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International Design Challenge

# BEYOND WALLS I

**Nature Integrated Learning Classrooms 2024**

First Edition

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## **Beyond Walls: Nature Integrated Learning Classrooms**

## Introduction

In an era where digital technology pervades every aspect of life, the importance of reconnecting students with the natural world has never been more urgent. Traditional classroom settings often isolate learners from the environment, limiting opportunities for experiential education and outdoor engagement. Nature Integrated Learning Outdoor Classrooms seek to bridge this gap by merging conventional educational approaches with immersive outdoor experiences, promoting holistic learning that is both engaging and relevant.

This competition invites architects, designers, educators, and students to envision innovative outdoor classroom designs that create dynamic spaces for learning. Participants are encouraged to explore how these classrooms can foster an interactive, hands-on learning environment, where students not only absorb information but actively engage with nature. By utilizing natural elements, sustainable materials, and thoughtful design, proposals should demonstrate how outdoor classrooms can serve as transformative spaces that enhance creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

The challenge lies in designing classrooms that not only accommodate educational activities but also immerse students in the beauty and complexity of the natural world. Through this competition, we aim to inspire new pedagogical models that cultivate environmental stewardship, promote ecological awareness, and ignite a passion for learning through direct interaction with nature. Join us in reimagining educational spaces that nurture the mind, body, and spirit, fostering a deeper connection between students and the environment around them.

## Objective

The objective of this competition is to inspire innovative designs for Nature Integrated Learning Outdoor Classrooms that effectively merge educational practices with the natural environment. We seek to challenge participants to think creatively about how outdoor spaces can enhance the learning experience, encouraging students to engage with their surroundings in meaningful ways. By designing classrooms that reflect ecological principles and prioritize direct interaction with nature, we hope to foster environments where students can learn through exploration, observation, and hands-on activities.

The proposals should emphasize the importance of experiential learning, promoting a curriculum that includes environmental education, sustainability, and the interconnectedness of ecosystems. This competition encourages participants to consider the unique needs of students and educators while creating adaptable spaces that can accommodate various learning styles and group dynamics. Ultimately, the goal is to develop outdoor classrooms that not only serve educational purposes but also inspire a sense of wonder, curiosity, and respect for the natural world.

## Key Goals

- **Enhance Learning:** Create interactive outdoor spaces that facilitate hands-on, experiential learning and promote student engagement.
- **Foster Environmental Awareness:** Integrate elements that educate students about local ecosystems, biodiversity, and sustainability practices.
- **Promote Collaboration:** Design flexible areas that encourage teamwork, communication, and social interaction among students.
- **Incorporate Sustainability:** Utilize eco-friendly materials and sustainable building practices to minimize environmental impact.
- **Encourage Creativity:** Develop spaces that inspire imaginative thinking and allow for diverse teaching methods.
- **Adapt to Diverse Needs:** Ensure designs are inclusive and adaptable to various age groups, learning styles, and educational programs.
- **Cultivate Stewardship:** Instill a sense of responsibility and connection to the environment, encouraging students to become advocates for ecological preservation.

## The Building Program

The Nature Integrated Learning Outdoor Classrooms will incorporate various programmatic elements designed to create a holistic and immersive educational experience. The following components should be included in the design:

- Learning Zones
- Shade Structures
- Wildlife Observation Areas
- Gardens and Outdoor Laboratories
- Water Management Features
- Outdoor Seating and Gathering Areas
- Pathways and Circulation
- Sustainable Infrastructure

This building program aims to create a multifaceted outdoor learning environment that supports diverse educational activities, fosters environmental awareness, and cultivates a deep connection between students and nature.

## Site

The selection of an appropriate site for the Nature Integrated Learning Outdoor Classrooms is crucial to the success of the project. Participants are encouraged to choose a site that enhances their design and aligns with the core objectives of the competition. The chosen location should offer natural elements that can be integrated into the classroom experience, fostering a deeper connection between students and the environment.

## Sustainability

Sustainability is a fundamental aspect of the Nature Integrated Learning Outdoor Classrooms competition. Proposals must demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship and innovative sustainable practices throughout the design and construction process.

## Project Proposal Requirements

Participants must submit a project proposal that includes:

- A clear and compelling design narrative explaining the concept.
- Detailed floor plans, elevations, and sections that illustrate the spatial organization and functional layout.
- Renderings or visualizations that convey the aesthetic quality and experience.
- A site plan.

## Timeline

- Registration Deadline: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- Submission Deadline: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- Winners Announcement: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Submission Requirements

### File Format:

- All entries must be submitted as a single PDF document.

### Sheets:

- Minimum of 3 sheets, maximum of 6 sheets.
- Each sheet should include designs, drawings, and views that effectively communicate the project concept.

### Text Explanation:

- Each sheet must contain explanatory text that describes and supports your design decisions.
- Text should be clear and concise, highlighting the main ideas and features of the project.

### Content to Include (per sheet):

- Design Concepts: Conceptual drawings, diagrams, and sketches.
- Plans, Elevations, and Sections: Architectural plans, cross-sections, and elevations.
- Views and Renderings: 3D views, perspectives, or rendered images of the project.
- Diagrams: Illustrations explaining circulation, spatial relationships, environmental or structural concepts.

### Resolution and Quality:

- All sheets should be high-quality, legible, and visually clear.

### File Size:

- The total file size should not exceed 20 MB.

### Naming Convention:

- The file should be named as: CompetitionName\_ParticipationCode.pdf

### Anonymity:

- No names, logos, or identifying marks should appear on any of the submitted sheets to ensure anonymity during judging.

## Submission Guidelines

### Sign in to Your Account:

- Visit the Archiol website and sign in to your account.

### Access Your Competition Submissions:

- In the header, click on the arrow beside your profile picture. Select the option labeled "My Competition Submissions."

### Submit Your Entry:

- Click on the "Submit My Entry" button.

### Select Competition:

- Choose the competition name for which you wish to submit your entry.

### Enter Participation Code:

- Input the participation code that was generated during your registration.

### Title Your Submission:

- Provide a title for your submission.

### Upload Title Image:

- Upload the image that will represent your project.

### Upload Design PDF:

- Submit your project in PDF format (ensure it meets the competition's requirements).

### Consent:

- Check the box to agree to the competition terms and conditions.

### Submit:

- After filling in all required fields, click "Submit."

### Confirmation:

- Your submission will appear in "My Competition Submissions" within 24 hours.

## **Eligibility**

The competition is open to all architects, designers, students, and creative individuals globally. There are no restrictions on age or nationality.

## **Contact Details**

For any inquiries or further information, please contact us at:

- Email: [info@archiolcompetitions.com](mailto:info@archiolcompetitions.com)
- Website: [www.archiolcompetitions.com](http://www.archiolcompetitions.com)