

For Immediate Release

ARC Competition Announces Finalist Teams to Design the Next Generation of Wildlife Crossings

Teams to compete on a wildlife overpass at West Vail Pass, I-70, Colorado

Vail, Colorado, USA, September 8, 2010 – The ARC International Wildlife Crossing Infrastructure Design Competition has selected five finalist teams to develop conceptual designs and 3-D models for a wildlife overpass at West Vail Pass along Interstate Highway 70 near Vail, Colorado. The designs are intended to usher in a new generation of wildlife crossing infrastructure using new methods, new materials, and new thinking to reduce structural costs and increase adaptability and ecological function. Leading the finalist teams are:

- *Balmori Associates (New York)* <http://www.balmori.com/>
- *Janet Rosenberg & Associates (Toronto)* <http://www.jrala.ca/>
- *Michael Van Valkenburgh & Associates with HNTB (New York)* <http://www.mvvainc.com/> and <http://www.hntb.com/>
- *The Olin Studio (Philadelphia)* <http://www.theolinstudio.com/>
- *Zwarts & Jantsma (Amsterdam)* <http://www.zwarts.jantsma.nl/index.php?lang=en>

The finalists were chosen from 36 team submissions from nine countries, representing over 100 firms worldwide. The five teams in contention include more than a dozen firms in four countries with the landscape architects, engineers, and architects unique to each team, supported by ecologists, wildlife biologists and other specialists.

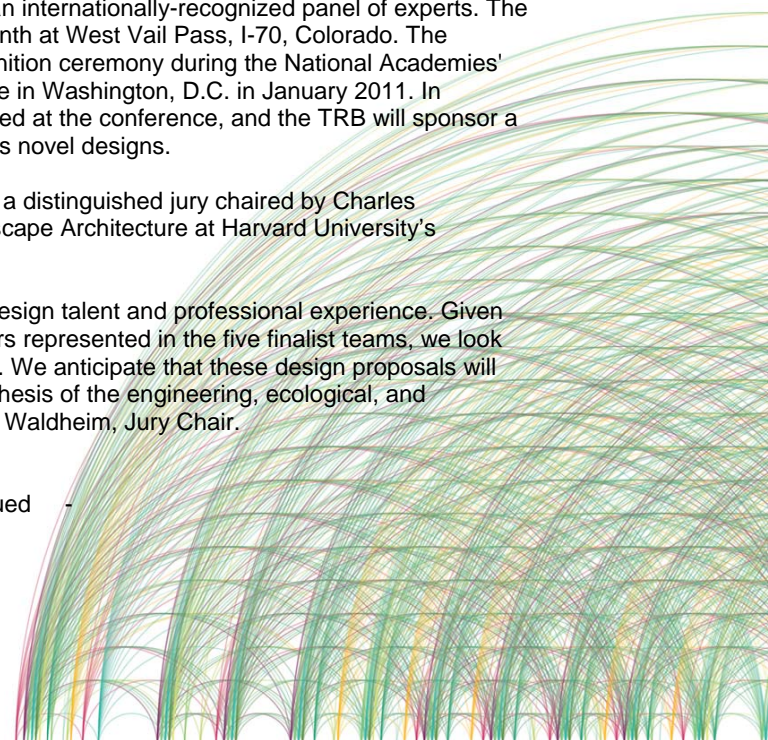
“It was quite exciting to review the various multi-disciplinary approaches put forward by such a wide array of talent,” stated Dr. Tony Clevenger, Senior Wildlife Ecologist at the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University and the originator of the idea for the competition, “whittling it down to just five finalist teams was a real challenge.”

An honorarium of \$15,000 will be awarded to each of the finalists who must submit their original concept designs at the beginning of November for adjudication by an internationally-recognized panel of experts. The finalist teams will attend a mandatory site visit later this month at West Vail Pass, I-70, Colorado. The winning design team will receive \$40,000 at a public recognition ceremony during the National Academies' Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. in January 2011. In addition to the ceremony, the finalist designs will be exhibited at the conference, and the TRB will sponsor a conference workshop to review the ARC competition and its novel designs.

To select the winner of the competition, ARC has engaged a distinguished jury chaired by Charles Waldheim, the John E. Irving Professor and Chair of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.

“The finalist teams represent a truly international array of design talent and professional experience. Given the exceptional group of landscape architects and engineers represented in the five finalist teams, we look forward to seeing their proposals for the I-70 Vail Pass site. We anticipate that these design proposals will provide us with a better understanding of the potential synthesis of the engineering, ecological, and economic potentials of the project.” said Professor Charles Waldheim, Jury Chair.

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The finalists will be considered pre-qualified by the Colorado Department of Transportation in any subsequent Request for Proposals to develop and implement a wildlife crossing structure along I-70.

“One of the *Core Values* for the I-70 Mountain Corridor is safety; safety is a criteria that will be factored into every project that takes place on the I-70 Mountain Corridor between Denver and Glenwood Springs,” CDOT I-70 Mountain Corridor Manager Peter Kozinski said. “As we work with stakeholders to consider corridor improvements, activities and projects like this ARC competition can lead to safer solutions for all involved.”

The intent of the ARC competition is to generate new solutions that are applicable not only at Vail Pass but which can be incorporated into wildlife crossing designs across the U.S., Canada and around the world.

“Having a highway in Colorado as the site of this competition sets the table for innovation world-wide,” said U.S. Representative Jared Polis (D-CO), “using our backyard to advance transportation solutions that provide connectivity for people and wildlife is an exciting prospect.”

For further information about the ARC Competition visit www.arc-competition.com.

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