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## Portland Press Herald Maine Sunday Telegram

### East End design contest generates realistic plans

While the city lacks the money to implement the winning ideas, a friends group plans to raise funds.

By TOM BELL, Staff Writer

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This design by architect Kevin Moquin and landscape architect Tony Cowles won a competition for improving East End Beach. The contest entries were judged by the Maine chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

PORTLAND — A design with terraces that step up from East End Beach won the top prize Wednesday in a competition that could help the city improve one of its most popular public spaces.

The design by architect Kevin Moquin and landscape architect Tony Cowles was singled out by the Maine chapter of the American Institute of Architects during its annual meeting, held at City Hall.

Besides the terraces, it features a glass community room and places where people could get shelter from the wind, as well as some sun or shade.

Judges gave honorable mention to Patric Santerre, an architect who collaborated with Richardson & Associates, a landscape architectural firm in Saco.

Their design features sloping ramps and an arched bridge to carry the Eastern Promenade Trail over the existing roadway at the beach. The raised path then becomes the grass-covered roof of the beach's bathhouse.

Although the city has no money to turn any of the designs into reality, the contest was intended to build political momentum for improving East End Beach.

Many people now see the concrete bathhouse and its portable toilets as an eyesore. And the adjacent boat landing is used to load large commercial vehicles onto barges bound for Casco Bay's islands.

While much of the city's attention has been on the eastern waterfront, such as the new Ocean Gateway passenger terminal, East End Beach is the gateway to Casco Bay for Portland residents, said Rob Whitten, an architect lives on Munjoy Hill and was one of the contest judges

The Ocean Gateway terminal is all about security, he said. East End Beach "is about being accessible and open and available to people."

The site, a former shipyard, was developed over time without any plan, said Tom Civiello, the city's manager of parks and open space.

He said the contest generated concepts that could realistically be implemented when funding becomes available. The Friends of the Eastern Promenade plans to raise private money and apply for grants.

"We can get some good ideas and eventually incorporate them to make the area much more inviting site," Civiello said.

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