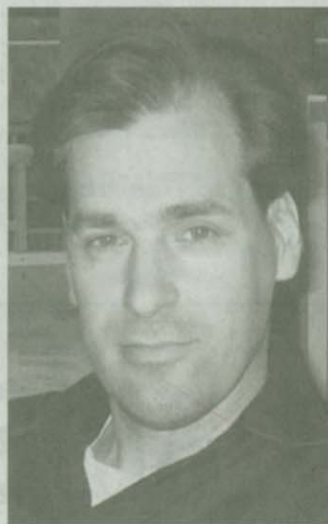




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# Thinking out of the box

## Local designers win prize for plan to reuse surplus cargo containers



Felix Heidgen



Thomas Nagy

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PRINCETON — Felix Heidgen and Thomas Nagy, associates of RMJM Architects in Princeton, are the winners of "Live the Box: An International Design Competition." Designers were asked to use shipping containers as the primary design element due to the large quantity of unwanted shipping containers that currently "clog" ports and the land around them.

The web-only international design competition attracted 150 participants from 26 U.S. states and 13 countries. The competitors stacked containers in designs that took advantage of the modular nature of the building material by creating repetitive themes. Many of the designs aimed to reflect the cultural diversity of the city. The desire of urban residents for green space and places in which to exercise was expressed with the incorporation recreational elements and rooftop gardens. Sustainable elements included solar panels, wind turbines, rainwater harvesting and compost chambers.

The competition was held in conjunction with NJIT and "platinum" sponsor, Skanska USA

Building and the New Jersey Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Architect Christopher Stone, vice president of AIA Newark and Suburban came up with the idea of the contest after seeing cargo containers near Newark Liberty International Airport, seemingly waiting for a new purpose.

The proposed site was located at the tip of Newark's Central Ward, once known as the Central Business District, near Broad Street Station. The site, which is within walking distance of the downtown and major cultural centers, was originally home to a Westinghouse Electric Corp. facility, which has since been demolished.

The winners were announced at an awards ceremony held at the NJIT School of Architecture Gallery in November. Heidgen and Nagy were awarded \$10,000 for their design of "NewPark Station." Noting the many neighborhoods that make up Newark, Haidgen said their goal was to create a project celebrating the "community within the community." Second place of \$7,000 went to Modulaire of Miami, and third place of \$3,000 to Tang & Yang Architects of Savannah, Ga.

To view the entries online, go to ([livethebox.org](http://livethebox.org)).