



MICRO LIVING

Architecture Competition

Edition #1

Total Prize - USD 10000



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REGISTER NOW

INTRODUCTION



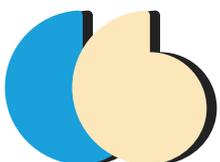
Life no longer fits into fixed rooms. We wake up to glowing screens. We work from kitchen tables. We build relationships across time zones. We relocate without warning. Climate events interrupt routines. Ownership is shifting toward access. Privacy and community now overlap in unexpected ways.

Our lives are fluid however our homes are not. Most housing is designed for stability: one job, one city, one predictable routine. Yet today, life transforms hour by hour, season by season. The way we live has evolved. The spaces we inhabit have not.

This competition asks a decisive question:

What if 250 square feet was all the city could give you?

Micro Living invites you to design more than a compact house. It asks you to reimagine the logic of living itself to transform limitation into intelligence, and density into opportunity.



**This is not about shrinking space.
It is about expanding possibility.**

OPPORTUNITY



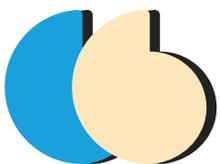
For decades, housing has followed a rigid script. Rooms had fixed names and fixed purposes. The bedroom was for sleeping. The kitchen was for cooking. The living room was for receiving guests.

However contemporary life refuses to stay in one box. Today, a single table can host a morning meeting, an afternoon meal, and a late-night conversation. A window corner can become a studio, a meditation space, or a place to pause. Our lives are layered.

Our spaces must respond. At 250 square feet, there is no room for excess.

Every wall must think. Every surface must perform. Every movement must feel intentional.

Micro is not a compromise, it is precision. And when multiplied, precision becomes power.



Less is More

Mies Van Der Rohe
German-American architect

CHALLENGE



Design a 250 sq ft living module for two residents. Within this compact footprint, sleeping, cooking, bathing, working, eating, and storage must coexist not as crowded functions, but as a seamless choreography across the day.

The space should transform as life transforms. Calm in the morning. Productive in the afternoon. Intimate at night.

The module is only the beginning. Imagine 25 of these units forming a community for 50 residents in an urban context of your choice. Not a stack of identical boxes rather a responsive, adaptable network.

Circulation becomes a social thread. Shared infrastructure becomes a resource-saving backbone. Thresholds create moments of encounter without sacrificing privacy.

Design not just walls rather interdependence.

Design not just housing but a blueprint for urban resilience.

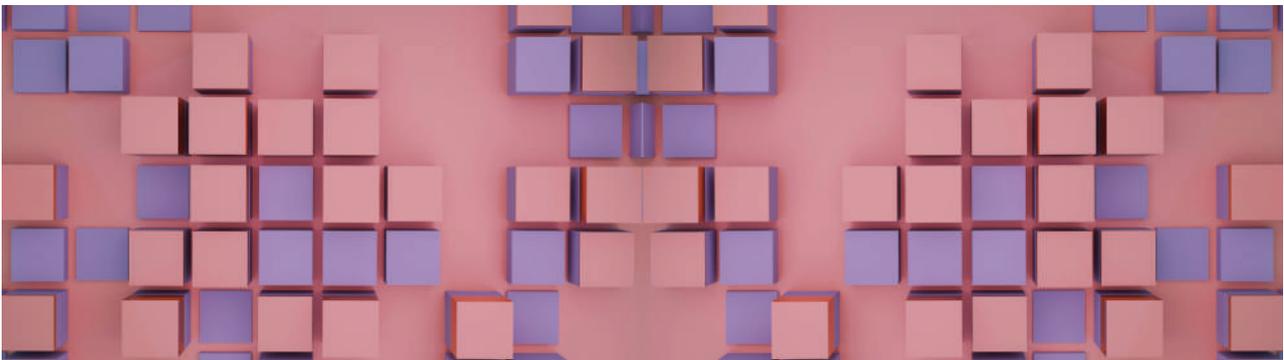
SITE SELECTION

Participants are free to choose an urban site anywhere in the world.

From Tokyo to Mumbai, from New York to Lagos, cities are confronting density, affordability, and environmental pressure. Each context offers unique challenges and opportunities.

Select a site that strengthens your narrative. Your proposal should respond to real urban conditions and not abstract theory.

The city is evolving. Now design how we live within it.



JUDGING CRITERIA

Concept Innovation

The participants have to design an innovative housing module and complex and make them exceptional, as compared to the conventional housing buildings today.

Spatial Design

The entries will be judged on the basis of creativity displayed in the spatial design and configuration of spaces.

Site Selection

The participants are to select a site of their choice for the design. The entries will be evaluated on the basis of the site justification given.

Functional Versatility

The efficiency and functionality of a single housing module and same with respect to the entire community complex.

AWARDS & PRIZE MONEY

Total Prize - USD 10000



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.

ELIGIBILITY

Micro Living Architecture Competition is open to all.

We invite architects, students, engineers, product designers, thinkers, companies, organizations and everyone interested in the mission of the competition to submit their ideas. No professional qualifications are necessary.

SCHEDULE



**Competition
Launch**

05 March 2026



**Registrations
Deadline**

12 June 2026



**Submissions
Deadline**

03 December 2026



**Winners
Announcement**

05 February 2027

REGISTRATION

Please find registration fees mentioned on the competition website

volumezerocompetitions.com/micro-living-2026

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.

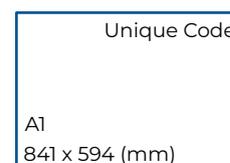
The file must be marked with your unique identification number, presented clearly in the top right corner on the A1 sheet.

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

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: Micro Living 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 3 December 2026. 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.