumer recycled materials whenever possible. Materials considered could be both of recycled content, and recyclable after the expected life-span of the shelter itself. Use FSC-certified wood products or from salvaged sources, or consider a rapidly-renewable product.

2. **Think Local:** Consider the environmental impact of any shipping of materials, as well as travel of participants. The entire project should be designed to create the lowest carbon-footprint possible. Use of materials found on-site at ASociety is also encouraged, with certain restrictions. Local Natural Resources include hardwood timber, blue stone quarries, more....

3. **Safety:** Proposals must take into consideration any toxic chemicals involved in the production or treatment of the materials.

MINIMAL off-gasing.

ANDES SPROUTS SOCIETY BACKGROUND

ASociety works toward the exchange of knowledge and labor of urban gardening and field farming, the sustainability of the land, while engaging artists and the international perspective on eco-bio issues. Andes Sprout Society is a registered not-for-profit artist/farmer society based at Andes, New York.

ASociety farm sits on 21 acres in New York's Delaware county within the Catskill Mountain Region. The region's history has been shaped to a great degree by its geography and topography and by the people who have settled in its upland terrain. From the hunting bands of Lenni-Lenape and Iroquois Indians to early European-American settlers and to those who came later in the 20th century, humans have sought sustenance derived from the landscape of mountains, forests and river valleys. Dubbed "First American Wilderness", the Catskill mountain forest preserve is comprised of thousands of acres of forever wild forest land, mountain streams, rivers, rugged mountains, working farmland and villages.

ASociety exemplifies the Catskill Regions' cultural heritage of the sprouting farm landscape as well as stimulates biocultural productivity for the new media global community.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The ASociety Farm topography includes a stream, meadow, stone wall, pond, mature pine forest, and mountain views.

Maps Arial
 Topography

Wind

Prevailing winds blow from a westerly direction much of the time. Classic upslope wind.

Annual Precipitation (inches) 41"

Knowledge of the 4 distinct seasons of the Catskills is valuable for the longevity and functionality of built structure(s). As is typical of mountain environments, rapid weather changes are a regular occurrence, with conditions varying from summer heat to winter chill in a matter of hours, and sometimes less.

WINTER December - February

Temp (24.6 degrees F)

Seasonal Snowfall (inches) 75"

Catskill winters are at the very least a 4 month season. In a typical Catskill snow season, there are 20 to 30 days with snowfalls of one inch or more. Both freezing rain (glaze) and ice pellets(sleet) can occur about a dozen times. Heating degree days(a measure of fuel consumption) is a minimum of 7,500 days from Dec - March. Freeze Thaw Cycle (cold weather seasonal phenomenon) is the number of times that the daily temp drops to 28 degrees F or below and also rises to 32 degrees F or above. ASociety farm has approx. 80-90 freeze-thaw days a year. The cycle affects water movement in soil, soil freezing, surface runoff, erosion and the weathering of paved road surfaces.





SPRING March - May

The early part of Catskill spring is characterized by melt and is also known as mud-season. Snow and ice melt trickling away in countless rills, and the ASociety meadows and fields are sodden sponges.

Spring is also the beginning of the Growing Season (120 days) following the last frost which is typically the fourth week of May.

This time of year is when water requirements for agriculture and for all vegetation become greater. Insufficient early seasonal precipitation can effect an entire seasons crop.

SUMMER June - August

Temp (64.6 degrees F)

Mean % of possible Catskill sunshine is about 60% in summer as opposed to 35% in winter. In early summer, the sun rises about 5 o'clock daylight time and lasts a full 15 hours.

During Summer months, the principal climatological concern is the adequacy of rainfall supply. In addition to agriculture the catskill region is devoted to the collection of water supplying NYC metropolitan area and the city of Philadelphia. The network of storage reservoirs is dependent upon upstream watersheds for their supply. ASociety is a wet hill with one pond and stream flowing south (see map). 2 meteorological phenomena that generally overlap the summer season are thunderstorms and hail. Within the Catskill area 30-35 such storms normally occur each year, nearly all during the growing season from May-Sept.

FALL September - November

The shortest season of the year, average first frost(32 degrees F) occurs in the third week of September, marking the end of the growing season. final harvest, done quickly in anticipation of the frost brings in the late tomatoes, sweet corn and many of the root vegetables. In a typical year, foliage season peaks in the middle of October. Nearly all autumn precipitation in the Catskills comes as rain, with little snow except during the later two weeks of November.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

All documents, design sketch and sample work should be submitted as PDF file (max 10 MB total) by e-mail to now@andessproutssociety.us, including:

1. One letter size page of name of applicant(s) and collaborators' contact info and brief bio (including URLs) with ONE key contact person's e-mail.
2. Up to 2 letter size pages of proposed design - including details on sustainable design components and materials based on the design critiria described above.
3. Estimated budget including artist/architect/engineer's fee, construction materials, labor and any additional expenses. Based on the concept 'Bio friendly and affordable'.
4. A maximum of 6 drawings, renderings, or other representation for your proposed structure. These could include interior perspectives, exterior elevations, additional floor plans, building sections and diagrams to explain design content. These installation representations should sufficiently simple and coherent in regards to proposed location within the site, scale and orientation.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Preliminary proposals due (postmark) - until February 15, 2009

Selection of artists/architects - until March 31, 2009

Construction/Installation period - June to September 2009

OWNERSHIP OF DESIGN

The artists/architects own copyright of the work. The units built are owned by ASociety.

The artists/architects grant ASociety the right to multiply the units at the ASociety only.

The artists/architects are free to further promote and rebuild the same design anywhere else.