

An architectural rendering of a modern pavilion at night. The pavilion features a large, curved, illuminated structure that appears to be made of brick or stone. A large, circular opening in the structure reveals a bright interior space where several people are standing. The pavilion is situated on a dark, reflective surface, possibly water, which shows the reflection of the illuminated structure. The overall atmosphere is dark and moody, with the primary light source being the interior of the pavilion.

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International Design Challenge

URBAN RAINWATER PAVILION:

A PAVILION THAT COLLECTS WATER, CONNECTS PEOPLE AND COOLS CITIES

First Edition

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Urban Rainwater Pavilion

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Introduction

Rapid urbanization, climate change, and increasing water scarcity have transformed rainwater from a neglected byproduct into a vital urban resource. Cities today face frequent flooding during monsoons and acute water shortages during dry seasons, revealing a disconnect between infrastructure and natural cycles.

The Urban Rainwater Pavilion competition challenges participants to design a public pavilion that acts as a civic space while actively harvesting, storing, and celebrating rainwater. The pavilion should function as an urban landmark—educational, climatic, and social—demonstrating how architecture can cool cities, manage water responsibly, and reconnect people with natural processes.

Objective

The objective of this competition is to explore architectural solutions that integrate rainwater collection, passive cooling, and public engagement within an urban pavilion. Participants are encouraged to rethink the pavilion as a climate-responsive infrastructure that is both functional and symbolic—raising awareness about water conservation while offering comfort, shade, and gathering space.

Designs should be innovative, adaptable, and context-sensitive, responding to urban density, climate conditions, and social interaction.

The Building Program

Participants may interpret the pavilion program freely, but it should include:

- Rainwater collection surfaces (roof, canopies, funnels, etc.)
- Water storage elements (tanks, cisterns, visible reservoirs)
- Shaded public gathering spaces
- Cooling strategies using water (evaporation, misting, water bodies)
- Educational or interpretive elements explaining the water cycle
- Seating, pathways, or interactive zones
- Optional integration of landscape or urban furniture

The pavilion may be permanent, semi-permanent, or modular in nature.

Site

The pavilion is to be imagined in an urban public space such as:

- A city plaza or square
- A park or waterfront edge
- A transit node or street intersection
- A campus or institutional forecourt

Participants may choose a real or hypothetical site in any city worldwide. Clear justification of site selection, climate, and urban context is required.

Timeline

Registration deadline: 4th February 2027

Submission deadline: 14th February 2027

Result Announcement: 20th 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:

- Integration of Rainwater Harvesting Systems
- Climate Responsiveness and Urban Cooling Strategy
- Architectural Innovation and Conceptual Strength
- Public Engagement and Social Connectivity
- Feasibility, Sustainability, and Contextual Relevance

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_rainwater_pavilion

Email: info@archiolcompetitions.com

Organizers

Archiol Competitions

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