

FIGMENT

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“Burble Bup” Wins City of Dreams Pavilion Competition **Unique Performance and Gathering Space to Be Installed on Governors Island for 2011 Summer Season**

FIGMENT, the Emerging New York Architect Committee (ENYA) of the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter (AIANY), and the Structural Engineers Association of New York (SEAoNY) are pleased to announce that their competition jury has selected Bittertang's “Burble Bup” as the winner of the second annual City of Dreams Pavilion Competition. The winning project will be assembled on Governors Island this spring, and will be open to the public from May 27 through September 25. An exhibition about the project will also be on view at the Center for Architecture, 536 LaGuardia Place, NYC, from July 18 through September 16.





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High-resolution images of Burble Bup are available here:

[Exterior](#) / [Interior](#) / [Axonometric](#)

Burble Bup combines natural and man-made elements to create a multifunctional space featuring shapes both organic and alien. The base is made of mounds constructed from fabric tubes filled with bark and soil that appear to curl naturally out of the ground. These tubular soil berms form landscaped benches for relaxing, people-watching, and experiencing the structure's exterior, as well as creating a visual and acoustic barrier that allows lectures, performances, and quiet interaction to take place in the pavilion's interior.

The pavilion roof is constructed from inflatable components, called "Bups," that are custom-designed for this piece. These articulated, bloated and textured limbs provide a sticky connection that joins them together in myriad configurations and provides both visual interest and shelter. Bittertang envisions strangers lounging and mingling within Burble Bup's earthen walls and lying back within the pavilion's interior to enjoy the shifting colors as light plays through the translucent skins of the Bups. They see the pavilion not as a space of circulation, but of rest and social interaction.

Burble Bup is sustainable in many ways. All of the materials were chosen for their ability to enhance NYC's public spaces after their deployment in the pavilion. Bittertang anticipates donating the Bups to NYC public swimming pools to be used as non-toxic inflatable floating toys for the summer 2012 public season. The fabric used for the soil tubes will be composted, and the soil within them re-used, along with the Pampas Grass planted around the structure, for future landscape projects on the island.

More info about Burble Bup: <http://figmentproject.org/pavilion>

About the design team:

Bittertang began when Antonio Torres and Michael Loverich met at UCLA in 2005. Since then, they have worked together to create anamorphic and neotenus projects ranging from living aquaculture orbs to stuffed animals, piñatas, and sukkahs. In 2010, Ubaldo Arenas joined the collective, which now has offices in New York City and Guadalajara. In 2010, Bittertang received the League Prize for Young Architects and Designers by the Architectural League and was selected as one of 12 finalists to build a sukkah for Sukkah City in Union Square. A duplicate sukkah was also built in Tel Aviv. Their work has also been published in various magazines and books.

The Burble Bup Design Team includes: Antonio Torres, Michael Loverich, Ubaldo Arenas, Claire Vitto, Adriana Del Muro, Fabien Rondeau, Cesar Ruiz, and Diego Ascencio. Engineers: Martin Stroble and Thang Le, Severud Associates. Project Mentor: Rob Rogers, FAIA.



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"Burple Bup" was announced as the winner and unveiled at Groundbreaking, FIGMENT's annual fundraising event, on Wednesday, April 6. Pending final budgeting, fundraising, and agency approvals, the winning design will be installed in FIGMENT Terrace, in the courtyard of Liggett Hall on Governors Island, where it will be free and open to the public from May 27 through September 25.

FIGMENT is accepting donations to support the fabrication, installation, and maintenance of Burple Bup on Governors Island here: <http://figmentproject.org/paviliondonate>.

About the Competition:

The City of Dreams Pavilion Competition is an annual international design competition to design and build a pavilion as a central, temporary gathering place for arts activity on Governors Island. This competition is unique in that it asks designers to consider the full lifecycle of their proposals. With as little environmental impact as possible, considerations include the sourcing, materials, placement, de-installation, and the future of the pavilion once the summer has ended. Jurors for the 2011 City of Dreams Pavilion competition were: Yolande Daniels, Principal, Studio SUMO; Vanessa Kassabian, AIA, LEED AP, Design Director, Snohetta; Jing Liu, Principal, SO-IL; Robert Otani, P.E., LEED AP, Vice President, Thornton Tomasetti; Milton Puryear, Co-Founder of Brooklyn Greenway Initiative; Ada Tolla, Int'l Assoc. AIA, Principal, LOT-EK; and Kristin Marting, Artistic Director, HERE.

The jury initially reviewed more than 80 design proposal submissions and selected five finalists that each had a month to revise their designs in response to the jury's comments. The four additional finalists were as follows:

Fibrous Shell Pavilion, designed by: Daniel Affleck and Pablo Kohan. Structural Consultants: Joseph Schuster, Edward Segal (SIMPSON GUMPERTZ & HEGER). Bio Resin: Desi Banatao (ENTROPY RESINS). Boat Fabrication: Wayne Puglise (JERSEY CAPE CUSTOM YACHTS).

Root Ball Pavilion, designed by VAMOS Architects: Evan Bennett, Silvia Fuster, Taryn Humphrey, Will Kemper and Matthew Blood.

Pulled Reclamation, designed by: Naomi Ocko, MArch GSAPP 2010, Christina Ciardullo, MArch GSAPP 2010. Consultants: Eli Gotlieb, Structural, Thornton Tomasetti; Rami Boundouki, PE (Structural).

Interwoven Pavilion, designed by Wilkinson Blender Architecture: Jennifer Park, RA and Terran Wilson. Consultants: Joe Farruggia, GFGR Architects and Engineers, Chicago; Pierre Desautels, Halcrow Yolles, New York City.

High-resolution images of the finalists are available here:

[Fibrous Shell Pavilion](#) / [Root Ball Pavilion](#) / [Pulled Reclamation](#) / [Interwoven Pavilion](#)



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About the Exhibition:

“Building Burble Bup” will be an exhibition at the Center for Architecture, running concurrently with the installation of the pavilion on Governors Island. Peer into the jury and design process; view the five finalist entries; and see how the design team, their consultants, and the group of volunteers from FIGMENT, ENYA, and SEAoNY achieved the construction of the final project.

The Center for Architecture is located at 536 LaGuardia Place, NYC. Gallery hours are Mon-Fri: 9am-8pm, and Sat: 11am-5pm. The exhibition will be on view from July 18 through September 16.

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About FIGMENT

FIGMENT celebrates an abundance of creativity and passion, challenging artists and our communities to find new ways to create, share, think, and dream. Become a part of 2011 events in NYC, Boston, and Jackson, Mississippi, and interactive exhibits on NYC's Governors Island from June through October. For more information, visit <http://figmentproject.org>.

FIGMENT began in July 2007 as a free, one-day participatory arts event on Governors Island in New York Harbor with over 2,600 participants. Since then, FIGMENT has grown significantly each year—in number of projects, duration, participants, volunteers, fundraising capability, exhibitions, locations, overall level of commitment and participation, and public support. In 2010, the FIGMENT event on Governors Island had nearly 25,000 participants, over 400 works of interactive art, and a volunteer team of over 300. In addition, FIGMENT created a season-long exhibition on the island of 16 large-scale interactive sculptures and an artist-designed minigolf course that was visited by 200,000 visitors in 2010.

FIGMENT is a project of Action Arts League, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, and is created and produced by a coalition of volunteers. FIGMENT is entirely funded by grants and individual donations, and accepts no corporate sponsorship of any kind. FIGMENT is supported by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, as well as by the Fund for Creative Communities, supported by New York State Council on the Arts and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. FIGMENT Boston is produced with support from the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, the designated stewards of the Rose Kennedy Greenway and site of FIGMENT Boston.

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ABOUT ENYA

The Emerging New York Architects (ENYA) of the American Institute of Architects is one of the most active young architect groups in the country. At the national level, ENYA falls under the umbrella of the Young Architects Forum, an AIA Knowledge Community that provides national advocacy and leadership for the group. In conjunction with the AIA New York Chapter, ENYA develops its own programming that addresses issues specific to the New York City audience. The committee is dedicated to three goals: design excellence, public outreach, and professional development.

Founded in 1857, the AIA New York Chapter is the oldest and largest chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The Chapter's members include over 4,600 practicing architects, allied professionals, students, and public members interested in architecture and design. The AIA New York Chapter is dedicated to three goals: design excellence, public outreach, and professional development.

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ABOUT SEAoNY

SEAoNY is a member organization of the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations. Presently, 39 states and the District of Columbia have structural engineers' associations, the largest of which is SEAOC, Structural Engineers Association of California, which was founded in 1930 and presently has approximately 4000 members.

The association sponsors workshops, panel discussions, lectures and seminars with the aim of addressing topics of interest and concern to structural engineers. Our membership, which is over 500 members, includes individuals from most major structural engineering design firms in New York State.

SEAoNY also reaches out to other professionals, outside the engineering community, who work in related fields with common interests. Currently, 10% of our membership are affiliate members who come from a variety of disciplines such as geotechnical, civil, construction management and architecture.

The purpose of SEAoNY is to advance the art of structural engineering in New York by improving the flow of ideas and building the community of colleagues.

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