International Design Challenge

SUSPENDED REALITIES |
Designing the Cloud Cities 2024

First Edition

Register Now!

Suspended Realities: Designing the Cloud Cities

Introduction

The "Cloud Cities" competition invites architects and designers to reimagine the future of urban living through the innovative concept of elevated habitats suspended in the sky. This visionary approach encourages participants to transcend traditional architectural boundaries and explore the integration of cutting-edge technologies with the natural environment.

Cloud cities represent a new paradigm in urban design, aiming to create harmonious living spaces that prioritize sustainability, connectivity, and resilience. As we face unprecedented challenges such as climate change, rapid urbanization, and resource scarcity, this competition encourages participants to conceptualize how these floating urban spaces can be solutions to these pressing global issues.

Imagine cities where buildings float among the clouds, utilizing advanced materials and sustainable technologies to create a self-sufficient ecosystem. These aerial habitats could not only provide shelter but also foster community interaction and well-being, serving as vibrant urban centers where nature and technology coexist.

Participants are challenged to think critically about the implications of cloud cities on urban density, infrastructure, and social dynamics. How can these elevated environments promote sustainable living practices? What innovative transportation systems can connect them to the ground below? How will residents experience their day-to-day lives in such an extraordinary setting?

The Cloud Cities competition serves as a platform for creative thought, enabling architects and designers to push the boundaries of conventional design and rethink urban living in response to our rapidly changing environment. Through their proposals, participants have the opportunity to inspire future generations and contribute to a dialogue about the potential of architecture to shape sustainable, resilient communities in the sky.

Objective

The primary objective of the "Cloud Cities" competition is to inspire visionary architectural designs that create functional, sustainable, and aesthetically captivating elevated urban environments. Participants are encouraged to envision cloud cities as holistic ecosystems that integrate living, working, and recreational spaces, fostering a sense of community while addressing contemporary urban challenges. This competition seeks to explore the possibilities of elevated habitats as solutions to pressing global issues, prompting architects to rethink how urban spaces can be designed to promote a healthier relationship between humanity and the environment.

Moreover, the competition aims to encourage innovative thinking regarding the intersection of technology and nature. By leveraging advanced materials, renewable energy sources, and smart technologies, participants should design cloud cities that not only minimize environmental impact but also enhance the quality of life for their inhabitants. Ultimately, the competition serves as a call to action for architects to envision the future of urban living, prompting them to create imaginative solutions that can be implemented in real-world scenarios.

Key Goals

- Innovative Design: Encourage participants to create original architectural concepts for cloud cities that challenge conventional design norms.
- Community Building: Explore how cloud cities can foster social interaction and community engagement among residents.
- Technological Integration: Investigate the use of advanced materials and smart technologies to enhance the functionality and livability of cloud cities.
- Climate Resilience: Address the impacts of climate change by designing adaptable and resilient urban environments.

- Accessibility and Connectivity: Develop efficient transportation systems that connect cloud cities to the ground and other urban centers, ensuring ease of movement for residents and visitors.
- Ecological Harmony: Incorporate green spaces and biodiversity within the design, promoting a balanced coexistence between urban living and nature.

The Building Program

The building program for the "Cloud Cities" competition encompasses a diverse range of functional spaces, each designed to enhance the quality of life for residents while promoting sustainability and community interaction. Participants are encouraged to creatively integrate the following components into their designs:

- Residential Zones
- Commercial Areas
- Recreational Facilities
- Educational Institutions
- Healthcare Services
- Transportation Hubs
- Utilities and Infrastructure
- Waste Management Solutions
- Research and Innovation Labs

Project Proposal Requirements

Participants must submit a project proposal that includes:

- A clear and compelling design narrative explaining the concept.
- Detailed floor plans, elevations, and sections that illustrate the spatial organization and functional layout.
- Renderings or visualizations that convey the aesthetic quality and experience.
- A site plan.

Timeline

- Registration Deadline: 17th June 2025
- Submission Deadline: 22nd June 2025
- Jury Evaluation: July 1st – August 31st 2025
- Winners Announcement: September 22nd 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