



AFRICA UNION OF ARCHITECTS

AUA COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION
AUA STUDENTS COMMITTEE
STUDENTS ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION

BUILDING RESILIENCE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE SHELTER DESIGN FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE IN AFRICA



[Courtesy: ©VISIO / VC 2023]

CONCEPT NOTE

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Concept Note

Students Architectural Design Competition: "Emergency Response Architecture for Africa"

Introduction

This Concept Note outlines the framework for an architectural design competition targeted at architecture students across Africa. The competition focuses on the theme of Emergency Response Architecture, specifically addressing the challenge of providing emergency response shelters for displaced people. It invites innovative, contextualized solutions that resonate with the diverse challenges and realities of the African continent.

Theme: Emergency Response Architecture

The competition theme centers on designing shelters that provide immediate, effective, and culturally sensitive responses to displacement crises. These shelters should be adaptable to various environments and situations prevalent across Africa's diverse regions: North, South, East, West, and Central.

Objectives

1. Innovate in Emergency Shelter Design: Encourage students to explore sustainable, cost-effective, and rapid-deployment shelter solutions.
2. Contextual Understanding: Promote designs that are sensitive to the specific needs and cultural aspects of different African regions.
3. Sustainability and Resilience: Focus on materials and techniques suitable for African climates and conditions, emphasizing long-term usability and resilience.
4. Collaboration and Learning: Foster a collaborative environment where students learn from each other and from past and present displacement situations.

Eligibility and Participation

- Open to architecture students enrolled in accredited institutions across Africa.
- Participants can enter as individuals or teams.
- A Team can be composed of maximum 5 students.
- Students can be from the same university or can team with students from any other institution and geographic regions.
- Multidisciplinary teams (including students from other fields) are encouraged to promote diverse perspectives. For instance, students in urban, rural or territorial planning are encouraged to participate. Landscape architecture students can also form part of a team which should comprise of a minimum of 1 architecture student who will act as the Team Leader.
- The Team leader student in Architecture shall mandatorily be from an institution which is recognised by the AUA member of the country (if any).
- Members of the AUA Students Committee, including co-opted members are not allowed to participate.



Design Brief

- Inspiration: Students should research past or recent displacement events in Africa, using media and academic sources for documentation. They should consider situations close to their geographic region.
- Solution Requirements:
 - Contextualization to specific African regions.
 - Adaptability to different types of displacement (conflict, natural disasters, etc.).
 - Use of local materials and sustainable practices.
 - Cultural appropriateness and community involvement in design.
 - Feasibility and practicality for rapid deployment.

Submission Guidelines

- Design Proposal: Detailed architectural drawings, models (virtual), and a comprehensive design rationale.
- Research Documentation: Evidence of research on displacement situations and contextual challenges.
- Presentation: Clear, concise, and engaging presentation of the concept and design.
- Submission shall be on A3 Size format (Landscape). Limited to 6 Sheets maximum per participant. The file format shall be PDF and shall not exceed 5MB per A3 Sheet.
- A Template for the A3 Format will be provided on the AUA website.
- Submission shall be made through a Dedicated Portal which shall be made available on the AUA Website www.aua.archi
- Participants may submit video reel of their proposed projects as additional supporting materials. (Video should be less than 5 minutes and should not exceed 50MB). Format AVI or MP4.

Evaluation Criteria

- Innovation and Creativity
- Contextual Relevance
- Sustainability and Material Use
- Feasibility and Practicality
- Quality of Research and Presentation

The Jury will be composed of a selection of international architects as well as representatives of partner institutions of the AUA. Evaluation will be done in fair manner. Name of Juries at Continental level will be disclosed after the submission date.

Awards and Recognition

- Prizes for top designs.
 - 3 Finalists a regional level (i.e 15 prizes across Africa)
 - 500 USD Each
 - The finalist selection, if by team, the region will correspond to that of the Team Leader's county of representation.



- 1 grand Winner a Continental level
 - 1500 USD Winning team
 - Expenses to attend the Awards ceremony (Travel and Hotel) for the Team Leader.
- Exhibition of selected projects.
- Publication opportunities in architectural journals.
- Networking with industry professionals and organizations.
- Note: Participants / Team shall retain their intellectual property right on the design submissions, while AUA shall take ownership of the design entries submitted. AUA reserves the right to publish the entries on various media and platforms without having recourse to any permission from the participants.

Timeline and Key Dates

- Announcement of Competition : 3rd December 2023
- Launching of Competition : 8th December 2023
- Pre-Registration of Participants/ Teams : 22nd December 2023
- Submission Deadline : 23rd February 2024
- Judging Period : March-April 2024
- Announcement of Winners : May 2024
- Exhibition and Awards Ceremony : June 2024

Note: upon pre-registration, a serial number will be allocated within 7 days to either individual participant or team. The serial number shall be mentioned on the A3 sheet(s) as well as the video is any. All entries shall be anonymous.

The architectural design competition is co-organised by the AUA Students Committee, under the guidance of the Chairperson of the AUA Commission for Education. The AUA Competition Committee will provide such assistance as per be requirement. The overall supervision will be led by the office of the AUA Secretary General and the AUA Secretariat.

This competition aims to harness the creativity and contextual knowledge of Africa's future architects, driving innovation in emergency response architecture. It seeks to contribute meaningful, practical solutions to one of the continent's most pressing challenges - providing shelter for its displaced people.

Any Query shall be addressed to : competitions@aua.archi

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