

Construction Shed Design Competition – Call for Ideas Questions and Responses from July 28 Information Session

1. What size drawings are expected for competition submissions?

Submissions should be in pdf format. The file format (when printed) can be either 11"x17" or 24"x36" and can include up to four scale drawings that clearly show details. Entries should show sufficient engineering details to demonstrate that they meet basic structural requirements for construction shed design included in the [2014 New York City Building Code](#).

2. What level of completion should designs show?

Designs should approach 30% completion.

Submissions may also include a supporting Word document to explain engineering or other technical details not readily visible on the designs, but may not exceed one page, single-spaced.

3. Is the parapet of the shed included in the design competition? If so, must the parapet be represented in hunter green, as required in the NYC Building Code?

The shed parapet is considered part of the shed structure and should be included in submissions. Innovative approaches to design and color are permitted and the Building Foundation will work with the City for modifications to the City's current requirement for all parapets to be hunter green. Red is discouraged, as it could interfere with Fire Department requirements for construction sites.

4. Should submissions consider lighting?

Submissions do not have to address lighting requirements for construction sheds, and submissions that do include lighting will not necessarily have an advantage over other submissions. However, as lighting is an important and required component of construction sheds, innovative proposals for lighting are welcome.

5. Since sheds must cover sidewalks of varying widths – how should submissions address this issue?

Submissions should address this issue – although no specific method is preferred by the Competition Committee. At the information session, modular approaches to design, to allow adding additional bays for wider sidewalks, was discussed.

6. When is the latest submissions may be turned in on August 19th?

Submissions may be made until 5:00 p.m. on August 19th. It was explained at the information session that the short turnaround time for submissions (August 19) was done, in part, in consideration of participants, limiting the amount of time dedicated to this project. Winning entries will be developed further following the competition.

7. Why does the Building Foundation expect scaffolding companies to adopt new designs when they have invested so much in their existing inventory?

The Building Foundation encourages submissions to consider existing materials in their submissions, where possible, to facilitate adoption by scaffolding companies.

The Building Foundation further recommends that submissions limit the cost of any new materials and the costs of installation – which will discourage wide adoption by both scaffolding companies and building owners, who would bear any price increases and the costs of acquiring new materials. Proposals that require complicated installation systems are not recommended for this reason.

Although the competition envisions proposals for new shed designs, proposals that modify individual components of the existing shed structure – joints, walls, flooring, lighting, etc. – but not the entire structure, will be considered.

The Committee is communicating with scaffolding companies during the course of the competition.

8. What is driving the current competition? What happened to the winner of the 2009 shed design competition?

The New York Building Foundation and the Design Review Committee recognize that the existing shed design is driven by cost considerations. In a low-bid environment, owners typically seek the lowest-cost construction shed, as shed and scaffolding companies have invested heavily in inventory.

The 2009 competition provided a design that did not use any materials from existing shed company inventories, which raised costs and therefore disincentivized adoption. The high cost of fabrication and other technical intricacies of the design further discouraged adoption, according to some owners who attempted to use the design.

The Building Foundation competition is designed to fully consider these barriers to success that faced the 2009 competition. Ease of construction, use of existing- and low cost materials is encouraged to overcome some of those challenges. The jury is furthermore composed of a variety of practitioners in New York City familiar with erecting and maintaining protective structures on construction sites, who will take these issues into consideration when evaluating submissions.

9. Are individuals not affiliated with a firm eligible to compete?

Yes. However, entries must demonstrate a basic understanding of the engineering requirements that will allow compliance with NYC Building Code Requirements.