

A dark, atmospheric rendering of a modern cabin nestled in a dense forest. A stone path leads from the foreground towards the cabin, which has large glass windows and a steep roof. The scene is misty and dimly lit, with the cabin's interior lights glowing. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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International Design Challenge

FOREST RETREAT: WHERE ARCHITECTURE DISSOLVES INTO THE FOREST

First Edition

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Forest Retreat

WHERE ARCHITECTURE DISSOLVES INTO THE FOREST

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Introduction

Forests represent one of the most delicate and powerful ecosystems on Earth—spaces of silence, biodiversity, and deep sensory engagement. As urban life grows increasingly detached from nature, the idea of retreat becomes essential not as escape, but as reconnection.

Forest Retreat – Where Architecture Dissolves into the Forest challenges participants to envision a retreat that does not dominate its surroundings, but quietly merges with them. The project calls for architecture that is sensitive, minimal, and experiential—where built form blurs into landscape, and the forest remains the primary protagonist.

Objective

The objective of this competition is to explore architectural strategies that enable coexistence with natural ecosystems. Participants are invited to design a forest retreat that prioritizes ecological balance, experiential quality, and spatial humility.

The proposal should demonstrate how architecture can:

- Minimize physical and visual impact
- Respect existing topography and vegetation
- Enhance human-nature interaction
- Function as a place of reflection, rest, and awareness

The Building Program

Participants are free to interpret the program, but the retreat should include the following suggested components:

- Arrival / Transition space from forest trail
- Individual or shared accommodation units (cabins, pods, or shelters)
- Common space for gathering, meditation, or dining
- Nature-interaction spaces (view decks, trails, pauses)
- Minimal service spaces (washrooms, storage, utilities)
- The scale should remain modest and context-responsive, emphasizing quality of experience over built area.

Site

The site is a **conceptual forest setting**, allowing participants to choose and define their own forest typology—tropical, temperate, mountainous, or woodland.

Participants must:

- Clearly describe the chosen forest context
- Respond to climate, terrain, flora, and ecological conditions
- Avoid large-scale land modification

No real site data is required; however, proposals should demonstrate realistic environmental sensitivity.

Timeline

Launch Date: 1st May 2026

Registration deadline: 6th September 2026

Submission deadline: 16th September 2026

Result Announcement: 22nd November 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 with the Forest Context
- Environmental Sensitivity & Sustainability
- Conceptual Clarity & Design Intent
- Spatial Experience & Human–Nature Interaction
- Innovation in Materiality & Construction Approach

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/forest_retreat

Email: info@archiolcompetitions.com

Organizers

Archiol Competitions

www.archiolcompetitions.com