

A digital rendering of a desert shelter. The structure features a large, flat, woven canopy supported by several thick, vertical, woven pillars. The interior is open, with a few small figures of people standing and sitting. The ground is dry and sandy, with sparse, low-lying vegetation. In the background, there are rolling hills under a hazy sky. The overall color palette is warm, with browns, tans, and muted greens.

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International Design Challenge

DESERT SHELTER:

ARCHITECTURE THAT RESPONDS TO HEAT, SCARCITY AND RESILIENCE

First Edition

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Desert Shelter

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Introduction

Desert environments represent some of the most extreme and fragile habitats on Earth—defined by intense heat, water scarcity, harsh winds, and vast open landscapes. Yet, for centuries, communities have lived, adapted, and thrived in these regions through ingenious architectural responses.

Desert Shelter challenges participants to design a shelter that is not merely placed in the desert, but born from it—an architecture that respects climatic extremes, optimizes limited resources, and embodies resilience. This competition invites architects, designers, and students to rethink how shelter can be humane, sustainable, and context-responsive in arid landscapes.

Objective

The objective of this competition is to explore innovative architectural strategies for creating habitable shelters in desert conditions. Participants are encouraged to address:

- Extreme temperature variations
- Water scarcity and resource efficiency
- Passive cooling and thermal comfort
- Material intelligence and construction logic
- Cultural and environmental sensitivity

The proposal may be conceptual, experimental, or grounded in real-world application, but must clearly respond to desert conditions through design.

Timeline

Registration deadline: 2nd February 2027

Submission deadline: 12th February 2027

Result Announcement: 18th April 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:

- Climate Responsiveness
- Resource Efficiency & Sustainability
- Design Concept & Innovation
- Functionality & Habitability
- Contextual & Cultural Sensitivity

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/desert_shelter

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Organizers

Archiol Competitions

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