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International Design Challenge

CIRCULAR ECONOMY MARKETPLACE: REIMAGINING MARKETS FOR A ZERO-WASTE FUTURE

First Edition

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Circular Economy Marketplace

REIMAGINING MARKETS FOR A ZERO-WASTE FUTURE

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Introduction

Markets have always been the heart of communities—places of exchange, interaction, and livelihood. However, conventional marketplaces today generate enormous waste, consume high energy, and follow linear patterns of use and disposal. The Circular Economy Marketplace competition challenges participants to rethink the traditional market as a regenerative system—where resources circulate, waste becomes a resource, and architecture actively supports sustainable behavior.

This competition invites architects, designers, planners, and students to envision a marketplace that embodies circular economy principles through design, materiality, operations, and community engagement.

Objective

The objective of this competition is to design a marketplace that operates on circular economy principles, minimizing waste, reducing resource consumption, and promoting reuse, repair, recycling, and local production.

Participants are encouraged to explore:

- Zero-waste systems
- Adaptive and modular architecture
- Sustainable material cycles
- Community-driven economic models
- Architecture as an educational tool for sustainability

The Building Program

The proposed Circular Economy Marketplace may include (but is not limited to):

- Vendor stalls for local produce, second-hand goods, and sustainable products
- Repair cafés and maker spaces
- Recycling, upcycling, and material recovery zones
- Storage and logistics areas
- Community workshop and learning spaces
- Food courts with waste-free operations
- Composting and waste-processing facilities
- Administration and information center
- Public gathering and event spaces
- Sanitation and service areas

Participants may modify or expand the program based on their design concept.

Site

- The site can be assumed or selected by the participant.
- It may be urban, peri-urban, or rural.
- Participants should clearly define site context, climate, surrounding communities, and infrastructure.
- The site selection should strengthen the idea of circularity and local economic resilience.

Timeline

Launch Date: 1st January 2026

Registration deadline: 4th July 2026

Submission deadline: 14th July 2026

Result Announcement: 20th September 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:

- Integration of Circular Economy Principles
- Architectural Innovation & Spatial Quality
- Sustainability & Environmental Performance
- Community Impact & Social Engagement
- Feasibility & Adaptability

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/circular_economy_market_place

Email: info@archiolcompetitions.com

Organizers

Archiol Competitions

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