International Design Challenge

URBAN OASIS |
Designing Cooling Landscapes for Thermal Comfort 2024

First Edition

Register Now!

Urban Oasis:
Designing Cooling Landscapes for Thermal Comfort

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Introduction

As cities expand and populations grow, urban areas are increasingly confronted with the adverse effects of climate change, particularly rising temperatures and the phenomenon known as urban heat islands. These heat islands occur when natural landscapes are replaced with concrete and asphalt, leading to significantly higher temperatures in densely populated areas compared to their rural surroundings. This not only affects the comfort and health of city dwellers but also exacerbates energy consumption and air pollution, creating a pressing need for sustainable design solutions that promote thermal comfort.

The "Urban Oasis: Designing Cooling Landscapes for Thermal Comfort" competition seeks to harness the creativity and expertise of architects, designers, and landscape planners in addressing these critical issues. Participants are invited to propose innovative designs that integrate cooling landscapes into urban environments, transforming cityscapes into vibrant oases of comfort and sustainability.

This competition encourages a multidisciplinary approach, fostering collaboration between architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, and environmental science. Participants are challenged to explore the dynamic interplay between built and natural environments, emphasizing how thoughtful design can mitigate heat while enhancing the overall quality of life in urban settings.

Proposals should focus on creating inclusive, accessible spaces that foster community interaction and well-being. By prioritizing cooling strategies such as green roofs, shaded public areas, vertical gardens, and water features, participants will contribute to a more resilient urban fabric. Ultimately, this competition aims to inspire innovative solutions that not only combat the heat but also promote ecological harmony and sustainability in the cities of tomorrow.

Objective

The primary objective of the "Urban Oasis: Designing Cooling Landscapes for Thermal Comfort" competition is to stimulate innovative design solutions that effectively mitigate urban heat. As cities grapple with rising temperatures and the impact of urban heat islands, this competition seeks to encourage architects, landscape designers, and urban planners to think critically about the integration of nature within urban environments. By exploring the synergies between architecture and landscape, participants are invited to create spaces that enhance the thermal comfort of urban residents while fostering biodiversity and ecological resilience.

Key goals of the competition include:

- Innovative Design Solutions: Inspire participants to develop creative approaches that utilize cooling landscapes as a primary strategy for reducing urban heat.
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Encourage collaboration between architects, landscape architects, and environmental scientists to create multifaceted designs that address the complexities of urban heat.
- Community Engagement: Highlight the importance of involving local communities in the design process to ensure that solutions are culturally relevant and meet the specific needs of urban populations.
- Sustainable Practices: Promote the use of sustainable materials, energy-efficient technologies, and eco-friendly practices that minimize environmental impact and enhance the overall livability of urban spaces.
- Climate Adaptation Strategies: Challenge participants to propose designs that not only mitigate current urban heat issues but also adapt to future climate scenarios, ensuring long-term resilience and sustainability.

By focusing on these objectives, the competition aims to elevate the discourse around thermal comfort in urban settings and inspire tangible solutions that contribute to the creation of healthier, more sustainable cities.

The Building Program

Design proposals should incorporate the following key components:

- Cooling Landscapes: Integrate green spaces that provide shade and reduce surface temperatures through vegetation and water features.
- Community Spaces: Design flexible, multifunctional areas that encourage social interaction, recreation, and relaxation for urban residents.
- Innovative Materials: Utilize materials that reflect solar radiation, promote airflow, and enhance the cooling effect of landscapes.
- Sustainable Water Management: Incorporate strategies for rainwater harvesting, permeable surfaces, and bio-swales to manage stormwater and enhance cooling.
- Climate Adaptation: Address how the design responds to specific climatic conditions and the projected impacts of climate change.

Site

Participants will select an urban site of their choice, ensuring it is representative of typical urban heat island conditions. The site should be clearly documented, demonstrating its existing conditions, microclimate, and surrounding context. Consideration should be given to accessibility, demographics, and potential community engagement in the design process.

Sustainability

Sustainability is a core value of this competition. Proposals should reflect principles of ecological design, including:

- **Biodiversity**: Incorporate native and adaptive plant species to support local wildlife and promote ecosystem health.
- **Energy Efficiency**: Explore passive cooling strategies, energy-efficient building systems, and renewable energy integration.
- **Material Selection**: Prioritize sustainable, locally-sourced materials that minimize environmental impact.
- **Community Involvement**: Engage local communities in the design process to ensure that the solutions meet their needs and foster a sense of ownership.

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: 23rd June 2025
- Submission Deadline: 28th June 2025
- Jury Evaluation: July 1st – August 31st 2025
- Winners Announcement: September 28th 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.

- 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