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International Design Challenge

FLOATING RESEARCH STATION: RESEARCH WITHOUT BOUNDARIES, ADRIFT ON WATER

First Edition

Register Now!

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Floating Research Station

RESEARCH WITHOUT BOUNDARIES, ADRIFT ON WATER

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Introduction

Rising sea levels, melting ice caps, marine pollution, and fragile aquatic ecosystems have made water bodies the new frontiers of scientific exploration. The Floating Research Station competition challenges designers to imagine a self-sufficient, floating architecture that supports cutting-edge research while coexisting harmoniously with water environments.

Participants are invited to propose an innovative floating research facility that enables scientists to live, work, and conduct research directly on water—unrestricted by land boundaries and responsive to changing environmental conditions.

Objective

The objective of this competition is to explore architectural solutions for research infrastructure on water, addressing challenges of mobility, sustainability, resilience, and environmental sensitivity.

Designs should:

- Enable multidisciplinary scientific research
- Adapt to dynamic water conditions
- Minimize ecological impact
- Demonstrate innovation in floating architecture and systems

The Building Program

Participants may define the scale and configuration of the research station. The program may include, but is not limited to:

- Research Laboratories (wet & dry)
- Observation & Monitoring Decks
- Living Quarters for Researchers
- Common Areas (Dining, Lounge, Meeting Spaces)
- Data & Communication Center
- Storage & Equipment Areas
- Energy Generation Systems (solar, wind, tidal, etc.)
- Water Treatment & Waste Management Systems
- Docking / Access Platforms for Boats or Drones

Site

The research station can be located in any water body, such as:

- Open ocean
- Coastal waters
- Lakes
- Rivers
- Polar regions
- Mangroves or wetlands

Participants must clearly define and justify their chosen site, explaining:

- Environmental context
- Research relevance
- Climatic and water conditions
- Access and logistics

Timeline

Launch Date: 1st January 2026

Registration deadline: 2nd October 2026

Submission deadline: 12th October 2026

Result Announcement: 18th December 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:

- Conceptual Clarity & Innovation
- Response to Water Environment
- Functional Planning & Research Efficiency
- Sustainability & Self-Sufficiency
- Presentation & 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/floating_research_station

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Organizers

Archiol Competitions

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