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International Design Challenge

HOME WITHIN REACH |
Affordable Living Soltions

First Edition

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Home within Reach:
Affordable Living solutions

Introduction

In recent years, rapid urbanization has transformed cities across the globe, bringing both opportunities and challenges. Among the most pressing issues is the need for affordable housing—a crucial component for ensuring equitable urban growth and stability. As populations continue to surge, traditional housing models often fail to meet the demand for cost-effective, high-quality living spaces.

The "Home within Reach: Affordable Living Solutions" competition seeks to address this critical issue by inviting architects, designers, and innovators to conceive pioneering approaches to affordable housing. We encourage participants to rethink conventional design strategies and explore new possibilities for creating residential spaces that are not only economical but also sustainable and adaptable.

This competition is driven by the belief that every individual deserves access to a comfortable and functional home. By focusing on affordability, sustainability, and adaptability, we aim to uncover solutions that can be scaled and implemented in diverse settings—rural, suburban, and urban. The goal is to provide designs that enhance the quality of life for occupants while being mindful of economic constraints and environmental impact.

Participants are challenged to create housing solutions that transcend the traditional boundaries of design and construction. We seek innovative approaches that integrate cutting-edge technologies, sustainable practices, and flexible design principles. These solutions should address the varied needs of different demographic groups, including families, individuals, and seniors, and respond effectively to the dynamic nature of modern living.

Ultimately, this competition serves as a platform for creativity and innovation, encouraging the architectural community to contribute to a global conversation on affordable housing. By generating practical and visionary design concepts, we aim to inspire meaningful change and advance the quest for homes that are truly within reach for all.

Objective

The primary objective of the "Home within Reach: Affordable Living Solutions" competition is to inspire and challenge participants to create groundbreaking architectural solutions that address the global need for affordable housing. This competition seeks to harness creativity and innovation to develop residential units that not only meet the economic constraints of affordability but also provide a high standard of living.

Participants are tasked with designing housing that goes beyond basic shelter, aiming to deliver quality, comfort, and functionality while staying within budgetary limits. The designs should incorporate elements that enhance the quality of life for occupants, making homes more than just living spaces but vibrant, supportive environments.

Key aspects of the objective include:

Affordability and Viability: Participants must devise cost-effective solutions that make affordable housing projects feasible. This involves designing units that balance construction and maintenance costs with the benefits they offer to residents.

High Quality of Life: The designs should ensure that affordability does not equate to reduced quality. This means creating environments that are comfortable, functional, and enjoyable to live in. Considerations should include spatial efficiency, natural light, ventilation, and access to communal spaces.

Adaptability: The designs should be flexible and adaptable to various contexts, whether urban, suburban, or rural. This includes addressing different climatic conditions, site constraints, and infrastructural requirements.

Demographic Inclusivity: Solutions should cater to diverse populations, including low-income families, single individuals, and elderly residents. The designs should accommodate various needs and preferences, ensuring accessibility, privacy, and social interaction.

Sustainability: While affordability is a priority, the designs should also incorporate sustainable practices. This includes energy-efficient technologies, sustainable materials, and effective waste and water management systems.

Overall, the competition aims to promote designs that not only provide affordable housing but also foster a sense of community, well-being, and environmental stewardship. Participants are encouraged to push the boundaries of conventional housing design, exploring innovative approaches that could transform the way we think about affordable living.

The Building Program

Participants are required to design a modular residential unit with the following criteria:

- Size: The unit should be designed to accommodate a minimum of 2-4 people comfortably.
- Functionality: The design should include essential living spaces such as bedrooms, living areas, kitchen, and bathroom.
- Flexibility: The design should allow for potential future modifications or expansions.
- Privacy and Community: The layout should balance individual privacy with opportunities for community interaction.

Site

Participants are free to choose a generic site for their design, but they should consider the following aspects:

- Urban, Suburban, or Rural: The design should be adaptable to different site types and conditions.
- Local Climate: The design should address climate considerations relevant to the chosen site.
- Accessibility: The design should ensure easy access to essential services and amenities.

Sustainability

Sustainability is a core requirement of this competition. Designs should incorporate the following elements:

- Energy Efficiency: Use of energy-efficient technologies and passive design strategies to minimize energy consumption.
- Materials: Selection of sustainable, low-cost, and locally available materials.
- Water Management: Integration of water-saving fixtures and rainwater harvesting systems.
- Waste Reduction: Design solutions that minimize construction waste and promote recycling.

Project Proposal Requirements

Submissions should include the following:

- Conceptual Design: Detailed architectural drawings and visualizations, including floor plans, elevations, and sections.
- Design Rationale: A brief explanation of the design concept, including how it addresses affordability, functionality, and sustainability.
- Technical Specifications: Information on materials, construction methods, and sustainability features.
- Budget Estimate: A preliminary cost estimate for the construction of the unit.
- Impact Statement: Explanation of how the design improves the quality of life for its occupants and contributes to affordable housing solutions.

Timeline

- Registration Deadline: 3rd June 2025
- Submission Deadline: 8th June 2025
- Jury Evaluation: July 1st – August 31st 2025
- Winners Announcement: September 8th 2025

Submission Requirements

File Format:

- All entries must be submitted as a single PDF document.

Sheets:

- Minimum of 3 sheets, maximum of 6 sheets.
- Each sheet should include designs, drawings, and views that effectively communicate the project concept.

Text Explanation:

- Each sheet must contain explanatory text that describes and supports your design decisions.
- Text should be clear and concise, highlighting the main ideas and features of the project.

Content to Include (per sheet):

- Design Concepts: Conceptual drawings, diagrams, and sketches.
- Plans, Elevations, and Sections: Architectural plans, cross-sections, and elevations.
- Views and Renderings: 3D views, perspectives, or rendered images of the project.
- Diagrams: Illustrations explaining circulation, spatial relationships, environmental or structural concepts.

Resolution and Quality:

- All sheets should be high-quality, legible, and visually clear.

File Size:

- The total file size should not exceed 20 MB.

Naming Convention:

- The file should be named as: CompetitionName_ParticipationCode.pdf

Anonymity:

- No names, logos, or identifying marks should appear on any of the submitted sheets to ensure anonymity during judging.

Submission Guidelines

Sign in to Your Account:

- Visit the Archiol website and sign in to your account.

Access Your Competition Submissions:

- In the header, click on the arrow beside your profile picture. Select the option labeled "My Competition Submissions."

Submit Your Entry:

- Click on the "Submit My Entry" button.

Select Competition:

- Choose the competition name for which you wish to submit your entry.

Enter Participation Code:

- Input the participation code that was generated during your registration.

Title Your Submission:

- Provide a title for your submission.

Upload Title Image:

- Upload the image that will represent your project.

Upload Design PDF:

- Submit your project in PDF format (ensure it meets the competition's requirements).

Consent:

- Check the box to agree to the competition terms and conditions.

Submit:

- After filling in all required fields, click "Submit."

Confirmation:

- Your submission will appear in "My Competition Submissions" within 24 hours.

Eligibility

The competition is open to all architects, designers, students, and creative individuals globally. There are no restrictions on age or nationality.

Contact Details

For any inquiries or further information, please contact us at:

- Email: info@archiolcompetitions.com
- Website: www.archiolcompetitions.com