

International Sustainable Laboratory Student Design Competition

About the Competition

Architecture and engineering students across the world are invited to participate in the International Sustainable Laboratory Student Design Competition in support of the Salt River Bay Marine Research and Education Center (MREC). The MREC will be located in Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve, a U.S. National Park unit on the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Participants in the design competition are encouraged to provide new and innovative thinking for the MREC design and produce the most energy efficient and environmentally sustainable designs possible.

To learn about the benefits of competition sponsorship and express your interest, visit:
<www.i2sl.org/competition/sponsors.html>

Design Use

Depending on the timing of the MREC project, all or parts of the winning competition design may be considered for incorporation into the MREC final design plans.

Competition Schedule

Fall 2011	Competition registration begins. First semester of classes related to competition begins. Competition promotion continues.
Spring 2012	Second semester of classes related to competition begins. Jury announced. Competition promotion continues.
Spring/Summer 2012	Submissions accepted. Judging begins.
Summer/Fall 2012	Winners announced at the American Institute of Architects National Convention and awards presented at the Labs21 2012 Annual Conference. Winning entries promoted.

Learn More

For information on the project, visit: <www.i2sl.org/competition/index.html>

For registration information and other competition logistics, visit: <www.acsa-arch.org/labs>



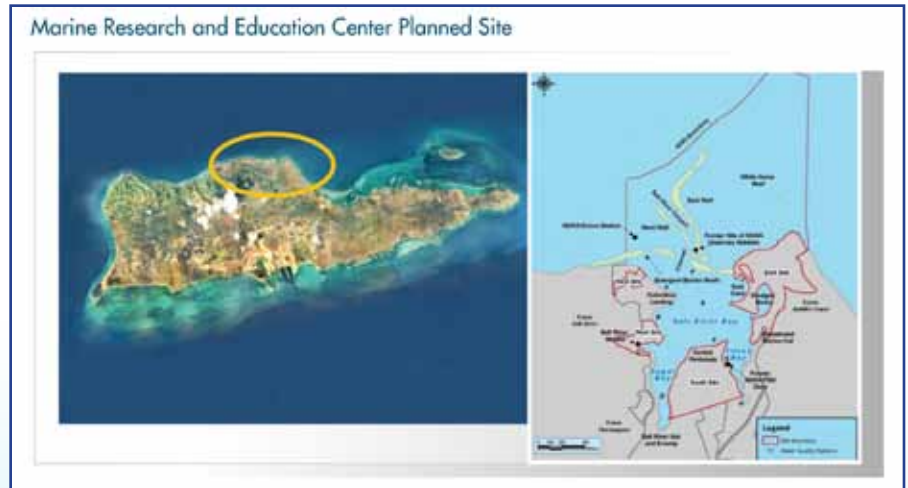
About the Project Site

The MREC will be located on a 96-acre site on the Hemer's Peninsula site east of Salt River Bay, along the north central coast of St. Croix. Salt River Bay has extensive cultural and archeological significance, featuring remains of two pre-Columbia Tainos villages and a ball court constructed more than 2,000 years ago. On November 14, 1493, Christopher Columbus's party came ashore at Salt River Bay, the only site now in U.S. territory visited by Columbus's party during his voyages.

The 60,000-square-foot facility will support marine research and education programs for undergraduate and graduate university students, in addition to marine science and environmental education programs for primary and secondary school-age students and adults.

Participants in the design competition are encouraged to provide new and innovative thinking for the MREC design and produce the most energy efficient and environmentally sustainable designs possible. Students will be required to develop integrated design and engineering strategies for the educational laboratory and address the off-grid utility infrastructures needed for the campus. The designs will respond to the climatic, geophysical, environmental, and resource challenges of the site and its location on a tropical island adjacent to sensitive marine resources. Strategies must minimize impacts to the marine and natural environment.

Students must creatively pursue the highest level of energy and environmental sustainability through the integration of design and engineering strategies. Student must also take into account the operation and maintenance of the laboratory facility and the campus. Students should view their submissions as concepts that will incentivize the use of their strategies throughout the Caribbean basin.



About the Partners

The **International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories (I²SL)** is devoted to the principles of sustainable laboratories, from design to engineering to practice. Through worldwide partnerships and the exchange of technical information, I²SL helps to produce high-technology facilities that address the rapid pace of science, medicine, research, and development in an ever-changing and dynamic world. <www.i2sl.org>

The **Office of Insular Affairs (OIA)** has oversight of the U.S. territories and provides assistance to the territorial governments to meet a variety of needs, including water treatment and solid waste systems, roads, public buildings, hospitals, schools, insular management controls, and coral reef management. <www.doi.gov/oia>

The **Joint Institute for Caribbean Marine Studies (JICMS)** is a consortium of four universities that will operate the MREC. The consortium members are the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW); the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI); Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (RU); and the University of South Carolina (USC).

The **Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA)** is a nonprofit organization founded in 1912 to enhance the quality of architectural education. ACSA provides a forum for ideas on the leading edge of architectural thought. ACSA member schools are currently examining issues that will affect the design profession in the future. ACSA is committed to the principles of universal and sustainable design. <www.acsa-arch.org>