

Architecture Firm Wins Contest to Rebuild 80-Acre Rockaways Site

A Swedish architecture firm has won a competition to design a sprawling 80-acre development project in the Rockaways with a proposal that embraces its vulnerable seaside perch.

By Laura Kusisto, Wall Street Journal
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The competition, which was launched in the spring, came at the initiative of Ron Moelis, chairman and chief executive at L+M Development Partners, along with The Bluestone Organization and Triangle Equities. The trio won an earlier competition, to develop the site, in November 2006. The project stalled when the recession hit due to the challenges of privately financing a largely middle-income development.

The competition, which was also run by the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter and Enterprise Community Partners, offered \$30,000 prizes to all four finalists.

New York-based Ennead Architects proposed an integrated system of dunes, piers and housing clusters. Lateral Office, a Toronto-based firm presented a proposal that draws on the area's traditional bungalow architecture. Seeding Office, a London-based architecture firm, proposed an overarching boardwalk to connect the neighborhood.

All of their ideas could potentially be integrated into the final development of the site, one of the largest undeveloped city-owned sites in the five boroughs.