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International Design Challenge

RIVERFRONT PROMENADE: REIMAGINING PUBLIC SPACES ALONG THE WATER

First Edition

Register Now!

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Riverfront Promenade

REIMAGINING PUBLIC SPACES ALONG THE WATER

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Introduction

Rivers have historically shaped cities—acting as lifelines for culture, commerce, ecology, and public life. Yet many urban riverfronts today remain underutilized, inaccessible, or disconnected from everyday civic experience. The Riverfront Promenade competition invites architects, urban designers, landscape architects, and students to reimagine river edges as vibrant, inclusive, and resilient public spaces that reconnect people with water.

Participants are challenged to design a riverfront promenade that balances recreation, ecology, mobility, and community life while responding to flooding risks, climate change, and urban density.

Objective

The objective of this competition is to envision a people-centric riverfront promenade that transforms the river edge into an active public realm. Proposals should demonstrate how architecture and landscape design can enhance social interaction, environmental performance, accessibility, and urban identity while respecting the dynamic nature of water.

The Building Program

The proposed riverfront promenade may include (but is not limited to):

- Pedestrian and cycling pathways
- Public plazas, decks, and viewing platforms
- Landscaped zones and ecological buffers
- Cultural or community spaces (galleries, pavilions, amphitheaters)
- Informal seating and recreational areas
- Food kiosks, cafes, or pop-up retail
- Flood-resilient and adaptive infrastructure
- Universal accessibility elements
- Lighting, street furniture, and wayfinding systems

Participants are free to interpret the scale, density, and mix of functions creatively.

Site

- The site can be any real or hypothetical riverfront location worldwide
- Participants may choose urban, semi-urban, or natural contexts
- Site dimensions and context are flexible
- Clear justification of site selection and design response is required

Timeline

Launch Date: 1st January 2026

Registration deadline: 4th October 2026

Submission deadline: 14th October 2026

Result Announcement: 20th December 2026

Submission Requirements

Participants must submit:

- Design Panels – minimum 2 panels and maximum 6 panels (panel size: A2, Landscape, format jpeg./jpg.)
- A brief **concept description** (format docs. File)

Drawings may include:

- Concept diagrams
- Plans, sections, elevations
- 3D views / visualizations
- Exploded diagrams or process sketches

Important:

- No participant names, university names, or identifying marks are allowed on the submission sheets
- Design title and slogans are permitted
- Submissions must follow anonymity rules strictly

Jury

The jury panel will consist of experienced architects, designers, educators, and industry professionals from diverse backgrounds. Entries will be evaluated based on:

- Design Concept & Vision
- Integration with River Ecology
- Public Life & Accessibility
- Spatial & Landscape Quality
- Feasibility & Innovation

The jury's decision will be final and binding.

Eligibility

- Open to all.
- Individual and team entries are allowed
- Team size: minimum 1 – maximum 4 members
- No restrictions on age, nationality, or academic background

Contact Details

Brief link: https://www.archiolcompetitions.com/competitions/riverfront_promenade

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Organizers

Archiol Competitions

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