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International Design Challenge

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROTOTYPE:
DESIGNING DIGNIFIED HOUSING THAT IS TRULY AFFORDABLE

First Edition

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Affordable Housing Prototype

DESIGNING DIGNIFIED HOUSING THAT IS TRULY AFFORDABLE

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Introduction

Affordable housing remains one of the most critical challenges faced by rapidly urbanizing societies. While the demand for housing continues to grow, affordability often comes at the cost of dignity, quality, and social well-being.

The Affordable Housing Prototype competition invites architects, designers, and planners to rethink housing for low- and middle-income communities—creating solutions that are economically viable, socially inclusive, and spatially dignified. Participants are challenged to design a replicable housing prototype that balances cost efficiency with livability, adaptability, and long-term sustainability.

Objective

The objective of this competition is to explore innovative housing prototypes that:

- Are genuinely affordable to build, maintain, and replicate
- Provide dignified living conditions with adequate light, ventilation, privacy, and community interaction
- Respond to local climate, culture, and construction methods
- Can be scaled across urban, peri-urban, or rural contexts

Participants must demonstrate how affordability can coexist with architectural quality and human-centered design.

The Building Program

Participants are free to define the scale; however, the proposal must include:

Housing Units

- Mix of 1BHK / 2BHK units or flexible modular units
- Typical unit size: 30–60 sq.m
- Efficient layout with minimal circulation waste

Shared & Community Spaces

- Common courtyards or interaction zones
- Shared utility areas (laundry, storage, sanitation if applicable)
- Children's play areas / informal gathering spaces

Support Infrastructure

- Basic services: water, sanitation, waste management
- Provision for incremental growth or expansion
- Climate-responsive design strategies

Site

- Hypothetical site of 1–2 hectares
- Location: Urban edge, peri-urban, or small-town context
- Flat or gently contoured land
- Site conditions may be assumed by participants but must be clearly explained

Participants should demonstrate how the prototype can adapt to different sites and densities.

Timeline

Launch Date: 1st January 2026
Registration deadline: 18th July 2026
Submission deadline: 28th July 2026
Result Announcement: 4th 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:

- Affordability & Cost Logic
- Dignity & Liveability
- Innovation & Adaptability
- Contextual & Climatic Response
- Replicability & Scalability

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/affordable_housing_prototype

Email: info@archiolcompetitions.com

Organizers

Archiol Competitions
www.archiolcompetitions.com