

An architectural rendering of several small, elevated wooden houses with corrugated metal roofs, designed for disaster relief. The houses are arranged in a cluster, with some featuring porches and stairs. The background shows trees and a hazy sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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International Design Challenge

DISASTER RELIEF HOUSING: DESIGNING FAST, SAFE AND DIGNIFIED HOMES FOR POST- DISASTER RECOVERY

First Edition

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Disaster Relief Housing

DESIGNING FAST, SAFE AND DIGNIFIED HOMES FOR POST-DISASTER
RECOVERY

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Introduction

Natural disasters displace millions of people every year, leaving families without shelter, security, or dignity. Emergency responses often prioritize speed over livability, resulting in temporary shelters that fail to support long-term recovery. This competition invites designers to rethink disaster relief housing as a humane, resilient, and adaptable solution—one that can be rapidly deployed while restoring a sense of home, identity, and community.

Objective

Participants are challenged to design a disaster relief housing system that is:

- Rapid to deploy and easy to assemble
- Structurally safe and climate-responsive
- Dignified, humane, and culturally sensitive
- Adaptable from temporary shelter to semi-permanent housing
- Scalable for different disaster contexts and locations

The proposal should balance urgency with quality of life, addressing both immediate needs and long-term recovery.

The Building Program

The design may include (but is not limited to):

- Housing unit(s) for a family or small group
- Sleeping, living, and basic hygiene spaces
- Cooking or food preparation area (shared or private)
- Storage for personal belongings
- Provision for ventilation, daylight, and thermal comfort
- Structural system suited for rapid construction
- Option for incremental expansion or adaptation
- Shared/community spaces (optional but encouraged)

Site

The site is hypothetical and adaptable. Participants may choose a disaster-prone context such as:

- Flood-affected river plains
- Earthquake zones
- Cyclone or hurricane-prone coastal regions
- Post-wildfire settlements
- Conflict or displacement zones

Designs should clearly state the assumed disaster type and climatic context, demonstrating responsiveness to local conditions.

Timeline

Launch Date: 1st January 2026

Registration deadline: 6th January 2027

Submission deadline: 16th January 2027

Result Announcement: 22nd March 2027

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:

- Speed and efficiency of deployment
- Structural safety and disaster resilience
- Dignity, comfort, and human-centered design
- Adaptability, scalability, and long-term usability
- Innovation, sustainability, and material efficiency

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/disaster_relief_housing

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Organizers

Archiol Competitions

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