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International Design Challenge

URBAN ROOFSCAPE ACTIVATION: DESIGNING BEYOND THE GROUND

First Edition

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Urban Rooftop Activation

DESIGNING BEYOND THE GROUND

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Introduction

As cities densify and ground-level open spaces diminish, rooftops emerge as an untapped layer of the urban fabric. Urban Rooftop Activation – *Designing Beyond the Ground* invites architects, designers, and thinkers to reimagine rooftops as active, inclusive, and meaningful spaces. The competition encourages participants to explore how roofs can evolve beyond utilitarian surfaces into social, ecological, cultural, and experiential extensions of the city.

Objective

The objective of this competition is to generate innovative design proposals that activate urban rooftops and redefine their role within contemporary cities. Participants are encouraged to propose adaptable, scalable, and context-sensitive rooftop interventions that enhance urban life, promote sustainability, and foster community engagement.

The Building Program

Participants may propose one or more of the following functions, or reinterpret them creatively:

- Community and social gathering spaces
- Urban farming or rooftop gardens
- Cultural or recreational zones
- Wellness, leisure, or contemplative spaces
- Climate-responsive and ecological installations
- Mixed-use or hybrid rooftop programs

The proposal should clearly demonstrate how the roof becomes an active, accessible, and integrated urban space.

Site

The site is open and participant-defined.

Participants may select any urban rooftop—residential, commercial, institutional, or industrial—located in any city worldwide. The chosen site should be justified through context, relevance, and potential for rooftop activation.

Timeline

Launch Date: 1st January 2026

Registration deadline: 8th May 2026

Submission deadline: 18th May 2026

Result Announcement: 24th July 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:

- Conceptual Clarity & Innovation
- Rooftop Activation & Programmatic Integration
- Contextual Response & Urban Impact
- Sustainability & Environmental Strategies
- Design Quality & Visual Communication

The jury's decision will be final and binding.

Eligibility

- Open to all.
- Individual and team entries are allowed
- Team size: minimum 01 – maximum 4 members
- No restrictions on age, nationality, or academic background

Contact Details

Brief link: <https://www.archiolcompetitions.com/competitions/urban-rooftop-activation>

Email: info@archiolcompetitions.com

Organizers

Archiol Competitions

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