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International Design Challenge

ADAPTIVE REUSE FACTORY HUB: TRANSFORMING OLD FACTORIES INTO PRODUCTIVE COMMUNITY HUBS

First Edition

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Adaptive Reuse Factory Hub

TRANSFORMING OLD FACTORIES INTO PRODUCTIVE COMMUNITY HUBS

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Introduction

Across cities and towns worldwide, disused factories stand as powerful remnants of industrial heritage. While structurally resilient, many of these buildings remain underutilized, disconnected from contemporary urban life. The Adaptive Reuse Factory Hub competition invites participants to reimagine an abandoned or underperforming industrial factory as a vibrant, mixed-use community hub—preserving its historical character while infusing new social, cultural, and economic life.

This competition encourages innovative strategies that demonstrate how adaptive reuse can reduce environmental impact, retain embodied energy, and catalyze local regeneration.

Objective

The primary objective is to design a multi-functional community hub within an existing factory structure that:

- Preserves and celebrates industrial heritage
- Encourages social interaction and local entrepreneurship
- Supports creative, cultural, and productive activities
- Demonstrates sustainable, climate-responsive reuse strategies
- Acts as a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization

Participants must balance old and new, creating architecture that respects the past while serving present and future community needs.

The Building Program

The Adaptive Reuse Factory Hub may include a mix of the following functions:

- Community gathering spaces (exhibition halls, event spaces)
- Co-working studios / maker spaces / workshops
- Small business incubators or local production units
- Cultural spaces (galleries, performance areas, museums)
- Learning and skill-training spaces
- Cafés, food courts, or local markets
- Public plazas, courtyards, or semi-open industrial yards
- Administrative and service areas
- Adaptive structural additions or subtractions (if required)

Participants are encouraged to propose programs relevant to their chosen context.

Site

- Site to be selected by participants
- The site must be an existing factory or industrial building, abandoned or partially used
- Can be located in an urban, peri-urban, or rural industrial context
- Participants must clearly justify site selection, historical background, and urban relevance
- Adaptive reuse should retain major structural elements where possible

Assumed site area, climate, and surrounding context must be clearly stated.

Timeline

Launch Date: 1st January 2026

Registration deadline: 16th July 2026

Submission deadline: 26th July 2026

Result Announcement: 2nd October 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:

- Adaptive Reuse Strategy
- Community Integration
- Programmatic Innovation
- Sustainability & Environmental Response
- Design Clarity & Communication

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/adaptive_reuse_factory_hub

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Organizers

Archiol Competitions

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