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International Design Challenge

ELEVATED COMMUNITIES I

Designing The Vertical Village

First Edition

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Elevated Communities: The vertical village challenge

Introduction

As urban areas around the globe continue to expand at an unprecedented rate, the traditional models of housing and community planning are being tested to their limits. The strain on resources, the challenges of climate change, and the increasing demand for space in densely populated cities necessitate a radical rethinking of how we design and live in our urban environments.

In response to these challenges, "Elevated Communities: The Vertical Village Challenge" seeks to push the boundaries of architectural innovation by focusing on vertical living solutions. This competition invites architects, designers, urban planners, and visionaries to conceive groundbreaking vertical village concepts that redefine residential living.

The goal of this competition is to explore and implement vertical design principles that harmonize with the complexities of modern urban life. Participants are encouraged to develop designs that not only maximize the use of vertical space but also create vibrant, interconnected communities that promote social interaction, environmental stewardship, and self-sufficiency.

Vertical villages are envisioned as multi-dimensional structures that rise above the urban landscape, integrating residential units with communal spaces, green areas, and commercial facilities within a single cohesive vertical framework. These designs should address the pressing need for efficient space utilization while fostering a sense of community and enhancing the quality of life for residents.

The challenge calls for imaginative solutions that embrace sustainability, resilience, and adaptability. Participants should consider innovative approaches to energy efficiency, water management, and material use, as well as strategies for maintaining social and economic vibrancy in a vertical format.

By reimagining how vertical communities can function and thrive, this competition aims to contribute to the broader discourse on urban living and offer new possibilities for the future of city life. We invite you to be part of this transformative journey, pushing the envelope of vertical design to create sustainable, inclusive, and dynamic urban habitats.

Objective

The primary aim of "Elevated Communities: The Vertical Village Challenge" is to envision a pioneering vertical village that redefines urban living through a multi-dimensional approach. Participants are invited to create a comprehensive design that addresses the complex needs of modern urban environments while promoting a sustainable and high-quality lifestyle.

Integrating Residential and Communal Spaces:

Vertical Integration: Develop a design where residential units and communal areas are seamlessly integrated within a vertical framework. This involves creatively utilizing vertical space to accommodate various residential typologies and communal facilities, fostering a sense of community and connection among residents.

Functional Zoning: Efficiently zone different functions within the vertical structure, ensuring that residential, commercial, and communal spaces are well-organized and accessible.

Addressing the Housing Crisis:

Innovative Housing Solutions: Propose solutions that address the growing demand for housing in urban areas, incorporating diverse residential typologies to cater to different needs, including affordable housing, family units, and elderly accommodations.

Density and Livability: Create a design that maximizes density without compromising livability, ensuring that the vertical village provides a high quality of life through well-designed living spaces and accessible amenities.

Enhancing Quality of Life:

Community Building: Foster a sense of community through the inclusion of shared spaces such as parks, recreation areas, and social hubs. The design should encourage interaction and engagement among residents, enhancing social cohesion and well-being.

Access and Mobility: Ensure that the vertical village promotes ease of movement within the structure, incorporating efficient vertical transportation systems and accessible design features for all users.

Incorporating Principles of Sustainability:

Environmental Impact: Integrate sustainable design practices that minimize the environmental footprint of the vertical village. This includes energy-efficient systems, water conservation measures, and the use of sustainable materials.

Resilience and Adaptability: Design the vertical village to be resilient to environmental changes and adaptable to future needs. This could involve flexible spaces, green infrastructure, and considerations for climate change.

Innovative Architecture:

Architectural Excellence: Push the boundaries of architectural innovation by exploring new forms, materials, and technologies. The design should not only be functional but also aesthetically inspiring, reflecting a forward-thinking approach to vertical living.

Integration with Urban Fabric: Consider how the vertical village interacts with its surrounding urban context, ensuring it enhances and complements the existing cityscape while addressing urban challenges.

Overall, the challenge is to conceive a vertical village that represents a transformative approach to urban living, blending practical solutions with visionary design to create thriving, sustainable communities in vertical settings.

The Building Program

- **Residential Units:** Diverse housing typologies to accommodate various demographics, including families, individuals, and the elderly.
- **Communal Spaces:** Areas for social interaction, such as parks, playgrounds, and gathering spots.
- **Commercial Spaces:** Provision for small businesses, cafes, and essential services.
- **Green Spaces:** Integration of greenery within the vertical structure, including rooftop gardens and vertical farms.
- **Transport and Mobility:** Efficient vertical transportation systems and accessibility features.
- **Sustainable Systems:** Incorporation of renewable energy sources, water management systems, and waste recycling facilities.

Site

The competition is open to conceptual designs for any urban location. Participants are encouraged to choose a site that reflects the unique challenges and opportunities of vertical living in diverse urban contexts. The site should be imagined as a dense urban area with limited horizontal expansion opportunities.

Sustainability

Designs should prioritize:

- **Energy Efficiency:** Use of renewable energy sources and energy-efficient technologies.
- **Water Conservation:** Innovative water management and recycling systems.
- **Material Selection:** Use of sustainable, locally-sourced, and recyclable materials.
- **Climate Responsiveness:** Adaptation to the local climate through passive design strategies.

Project Proposal Requirements

- Design Concept: A clear vision of the vertical village, including site layout, building design, and integration of communal and residential spaces.
- Sustainability Strategy: Detailed approach to achieving sustainability goals.
- Architectural Drawings: Plans, sections, elevations, and 3D views.
- Narrative: A brief explanation of the design concept, sustainability strategies, and how the proposal meets the competition objectives.
- Site Analysis: Contextual analysis of the chosen site, including potential challenges and opportunities.

Timeline

- Registration Deadline: 6th January 2026
- Submission Deadline: 16th January 2026
- Winners Announcement: 16th 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
- Website: www.archiolcompetitions.com