

The COMPETITION

A documentary

Last decades' star architects...
A government...
Good intentions...
Pet projects...

Dominique PERRAULT
Frank GEHRY
Jean NOUVEL
Zaha HADID
Norman FOSTER



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 Angel 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 and Norman Foster. Extended thanks to Lord Culture, Fundación Arte y Derecho, UPM, SB and SR. Cameras by Gaël Urzáiz, Loreto García, Sara Verd, Simon Lund and Angel Borrego. PR by Simona Rota.

"For anyone with the slightest suspicion of the insidious, futile processes at work behind the glossy facades of the world's so-called 'starchitects', a new documentary by Spanish architect Angel Borrego Cubero makes for compulsive viewing"

The Guardian, Oliver Wainwright

Angel Borrego Cubero's wonderfully gossipy film The Competition (...) offers a revealing glimpse of life at a big - name practice.

ICON, Owen Pritchard

[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 starchitects carefully curate their public images.

Architectural Record, Laura Mirviss

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 as the same time the World Première of this documentary and since then it's being shown all over the world.

Showing at AZA2015 only!

The African premiere of The Competition is brought to you by the Student Architecture Festival hosted by the University of Johannesburg, with generous support from our sponsors, [LYT Architecture \(Orange\)](#); [GLH Associates Architects \(Gold\)](#); [Paragon Architects \(Gold\)](#); [Stauch Vorster/GIBB \(Gold\)](#); [MMA Design Studio \(Gold\)](#); Kate Otten Architects (Silver); Lemonpebble Architects (Silver); Urban Soup Architects (Silver) and GreenInc (Silver). We thank all our sponsors for their support in helping us put on this special event.

Ticket prices:
General Public: R100
Students: R50

For bookings, please visit the website, ArchitectureZA.org and go to the Bookings Page. Tickets are limited: book early to avoid disappointment!

There will be a Q&A session after the film with the Spanish director, Angel Borrego Cubero. Don't miss this exciting event!