EXTREME HABITAT

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

$4500 USD

TOTAL PRIZE

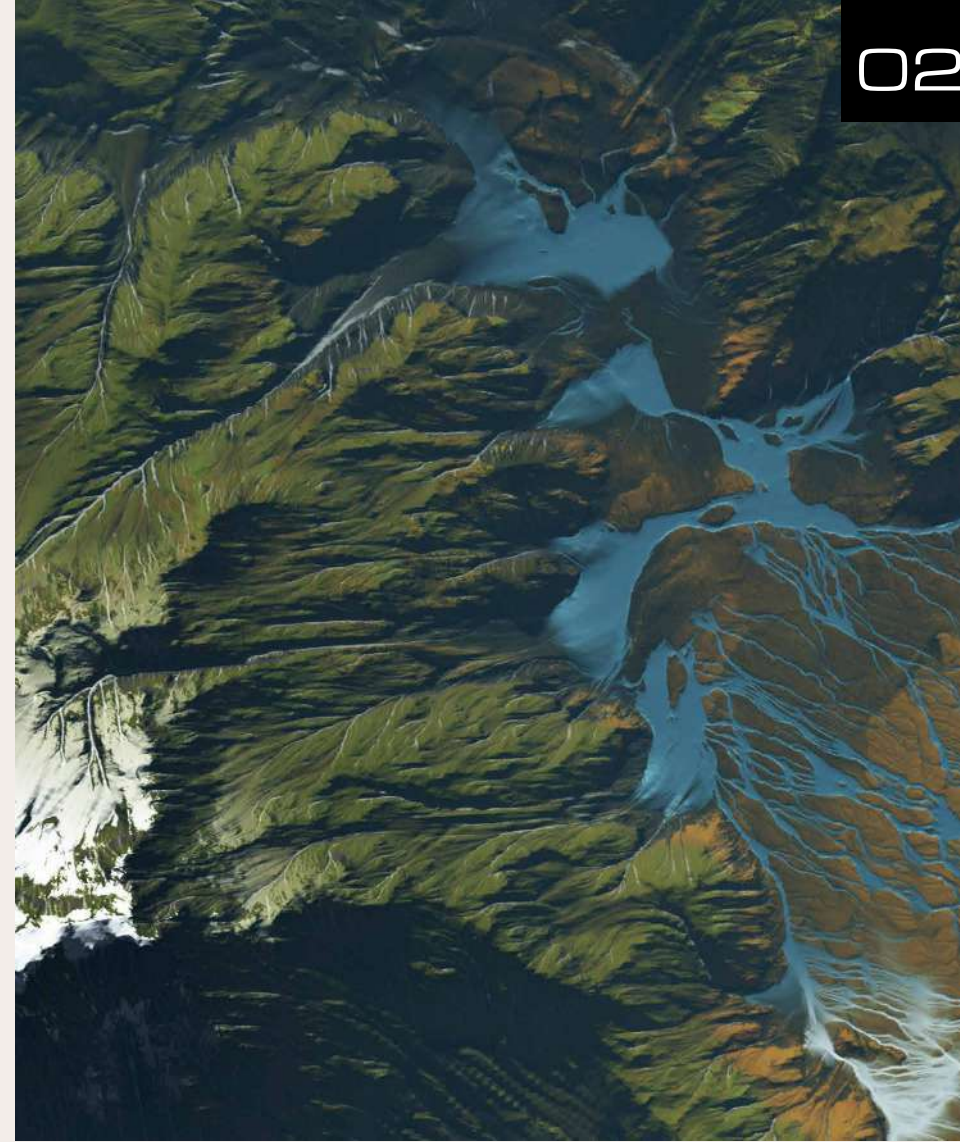Register at: **volumezerocompetitions.com**

INTRODUCTION

"Good architecture lets nature in."

Mario Pei (Italian American linguist)

Home is a domain that is intimate to all. For generations the core concept of a home has stayed the same however has been gradually moving far away from just being a humble shelter. A personalized space that not only protects us from the elements of nature but also from manmade threats. A space that evokes emotions of feeling protected, comforted, warmth, pleasure, nurtured, loved, and many more amongst its.

Being central to one's everyday functions, needs and future desires of an individual this archetype has many iterations across the globe owing to factors like geography, climatic conditions, user group, profession, availability of material and labor. Home typologies range from simpler forms such as cabins, igloos and tents to 21st century experimental habitats such as smart homes, floating homes, inflatable homes and the list just keeps going on.

Architecture developed amidst nature represents a certain kind of poetic exploration coupled with a renewed perspective on a human scale. In this way the association between man to nature and of architecture to landscape tends to evolve from time to time. Currently the architecture we experience in our surrounding landscape is a product of the relationship developed between humans and nature. More than ever there is an awareness created towards landscape being a precious inheritance, one that can be preserved and enhanced by architecture so as to pass it on to future generations.

OPPORTUNITY

"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."

Frank Lloyd Wright (American architect)

Lifestyles in our cities have exerted tremendous pressure on one's mind leading to many lifestyle-based evils like paranoia, anxiety, insomnia, and many more illnesses.Architecture can be seen as one of the mediums through which both places and people can be transformed so as to adapt with the changing societal norms. Recent times have seen countless people venturing outdoors with the notion of self healing or simply be themselves.

According to studies, even short-term interaction with nature and nature-based designs has a positive effect on one's psychological wellbeing. Hence architecture when intertwined with nature plays a crucial role in protecting and improving human mental health and wellbeing.

The quest of freedom and the urge to experience nature coupled with the rise of environmental, geographic, and financial concerns have seen people moving away from the conventional ways of living and consciously embracing resourceful living to reduce their footprint and move away from the urban lifestyle. With little to no contact with our natural surroundings, all of us today dream of living more freely and openly with nature.

This being said we as designers have a self-imposed responsibility that is to create Architecture that is responsive to its surroundings, helping its user interact with the surroundings, experiencing the true potential of a site context with minimal impact to the site or the environment to make it a habitat.

CHALLENGE

Volume Zero invites you to imagine a way of living in the lap of nature. Participants are to design a comfortable living accomodation that is a unique way of experiencing the surrounding. The design proposed should be innovative, sustainable and an off-the-grid solution with minimal impact on the environment. We encourage participants to explore smart technologies that'll synchronise with the environment and promote a greener design approach.

The relation between the exterior surroundings and interior spaces must be taken into consideration. The proposed design should be well-conceptualized. The house should respond to the ever-changing needs of its users and the site context it sits in.

The House should be a self-sufficient dwelling habitat for 4 individuals and the area of the proposal should not exceed 450 sq. ft built up. Proposals may consider spatial flexibility as a vital aspect of all the designs fulfilling all the needs of their users.

The Space program for the proposal must include but is not limited to:

• Living Area
• Sleeping Area for four
• Cooking and Dining Area

• Toilet space
• Workspace
• Space to create food and store it
• Recreation space

• Observation spaces
• Any other function that the participant wishes to add to the habitat

Client Interaction is one of the critical components of the design proposal. For this competition, entrants may assume a group of individuals, a family, or a genre of people, based on the design concept.

The proposed design may also consider modern technological advancements in architecture to make the house adaptive to its surroundings, making it a comfortable home by eliminating any type of hazards. Participants can decide the nature of the house as per the context it sits in. Designed proposals can be stationary, portable, mobile, floating, submerged underwater, atop a tree, or respond to the elements of nature possessed by the site context they choose.

SITE

"We should attempt to bring nature, houses, and human beings together in a higher unity.

- Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (German-American architect)

In today's fast paced world we find it difficult to take a moment and appreciate our natural surroundings. The human presence in nature represents an interplay of scales as well as an association of archetypal shelters against vast sceneries.

Participants are select a site that is wrapped in nature such as coastal areas, deserts, oasis, atop mountains, hanging against a cliff, oceans, saltpans, forests, riverbanks, mountains, forests, remote islands, on snowclad peaks. The site selected must be strongly justified by the design proposal.

Participants are encouraged to explore site conditions wherein human inhabitation could get challenging. The selected context should inspire participants to come up with a design proposal that is innovative and outside the limits of conventional thinking.

CASE STUDY-1

Wadi Rum Sanctuary Resort

Delicately excavated from the natural grounds of Jordan's Wadi Rum, Jordanian planner Rasem Kamal changed the expression of "structure follows work" into "deduction follows work", stressing the connection between outside structure and inner space with a retreat that guarantees a safe haven both above and underground.

The architect uncovers the hidden resort and takes viewers on an enchanting walkthrough of the proposed Wadi Rum Sanctuary Resort. Kamal complements the desert's jagged landscape with the resort's subtle architecture, letting the structure blend seamlessly with its surroundings.

The Valley of the Moon, another name for Wadi Rum, is a UNESCO-protected site, which provoked the architect to not disturb the surface and work beneath the significant mountains and valleys, and transform the space below into an undisturbed 16,000 sqm sanctuary.

The resort is one of the first architectural projects that does not have any carvings in the mountains and tackles just the underground.
Kamal explains that the inspiration behind the project was ants' colony nests and their subtracted chambers.

The plan idea depended on unearthing a progression of divided at this point interconnected patios which stayed presented to the sky regardless of being under the sand's datum line.

Desert Rock Resort

Oppenheim Architecture and Saudi developers The Red Sea Development Company have disclosed the plan of another mountain resort settled in the aqueduct vistas of western Saudi Arabia, named Desert Rock.

The venture draws motivation from the encompassing topography, permitting visitors to connect with nature and the neighbourhood culture of the locale through completely nature-coordinated architecture.
One of the main design approaches was to "integrate architecture with nature", so the team integrated all 48 villas and 12 hotel rooms within the mountain range to preserve the rocks' all of which are accessible through a hidden valley tucked between the mountains.

To guarantee undisrupted perspectives on the encompassing scene, streets driving into the hotel are set towards the edge of the primary channel and taken cover behind scene hills, limiting sound and light contamination, and permitting visitors to retain the view completely.

Desert Rock aims to achieve the highest Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification level with a design that reduces energy consumption and regenerates native greenery.

SUBMISSION

The entrants must complete the online registrations and the submission must include, (but are not limited to) the following required drawings.

- Building / Site sections which illustrate key aspects and major spatial or programmatic elements.

- Floor plans to show the interior spatial arrangements and program.

- Large scale drawing that illustrates innovative details or integrated aspects of design.

- Three dimensional representations explaining the design, perspectives and montages which display the character of the project.

- Elevations demonstrating quality such as material, texture, and colour.

- All drawings should be presented at a scale appropriate for the design solution and include a graphic scale for reference.

FORMAT

A single A1 sheet must be submitted in JPEG format (150 DP Resolution), file size not exceeding 5 MB.

- The file must be marked with your unique identification number, presented clearly in the top right corner on the A1 sheet.

- The sheet must not include ANY INFORMATION (Name, Organisation, School, etc.) that may give away your identity.

- Any other submission other than the above metioned format would not be accepted.

841mm x 594mm

- All text must be in English, with a MAXIMUM of 200 WORDS for project explaination with a readable font size (to be provided on the A1 sheet).

- All dimension should be in imperial or metric unit.

Unique Code

A1

REGISTRATION FEES — SCHEDULE

18th
APRIL 2022
Early bird Registration starts

24th
JUNE 2022
Early Bird Registration Ends

27th
JULY 2022
Queries Deadline

29th
JULY 2022
Standard Registration Ends

5th
AUGUST 2022
Submission

6th
OCTOBER 2022
Announcement of Winner

Early Bird Registration:
18th April 2022 to 24th June 2022
Participants from India
-INR 1800+18% GST = INR 2124 (per team)
Participants from Other Countries
- 70 + 18% GST = USD 82.6 (per team)

Standard Registration:
25th June 2022 to 29th July 2022

Participants from India
-INR 2700 + 18% = 3186 (per team)
Participants from Other Countries
- USD 90+ 18% =USD 106.2 (per team)

DISCOUNTS

Volume Zero believes that students are the future of Architecture. By giving them an opportunity that'll help nurture their talent and develop their skill sets while competing with the best across the globe will only bring out the best in them. This platform is built to develop inventive ideas to real world issues challenging participants to think out of the box for a better new world. To encourage participation from students Volume Zero grants student discount on its registration fees.

Student Stand Alone Registrations:	Student Institutional Registrations:	Student Multiple Registrations:
This category of flat discount is for students making a single registration (both as an individual/a team). Participants receive 10% of student discount on the registration fees using the promo code **VZSTUDENTS.**	This category of discount is applicable for group registration of students from the same college/university entering the competition at the same time. There need to be 5 or more registrations to avail this discount. Participants would be required to contact us at **questions@volumezerocompetitions.com** with the list of team and the details of the college they represent. It may take 2-3 working days for the verification and generation of a custom code for the institution.	This category of discount is applicable for students wanting to submit 3 or more design proposal for a competition. Participants would be required to contact us at **questions@volumezerocompetitions.com** with their tem details and the number of entries they wish to enter with. It may take 2 working days for the verification and generation of a custom code for your registration.

For both Student Institutional Registrations and Student Multiple Registrations would have a custom discounts as per the number of registration against a individual or college. Please feel free to get in touch at **questions@volumezerocompetitions.com in case of any questions. We have below listed the steps and requirements to gain benefits of student access.

Professional Discounts:

Professional Multiple Registrations: This category of discount is applicable for professionals wanting to submit 3 or more design proposal for a competition. Participants would be required to contact us a **questions@volumezerocompetitions.com** with their tem details and the number of entries they wish to enter with. It may take 2 working days for the verification and generation of a custom code for your registrations.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Concept Innovation:

Participants are to design an innovative dwelling that adapts to the selected genre of the client. The space should be conceptualized as a reflection of the client's lifestyle/ profession.

Site Selection:

Participants are to select a site within a natural set-up that is best suited for the house. The design proposed should be responsive to its surrounding context. Entries will be evaluated based on the site justification with respect to the design proposal.

Spatial Design:

Spatial planning is a fundamental component of any design. Spaces can also be designed to be multi-functional as per the physical, emotinal and cultural needs of the client. Entries will be judged based on the creativity displayed in terms of the spatial circulation and configuration of spaces.

Climate Responsiveness:

The structure designed should be sustainable and must create a lesser impact on the natural environment. The design proposed should be able to respond to the weather conditions of the site selected

AWARDS

1

$2000

Certificate of achievement

+

10 Honourable Mentions

2

$1200

Certificate of achievement

3

$800

Certificate of achievement

Student Award:

$500

Certificate
+
Publication

This Award is reserved for the best student work for the competition apart from the first 3 winners

Winners and Honourable Mentions will be published on **Volume Zero Competitions website and several international architecture and design magazines.**

To show our appreciation, all the participants would receive participation certificate.

FAQS

Q: What is an Early Subscriber?
A: Early Subscription is for all our participants from our past competitions. All the participants receive a limited time promo code sent to their registered email address to avail discount on the registration fees on our current competition.

Q: How to use the promo code?
A: The promo code is to be used in the registration form for the competition once the registrations are open on 18th april 2022

Q: Is there a deadline on the use of Early Subscriber Promo code?
A: Yes the promo code would be valid only till 11:59 PM (IST), 4th May 2022.

Q: How does a team receive their team unique code?
A: All the participants will only receive the team unique code on completion of registration process.

Q: Where does the participant needs to use their team unique code?
A: All the participants would be using their team code on the top right corner of their sheets, as the name of their submission and wherever requested by the organizer. This code will be their only identification for the process related with this competition.

Q: What are the modes of submissions?
A: The participants are requested to submit their work in JPEG file format in 150 DPI resolutions.

Q: What is the limit or cap on the number of team members and can anyone participate individually?
A: A team can have up to three members and cannot exceed this number. The participants who desire to participate individually can do so by filling and submitting the details for the team leader.

Q: Can I change team members after I register?
A: Teams are welcome to add any new members as long as their total members do not exceed 3. However they are prohibited from swapping or removing any existing member of the team. To do this please sends your request to questions@volumezerocompetitions.com with the details of the new team member requested by the organizer with the team unique code.

Q: What is the nature of the competition and is it open for all?
A: Extreme Habitat 2022 Architecture Competition is an open ideas design competition with no intentions to execute the proposals submitted in any form. The competition is open to all and students and professionals from all walks can join the competition.

Q: Are the teams allowed to share their work for the competition before the winners are announced by the organizer?
A: The participants are only permitted to share their proposal for the competition on social media or any other platform once the winners are revealed officially. Volume Zero will also publish winners at this date and will be working with many design platforms to attract publication opportunities.

FAQS

Q: What should be the submission file size?
A: The file size should not exceed more than 5MB.

Q: What file name should be given to submission material?
A: The participants are requested to submit the files with their unique team code as its name.

Q: What unit system should any participant adhere in case if anyone wants to show dimensions?
A: The participants are free to use any one of imperial or metric unit systems.

Q: What would the size of the sheet be?
A: The participants are required to use an A1 sheet i.e. (841 x 594 mm)/ (33.1 x 23.4 inches). The sheets must be composed in Landscape orientation, with the Unique Team Code on the top right corner.

Q: What should the participants do in case the payments are not available in our country?
A: We request the participants to send us the queries on questions@volumezerocompetitions.com to get an alternate payment method. We would send you all the possible payment methods.

Q: What does the participant do when they don't get a unique identification code after the payment is made?
A: In case of such a problem we request you to send us your payment receipt to questions@volumezerocompetitions.com with the "unique identification code" as subject matter.

Q: Will participants receive certificates for participation in the competition?
A: Yes all the participants would receive certificates for participation.

Q: What is the 200 word count in the submission; does it include all the text in the submission sheet?
A: The 200 word limit for the submission is only limited to the project description. It would not include the text used as Legends or captions, layout dimensions or any other text apart from project description.

Q: Do you have a minimum font size requirement for the sheet?
A: There is no set minimum font size; however it is important to keep the font legible and readable.

Q: Is there a minimum requirement for renderings, and diagrams or maximum limit to levels in school?
A: There are no minimum requirements for the presentation illustrations and diagrams. The participants are encouraged to make the presentation self-explanatory.

Q: Is there a minimum/maximum area and density allowed for the site?
A: There are no limitations for areas of the site however should be in proportion with the requirements mentioned in the brief.

Q: Do the plans/sections need to be to scale?
A: The drawings in the submission need not necessarily be on scale as long as they have relevant dimensions mentioned.

Q: Should the drawings be composed by hand or any specific software?
A: The participants for the competition are free to select the medium for presentation. They are free to create a handmade or software generated sheet for the submission.

Rules & Regulations

• English is to be used as the language of communication for all drawings.

• The deadline for submissions is 11:59 PM IST 5th August 2022 . Submissions after this deadline will not be considered.

• The registration fee is non-refundable.

• All participants must accept the rules and regulations of the competition.

• The participants may face disqualification if any of the rules are not followed.

• Volume Zero reserves the right to modify the schedule of the competition.

• The identity of the participants needs to be anonymous. The registration number is the only form of identification for the entries.

• The participants should not contact the jury under any circumstances.

Terms and Conditions

• We invite everyone, irrespective of their professions or qualifications, to join the competition and present their ideas. Participants are free to submit multiple entries but each entry needs to be registered separately.

• Alongside individual entries, team entries are also allowed. A team can have a maximum of three participants. Interdisciplinary teams are also welcome to join.

• After your registration has been approved, you will be sent a unique identification number for your team / entry which will be necessary to submit your proposal. If you haven't received a confirmation within two business days, please contact us at questions@volumezerocompetitions.com or our Facebook profile.

Requirements for student registration:

• All team members must be students at the point of registration.

• Students do not necessarily need to be studying architecture.

• All students must be from one university/ school.

• Registrations are accepted from teams worldwide.

• Either one of the members from each team must be older than at least 18 years of age or be legally an adult as per their residing country.

• After the registration students will be required to provide contact details (email address and contact numbers of the university/college/class representative) to questions@volumezerocompetitions.com with their UIC – student discount in the subject matter. The specified university representative must be employed at the named university, and informed about the competition. Volume Zero may contact the university or other contact provided representative for student status approval. Participants would also be required to attach a copy of their college photo id to the mail.

All the best !

Don't forget to follow us on social media and subscribe to our newsletter to be updated about all our news.

Website: volumezerocompetitions.com

Instagram: @volume_zero
@vzcompetitions

Facebook: facebook.com/volzero

KEYWORDS

INNOVATION
SPACE
ENVIRONMENT
INSPIRE
USER-CENTRIC
EXCITING
TERRAIN
DESIGN
NATURE
CLIENT
INTERACTION