



Common of Houses

No expense spared



In association with The Architects Journal

28.05.09

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. ABOUT

The MP's expense fiasco continues to roll on, with MP's dropping like overfed flies and each party trying to outdo each other in the drastic reforms that they advise are required to fix the "broken" system. It is most interesting to see the number of MP's who are really angry about how terrible the current system is, I wonder when they realised it was so bad?

Continuously we hear the lines "I have done nothing wrong. Everything I have done, was within the rules." The problem with that argument is that it was the MP's themselves that wrote those rules in the first place and its MP's who are planning on rewriting them. Obviously not all MP's are fiddling and flipping but how do we sort it all out, so the majority of honest ones don't get tarred and punished by the same brush?

We think its time that the whole situation was approached from a completely new angle. What if the people asked to solve the second home problem were not MP's? What if they were designers, artists and architects? What if instead of a legal solution, there was a creative one?

We put our heads together, had a little think and an obvious solution popped into our heads. Instead of each MP having to go out and buy two homes, one in London for their Westminster duties and one in their Constituency for their day to day work we could remove the whole problem, with the State providing accommodation - no second home allowance required, no temptation to purchase duck islands, instead all homes are owned by us and the MP's can just simply get on with their jobs, everyone's a winner.

2. BRIEF

This is where we need you, the creative minds of the UK (and elsewhere), we believe that there are two types of home required for MP's and we need you to design them.

Type 1: The Constituency Home

This is a home located in each constituency that works like a Church Manse. When an MP is elected they are given this home to live in rent free. It remains the property of the tax payer and once an MP is unelected, they simply move out. MP's can choose to live elsewhere if they so wish but that is at their own expense.

Exactly how this home looks, what its function is and how it is designed is where you come in. Maybe it could be some kind of modernist multi-functional office/ surgery and family home or maybe it could be a palatial mansion house with duck islands, moats and servants wings or maybe its just a shop doorway and a cardboard box. Any and all ideas are welcome.

You can choose to design a building for a specific MP or a specific Constituency or you can choose to design a standard building which could be used in every region of the country.

Type 2: The Westminster Home

This will be a solution to mass housing all the ministers when they are actually on duty at Westminster. MP's can choose to stay elsewhere if they wish but that is at their own expense.

Again this is where we need the creative minds to step in and propose how this could function and how it will look. Maybe, it could be a giant hotel, pod accommodation, an army barracks deep under Westminster or a cruise ship moored on the Thames. Again any and all ideas, no matter how unorthodox, are welcome.

We encourage designs for either or both, for full submission details see below.

2. ELIGIBILITY

The contest is being widely advertised in the UK art and architecture press but it is open to everyone, anywhere. If you have a good idea, we want to know about it.

3. JURY

Jury members are still to be confirmed and will be announced at www.commonofhouses.co.uk

Judging criteria will be as follows :

- inspiration and creativity
- response to and understanding of brief

4. DATES AND ENTRY SPECIFICATIONS

a) Contest Dates

The contest will be open for entries from 4 June, 2009 (EU Elections) and entries can be received until midnight 21 July, 2009 GMT (When parliament adjourns for summer recess).

b) Entry specifications

An entry to the competition must consist of four parts:

1. Up to a max of three A3 sheets which graphically explain your idea. The content of these sheets is left to the entrant's discretion and may include architectural drawings, plans, sections, elevations, 3Ds, scribbles or artistic visualisations – basically any image(s) which you feel helps to sell your idea. These sheets should be emailed in a (200DPI) RGB JPG format.
2. A completed submission form. (Can be downloaded from www.commonofhouses.co.uk)
3. A fake expense/ receipt of what you would like to win as your prize, preferably supplied in (200DPI) RGB format as a fake physical receipt.
4. A brief explanation of the concept behind your design. This could take the form of a short essay, a quotation or anything that inspired the author to produce the design. This can be up to 500 words long.

If an entry does not consist of all four parts, it may not be considered for entry. All applications are to be emailed to info@commonofhouses.co.uk and emails must be no larger than 5MB.

OPTIONAL – If possible please also include a black and white picture of the designer in a 100mmx150mm 200DPI RGB JPG format.

c) Selection

All valid entries from eligible participants will be submitted to the jury for selection. A valid entry is one that matches all the technical and content requirements and has been submitted via the info@commonofhouses.co.uk email. Designs not matching these criteria might be excluded from the competition, at the discretion of the jury.

5. ANONYMITY

a) Copyrighted material

By submitting an entry the participant confirms compliance to the competition rules, that the design has not been published prior to the contest and that it is their personal work.

b) Anonymous entries

No designs submitted should be signed by the author or bear any other distinguishing mark. The design, name and address of the participant will be numbered and personal data will be stored separately and reunited only after jury selection.

6. RESTRICTIONS

a) Delays

A design shall be excluded from the competition if it is received after midnight (GMT), 21 July, 2009 unless it has been delayed by a malfunction in the submission system, in which case it may be included at the jury's discretion.

b) Clauses

A design shall be excluded from the competition if it does not fulfil the clauses laid out in this document.

7. SHORTLISTED ENTRIES

a) Main prize (TBC)

The main prize is chosen by the participants. As part of each entry, you are required to submit an expense claim for something you would like to win – this should be in the form of an expense sheet or faked receipt. When the winner is chosen we will attempt to achieve their request though, due to budget constraints, there may have to be a great deal of artistic license used in the representation of your prize.

We are also in discussion with a number of partner organisations and any further prizes will be announced shortly.

b) Additional prizes

The Jury at their discretion may choose to award more than one prize or a special prize if they deem it necessary.

c) Shortlisted entries for further development

At the juries discretion a shortlist of entries which they feel could benefit from further development may be drawn up and the designers may be commissioned to explore their idea to a deeper level. This will be entirely down to jury discretion and the individual merits of the entries received. The issuing or non-issuing of this further development will have no bearing on the award of the main prize.

d) Exhibition and catalogue

The competition organisers hope to feature prize winning and selected competition entries in a high profile exhibition in London. Details about the exhibition location and dates will be announced through the contest website as soon as a definitive arrangement has been made.

8. COPYRIGHT

Participants retain ownership of their entry. Participants agree to grant Common of Houses, Hole in my Pocket, an irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, transferable, royalty-free, worldwide licence to use, copy, exhibit, publicly display, publish and distribute their submitted entry for any activity hosted by Hole in my Pocket.

Every participant is granted and guaranteed the right to be credited every time their entry is published or displayed after the completion of the Jury process.

9. DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

a) Design Production

If a design entry requires further development and its designer does not possess the necessary experience or facilities available for the successful completion or is unable to undertake such work within a reasonable period, then a consultant or design organisation may be recommended by the jury to collaborate with the participant.

10. CREDITS

Common of Houses is a **Hole in my Pocket** project
www.holeinmypocket.com

11. COMPETITION PARTNERS:



The Architects Journal - www.architectsjournal.co.uk

12. MORE INFORMATION:

If you have any questions then please send an email to:

www.commonofhouses.co.uk
info@commonofhouses.co.uk



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SUBMISSION FORM – PLEASE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Please complete this form in CAPITAL LETTERS

NAME

**PRACTICE /
COMPANY
(IF APPLICABLE)**

NATIONALITY

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

COUNTRY

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

**WEB
(IF APPLICABLE)**

**No SHEETS
SUBMITTED**

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐

**TYPE OF SOLUTION
PROPOSED
(PLEASE TICK)**

OPTION 1 - CONSTITUENCY ☐

OPTION 2 – WESTMINSTER ☐

OPTION 3 - BOTH ☐

TITLE OF DESIGN

**EXPLANATION
OF IDEA
(500 WORD MAX)**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

EXPENSE CLAIM
(100 WORD MAX)

ANSWER HERE (100 WORD MAX)

DECLARATION

1. I/we have complied with and accept the regulations and conditions which apply to this competition.
2. I/we agree to accept the decision of the judges as final, and I/we agree to permit free publication and exhibition of my/our design.
3. I/we declare that the design is my/our work and that the drawings have been prepared either by myself/or in my/our office under my/our direct supervision.

SIGNED

DATE _____

By signing the above document you confirm that you have read and accepted the rules and regulations for the competition.

THE BELOW IS FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY

REFERENCE No

DATE RECEIVED