



Architecture Competition

Edition #2

Little Big Loo 2025

Total Prize – USD 4500



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INTRODUCTION

The 21st century began with great promise filled with ambition, optimism, and dreams of a better future. Now, twenty-five years later, we stand at a crossroads. Humanity has achieved remarkable feats: exploring distant planets, transforming healthcare, and advancing artificial intelligence and robotics. But we've also lived through defining global events, shifts that have tested our societies and systems. Our urban spaces have grown denser and more chaotic, while rural areas have faded into obscurity, taking with them the spirit of entire communities. Deep-rooted challenges still persist, often ignored. As we look ahead, the time has come to rethink how we live, to reset what no longer serves us, and to act, before irreversible damage is done.

The world today is experiencing unprecedented demographic growth and consequent urbanization of various places. Rapid population growth in urban areas usually gets coupled with poor planning of physical and social infrastructure along with a lack of individual and communal sanitary consciousness. The rural areas in many developing countries face a lot of problems caused by poor sanitation facilities such as pollution of water sources, a high rate of waterborne diseases, and high expenditures on curative health care.

Open defecation and urination are still rampant in urban and rural areas of developing economies and such practices pose a grave risk to the health of the citizens. The World Health Organization and UNICEF link open defecation with grim issues such as poverty, malnutrition, child mortality and large disparities between the rich and poor.

Around the world, around 3.5 million people die because of inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene each year. Poor sanitation is believed to be the main cause of almost 50% of these deaths. Owing to the dire importance of communal sanitation and hygiene, there is an urgent need to develop an integrated approach concerning the development of public health services.

OPPORTUNITY



The Little Big Loo – Rethinking Public Toilets invites ideas that can be used to disrupt the perception of public toilets with the most innovative and efficient solution for this serious issue plaguing our future. This necessary public utility is to be designed in a way that changes the overall outlook towards public washrooms.

The designed area can be recreational, educational, social; a space that creates value for the community surrounding it. The space should be visualized as a prime component in the making of a community that develops holistically; a community that is competent in social, economic and educational terms.



We shall not defeat any of the infectious diseases that plague the developing world until we have also won the battle for safe drinking water, sanitation, and basic health care.

Kofi Annan

Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Secretary-General of the United Nations 1996-2006.

CHALLENGE

Participants should unlearn how a conventional public toilet looks like and design an innovative, functional and visually appealing design that serves as a building icon, synchronizing with the surrounding context.

The primary use of the designed structure should be as a public toilet. Alongside this, the structure should be innovatively designed as a space for community interaction, in addition to its primary function. The space should be additionally visualized as a recreational/ educational/ social/ urban functional area



The total area of the space should not exceed 150 sq.mt. All age groups of the demography should be able to use the space.

The additional space aspect of the toilet should add value to society and the site's context. The design should be efficient in terms of planning, hygiene, odour-free surrounding and space usage. The designed toilet should be accessible, comfortable/ convenient to use.

The design intervention should be aimed to address the efficiency of public restrooms, their sanitary facilities, spatial distribution and mainly, privacy and comfort, which ultimately improve peoples' lives.

The design can act as a module, which can be replicated in different areas similar to the site context chosen. The design should be capable of catering a daily footfall of 250–500 people.



Sanitation is more important than independence

Mahatma Gandhi
Indian nationalist leader

SITE SELECTION

Participants can select a site in an urban OR a rural context. There can be an emphasis on deprived locations, irrespective of the site being in an urban or rural area.

The site should be carefully placed to accommodate the number of footfalls (circulation in transit hours must be considered). It must be justified with the need for sanitation services.



JUDGING CRITERIA

Concept Innovation

The participants are to design an innovative public toilet space and make them exceptional, unlike the conventional idea of communal toilets/ washrooms.

Spatial Design

The entries will be evaluated based on creativity displayed in the spatial design and configuration of areas.

Site Selection

Participants are to select a site best suited for the development of an innovative public toilet. The entries will be evaluated based on the site justification given.

Multipurpose Utility

Apart from the primary use as a public toilet, the utility of the spaces will be evaluated. The participants are to creatively design the multipurpose utility of the spaces.

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 qualities 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 DPI 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, Organization, School, etc.) that may give away your identity.

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

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

All dimension should be in imperial or metric unit.

SHEET FORMAT

Unique Code
A1 841 x 594 (mm)

SCHEDULE



Competition
Starts



Early Bird
Registrations Ends



Standard
Registrations Ends



Submissions
Deadline



Winners
Announcement

REGISTRATION

Early Bird Registrations

18 June 2025 - 22 August 2025

For participants from India:

INR 3186 / per team

INR 2700 + 18% Tax

For participants from other countries:

USD 94.4 / per team

USD 80 + 18% Tax

Standard Registrations

23 August 2025 - 03 October 2025

For participants from India:

INR 3776 / per team

INR 3200 + 18% Tax

For participants from other countries:

USD 112.1 / per team

USD 95 + 18% Tax

AWARDS & PRIZE MONEY

Total Prize – USD 4500



Certificate of Achievement
Publication



Certificate of Achievement
Publication



Certificate of Achievement
Publication



Certificate of Achievement
Publication

10 Honourable Mentions : Certificates

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

Participation Certificates

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

FAQs

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: 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 send your request to questions@volumezerocompetition.com with the details of the new team member requested by the organizer with the team unique code.

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 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@volumezerocompetition.com to get an alternate payment method. We would send you all the possible payment methods.

Q: Where all do the participants need 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 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: What is the nature of the competition and is it open for all?

A: Little Big Loo 2025 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: What should be the submission file size?

A: The file size should not exceed more than 5MB.

RULES & REGULATION

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

The deadline for submissions is 11:59 PM IST, 30 October 2025. Submissions after this deadline will not be considered.

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

The registration fee is non-refundable.

The participants should not contact the jury under any circumstances.

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.

TERMS & 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.

MEDIA PARTNERS

