

Design Competition and the Quality of Our Built Environment

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ABSTRACT

Does competition deliver high quality design?

Competition has received mixed result. Competitions often result in disappointing designs and worse; they often do not get built, making competition an expensive yet an unsatisfying method. Thus, the increasing number of design competitions in Indonesia over the past few years might justify the usefulness of this method. If competition has been accepted as an effective and democratic way in finding high quality design, what kind of competition works?

The success of a competition lays in its management and organization. Design Competition involves complex organizations; different stakeholders, a large number of participants, and sets of procedural rules. Focusing on the case of ITB Architectural Design Competition, a prestigious national competition on a campus design that has attracted more than 175 entries, this paper will present how a competition is run, what are the influential factors in its success and some recommendations. Understanding the organization, programming, and evaluation of competitions are keys to understanding and improving their results.

Keywords: *competition, competition organization, design quality, design method*