

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Designers from London win New York CityRacks Bicycle parking Design Competition



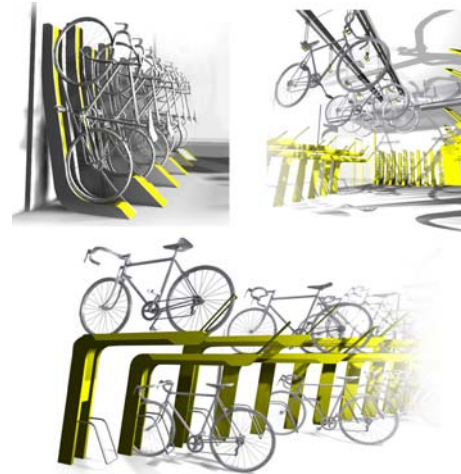
Anthony Lau and Jessica Lee, two architectural graduates from London, have recently won the New York CityRacks international design competition for indoor cycle parking. Over 700 teams from around the world registered for the in-building competition and the duo's entry came joint first place with a New York architectural practice, RSVP Studio.

The competition was launched by New York City as part of their sustainability strategy to find solutions to cycle parking inside buildings and help encourage New Yorkers to take up bicycle commuting. As winners they will have the opportunity to work with Google in installing their design at their New York headquarters.

The duo were recently invited to New York City where they were presented with a \$5,000 honorarium for their work by the First Deputy Mayor of New York Patricia E. Harris and the New York City Department of Transport (DOT) Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan. Also to announce the award were Paul Warwick Thompson, Director of the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and Paul White of Transportation Alternatives.

The judges were impressed by the duo's solution as it created a system of three modular pieces that could be installed in an unlimited number of combinations to conform to rooms large or small, tall or short. A system of two-tier racks allow efficient double stacking of bicycles whilst vertical racks make use of narrow spaces by walls. To cater for peak demands in parking spaces during the summer, bicycles can be winched into the ceiling thus utilising this otherwise unused space.

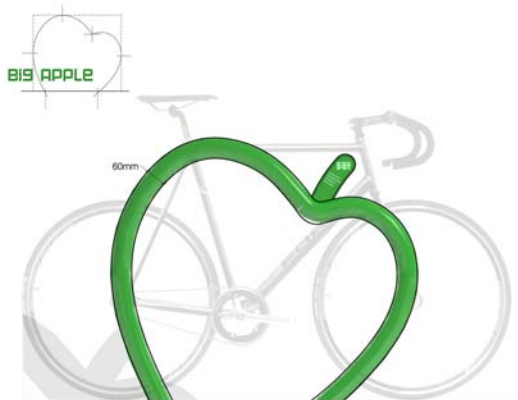
Commenting on existing bicycle storage rooms in buildings, Lau said "Bicycle store rooms are usually afterthoughts in a building's design. They are often uninspiring spaces characterised by ugly galvanised racks. An important part of our design was to enliven the bicycle store room through the use of colours and graphics so that the start and end of the bicycle journey becomes a pleasant experience. Cycle parking needs to look sexy!"



Lee added that it is also important the design is practical and can achieve maximum capacity. She stated “Our design is able to double the existing capacity of a typical room without making the space feel cluttered. The cantilevered two-tier racks reduce the need for additional structural support so the racks become more elegant and do not dominate the room. The three systems employed are based on standard bicycle parking products and is therefore a practical and cost effective solution.”

Apart from the indoor designs, the other objective of the CityRacks competition was to find a design for next generation of outdoor bicycle stands in New York City. The duo also entered several designs including the quirky ‘Big Apple’ bike rack and the elegant ‘NYC Ring’. Although the designs did not make the finals, they were mentioned as some of the judge’s favourites.

The two hope to develop their designs further and are looking for opportunities to implement their system in the United States, as well as the United Kingdom where there is also a pressing need for well designed indoor and outdoor cycle parking.





ABOUT ANTHONY LAU & JESSICA LEE

Lau and Lee both studied architecture at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. Lau works for Tasou Associates and Lee works at Make Architects. The two are currently completing their professional architectural studies at Westminster University.

As keen cyclists themselves, both have a passion for bicycle related design. Lau is known for designing the award winning Cyclehoop bicycle stand that has recently been trialled in London. This design retrofits existing street signposts and is an elegant and simple solution to cycle parking in cities. Their work have won various awards and have been published internationally.

NOTES TO EDITORS

- Cycling is booming in New York City. From 2000 to 2006, there was a 75% increase in the number of cyclists entering the Central Business District.
- Under Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's PlaNYC, promoting and accommodating greener modes of transportation is central to the Department of Transportation's mission.
- The purpose of the CityRacks indoor competition was to find solutions to promote off-street parking inside buildings in order to make it even easier for New Yorkers to take up bicycle commuting. The winner will have the opportunity to work with Google in installing their design at their New York headquarters.
- The outdoor competition to design the new standard bicycle rack for New York City's sidewalks was won by a team from Denmark and over the next three years 5,000 of these racks will be installed throughout the city.
- The competition jury included:
 - Patricia E. Harris (First Deputy Mayor, New York City)
 - Janette Sadik-Khan (Commissioner, New York City Department of Transportation)
 - Sarah Coffin & Matilda McQuaid (Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum)
 - David Byrne (Musician, Artist)
 - Duncan Jackson (Industrial Designer, BillingsJackson)
 - Representatives from Google Inc.
- High resolution images are available on request.

PRESS

<http://nycityracks.wordpress.com> (Official competition website)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/nov/01/cyclehoop-bike-parking>

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