

AIA's Park(ing) Day Design Competition

In hopes that some of you are planning to participate in [AIA's Park\(ing\) Day Design Competition for Emerging Professionals](#), I have compiled a few ideas from the pop-up and tactical urbanism movements, as well as images from previously built Park(ing) Day parklets for inspiration.

Pop-up or tactical urbanism has been around since the seventies, but these movements have recently been popularized by designers, planners, and artists throughout the world, and have since created some of the most spontaneous, fun, and inspiring places that cities never had.

The Park(ing) Day movement is a perfect example of pop-up urbanism. Park(ing) Day began in 2005 when Rebar, an art and design studio in San Francisco, transformed a metered parking spot into a small park. The tiny oasis has since triggered a worldwide movement to create open space—so severely lacking in cities—and to provoke a discussion about the urban form of our cities.

Here are a few examples that could work in your Park(ing) Day design:



DJ Sovietpanda spins at one of Minneapolis' Open Streets temporary urbanism events. Makes me wonder what other performers would fit in a parking spot.



Why not put that Venturi Effect to use? Students from Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative designed Pop-up Rockwell, a week-long pop-up urbanism experiment on Rockwell Ave., where they scattered pinwheels throughout the project for constant motion.



There are plenty of games that would fit within a parking spot, and ping pong is apparently one of them. For those of you in Miami, a parking spot is the perfect length for a game of [Sapo](#).



If you would rather pass on the Astroturf and slabs of sod, try wood-flooring using modular decks to extend a sidewalk. Inexpensive, light weight furniture is also a doable idea for a parklet.



Recycling wood pallets for a vertical garden is a really inexpensive, portable, and creative way to create a great background or screen. Many businesses give these away for free on Craigslist.

Florida has participated in Park(ing) Day in the past, such as they did in [West Palm Beach](#), [Miami](#), and [Jacksonville](#). It would be great to see the tradition grow in our cities, and for us to be a part of that growth.

The deadline to register for the competition is May 19th, and submissions are due on June 9th. At least one of your team members must be a member of AIA, or a student member of AIAS.