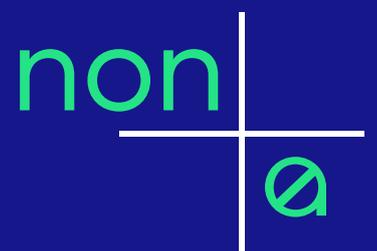


# SOCIAL DISTANCING HOUSING BLOCK



# NON ARCHITECTURE

We can consider “architecture” everything that has already been designed and/or built that would define a realm of conventional solutions, often repeated in a self-referential system. We imagined a counterpart, a “non architecture”. A world of unexplored designs and countless possibilities, that if found, could enlarge and change permanently the boundaries of architecture. A universe of chances and opportunities never challenged by architects before. A limitless field of investigation that includes **everything that is not architecture, yet.**

Non Architecture Competitions aims to find unconventional and unexplored design solutions in the field of architecture. The second phase of competitions is structured in 9+1 themes: a Research Ecosystem with the purpose of exploring each theme from different perspectives. All competitions have their focus on tackling the big issues of tomorrow, by seeking nontraditional approaches in the architect’s work.

**Social Distancing Housing Block** is one of the Non Architecture “**Pandemic Society**” competitions.

# INTRODUCTION

This competition calls for alternative housing models to disrupt the real estate market in a scenario of prolonged social distancing. We ask for a creative approach to architectural design, departing from a given users, program and extension.

**Social Distancing Housing Block** is part of a Competition series, developed to imagine new dwelling models through a variety of creative architectural designs and feasible innovation. Considering the limits of the current housing market, what could be the domestic architecture of the future?



According to the United Nations, the world population is expected to grow by almost 25% in the coming thirty years. Such growth will most likely occur in urban areas, where the housing shortage is already becoming an urgent issue. Additionally, a large part of existing and future buildings will be destined for residential use, leaving a huge impact on the way people live, experience and affect cities. In this context housing models have been frozen into standardized solutions that leave little or no room for innovation. Such solutions are often perpetrated as a convention, missing a wide range of unexplored opportunities.

The COVID-19 outbreak showed how our way of living can quickly change, while dwellings suddenly became the main stage for this transformation. Imagining a society where social distancing is the new normality, how should housing models change? How can we introduce a valuable change in the established model, to disrupt the real estate market and benefit dwellers, the environment and the city?

**Social Distancing Housing Block** aims to answer these questions.

# COMPETITION BRIEF



# HOUSING IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

Housing has become the front-line defense against the Covid-19 outbreak. During quarantine, homes designed for a limited range of functions suddenly became the place where we spend almost all our time. We work from home, we cook and consume all our meals at home, we spend our leisure time at home, we exercise at home and school kids at home. Within our housing blocks, we share spaces and facilities, generating proximity between different users. This proximity could become positive when it comes to having a closed community with safe interactions, but it presents also a series of contamination risks.

It is still unclear how long the social distancing will be in place, or what kind of changes will occur once we reach a new normality. Will we change our lifestyle to prevent new pandemics? Will remote work become a standard model? Will we reduce our social interactions, or will we intensify relations only with those that are close to us? What kind of future is ahead?

We imagined an extreme scenario where, for the time being, humanity spends a minimum of 6 months a year in social distancing. It is important to specify that this scenario is highly unlikely to happen, and we propose it only as a premise for this design competition. No need to panic.

In this hypothetical scenario, how should dwelling design change to provide better quality of life for the users? How can we introduce a valuable change in the established model, to disrupt housing conventions and benefit dwellers, the environment and the city?

Proposals should approach the theme from a residential point of view, with a sense of innovation on organization of space and functionality. The proposal must be based on creating diverse living conditions, but with the safety measures demanded by a quarantine situation. The housing block designed should follow the guidelines given in this brief regarding site, program and users.

All projects should provide a positive solution to improve current conditions.



# PANDEMIC SOCIETY

Non Architecture and all the supporting organizations collaborated in identifying a range of 30 design issues related to the research theme of Pandemic Society. Within our longlist, we highlighted those that could be relevant to this competition.

## In relation to **Healthcare**:

1. Emergency Hospitals,
2. Smart Diagnostic,
3. Hygiene & Preventing Contamination,
4. Transferring Patients,
5. Medical Supplies,
6. Smart Medical Devices,
7. Home Treatments,
8. Protecting Healthcare Workers

## In relation to **Home Isolation**:

9. Household Organization,
10. Loneliness,
11. Homeless,
12. Personal Growth,
13. Co-habitation & Relationships,
14. Protected Social Interactions,

15. E-learning,
16. Child Care,
17. Work from Home,
18. Mental & Physical Health.

In relation to **Economy**:

19. Small businesses,
20. Tourism & Food industry,
21. Entertainment,
22. Fashion Industry,
23. Food Supplies.

In relation to **Cities**:

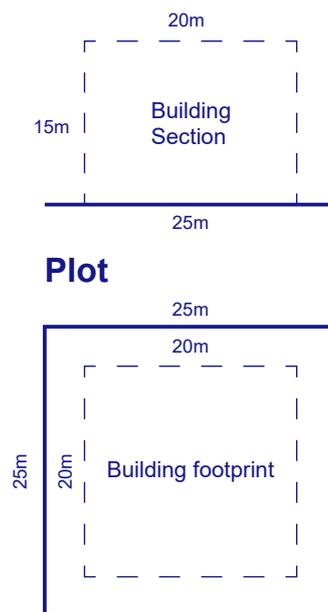
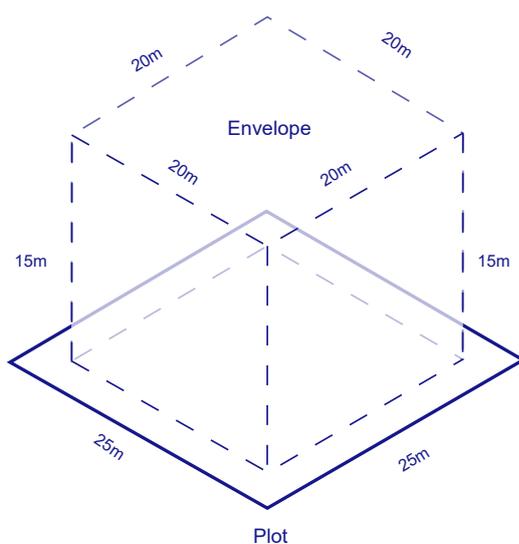
24. Public Space Sanitation,
25. Delivery & Logistics,
26. Alternative technologies,
27. Urban Mobility,
28. Nature & Environment,
29. Domestic & Wild Animals,
30. New Lifestyles.

**Projects should take into consideration one or more of these themes.** They can also come up with new ones, as long as they are relevant to the topic of the competition. Feel free to pick from this list whatever issue might inspire them and develop it further following their creativity. We advise to focus on one or two topics in particular and make them the core of the design proposal.

If you want to receive more insights on these topics you can subscribe to our [newsletter](#) or visit our [online journal](#). You will get articles, essays and references from our editorial team.

# PROGRAM AND SITE

For this competition program extension and site configuration are given. We propose an abstract plot of 25m x 25m (625sqm), to be located wherever you prefer. You can keep it undefined or you can choose a specific city and apply its cultural context and climate. Within this plot, the housing block footprint must not go beyond 20m x 20m and a maximum of 15m height. Do not build anything beyond the building envelope limits. Plot accessibility and orientation are free and can be adjusted according to the design. The surrounding context should be considered flat and empty, but not accessible. The design cannot exceed the 25m x 25m plot and can't extend underground.



## The required program is structured as follows:

- The proposed block should accommodate a minimum of 40 permanent residents. Age, gender and family status of the residents is not specified. Designers can address specific social target groups if relevant for their proposal

- The designed complex should cater to the residents' basic needs, like rest, personal hygiene, and food preparation. Designers are free to add any function they might consider relevant.

- Number of residents per single dwelling is up to the designer. Size and layout of the dwelling is also flexible, and so is the extension of private and shared spaces with all the residents in the block.

- There should be minimum 3sqm outdoor space per permanent resident. This surface can be increased according to the design. Outdoor space can be private, shared with all the residents or publicly accessible.

- There is no need to consider parking spaces in the proposal.

- A space for visitors and workers can be included, but it is not required. Similarly, technical and storage space can be taken into consideration only if the designers see fit.

- There should be one main access to the housing block. Additional or secondary accesses can also be included. Each dwelling and functional space should be accessible through circulation. No accessibility or safety regulation is taken into account for this competition.

- Technical feasibility and construction materials are not relevant for this competition. Main focus is on the organization of spaces and the functional layout. Nevertheless, the building designed should present a realistic structural organization.



# RULES



# PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Non Architecture is also unconventional in its submission requirements, not asking for posters or booklets. The participants are in fact asked to submit one ZIP folder, named with the code and the title of the project (CODE\_ Title), containing:

**01, A Housing Block Image** (JPEG) an image showing the configuration of the whole complex. The image should fully display the relation between all the units and shared spaces in the block, highlighting qualities and innovative features. It can be a floorplan, a section, an axonometric view or any other drawing that might suit the designers' vision. Scale and technique of representation are free. This file must be named as follows: "CODE\_Title of the project\_Block".

**02. A Single Unit Image** (JPEG) an image showing the layout and organization of one single apartment, highlighting qualities and innovative features. It can be a floorplan, a section, an axonometric view or any other drawing that might suit the designers' vision. Scale and technique of representation are free. This file must be named as follows: "CODE\_Title of the project\_Unit".

**03. A Concept Image** (JPEG) showing the main innovation and qualities behind the design. The image can highlight a specific functional aspect of the project and show the relation with the design brief. For this image we leave full freedom of choice regarding drawing typology or representation technique. It can be a diagram, a rendering, an abstract impression, a technical drawing or any other

format that might suit your storyline. This file must be named in the same manner as the other two images, as followed: “CODE\_Title of the project\_Concept”.

**04. A text document in Word (.DOC)** that clearly states the title and subtitle (maximum of 10 words) + 1 to 5 key words from the given list that better explain your project, followed by a short description (maximum of 200 words). The text must be written in English. This file must be named as follows: “CODE\_Title of the project\_Text” (use the given template).

**05. A team document in Word (.DOC)** with the team’s info in the following format: Name + Surname of each team member (separated clearly), Nationality (multiple options can be added), Institution (company or university attended, to be included just in case you want it to be visible once your project is published). This file must be named: “CODE\_Title of the project\_Team” (use the given template).

The CODE refers to the 5-digit number you receive during the registration process (in a format of #12345), it is going to serve as your registration code for the competition.

**Every submission has to be anonymous**, so do not include your name, your submission code, or any other reference to you in the images. After being evaluated, the projects will be reconnected to their authors through the identification code. Additional details on the team members and on the projects will be required during the submission procedure.

**All the images must be:**

/ A4, portrait (vertical), 300 dpi (equals 2480 x 3508 px),  
/ High Quality (in Photoshop: Jpeg output quality: 8 or

80-85 in Gimp recommended),  
/ 5 MB maximum file size.

If the submitted images don't respect these criteria, may lead to the disqualification of the team.

There is no need to completely fill the layout with images or add a frame, additionally try to avoid using texts in the images. Try to convey in each file one specific idea in one simple image. Avoid overcrowding it with too much material.

**THE IMAGE FILES ARE NOT MEANT TO BE POSTERS COMPOSED OF SEPARATE IMAGES.** Each one image should display one single content, **SO FOR EVERY IMAGE YOU CAN INCLUDE JUST ONE SINGLE VISUALIZATION** (ex. one drawing or one rendering). Check our Pinterest reference boards for examples.

The images do not demand for any kind of specific technique of representation, as long as they respect the guidelines given. They can be technical drawings, diagrams, collages, pictures, renders, models, paintings, hand drawings, etc. Be creative!

We highly recommend you to not add texts to the images, and use the Word document for further explanations. The projects should be explanatory enough through the graphic material.

Any text written in a different language will not be taken into account and may lead to a team's disqualification.

In case the texts are submitted in any other format than a Word file (.DOC), its content is going to be excluded from the the possibility of publishing.

In the same way every submission which doesn't respect the guidelines given might be disqualified.

# ELIGIBILITY

Non Architecture Competitions are open to all human beings, from every age and cultural background, working in groups or individually. Teams can be formed by a maximum number of 5 people. The registration fee is paid per team, regardless of how many members form it. Personal information of all the team members can be uploaded during the submission procedure of the final drawing.

# PRIZES

Non Architecture Competitions will award two winners, one selected by each juror, and a total of 6 honourable mentions.

## **WINNER (2 PRIZES)**

- / 1.000 euros worth in gift cards from one of the major online shops chosen by the winner
- / publication in the Non Architecture Competitions books and website
- / reviews in digital magazines and several architecture blogs

## **HONOURABLE MENTIONS (6 PRIZES)**

- / publication in the Non Architecture Competitions books and website
- / reviews in digital magazines and several architecture blogs

## FINALISTS (42 PRIZES)

/ publication in the Non Architecture Journal

## SPECIAL PRIZE

The organization might establish additional special prizes and awards during the competition development and in the evaluation phase.

Note: The appearance on the involved architectural platforms are subject to the agenda and availability of the external platforms.

# CALENDAR AND PRICING

1 - 17 May	Special registration period ( <del>40€</del> ) (30€)
18 May - 14 June	Early registration period (55€).
15 June - 18 July	Regular registration period (70€).
19 July - 16 August	Late registration period (85€).
17-29 August	Last Minute registration (100€).
17 August	Submission opens on our website.
29 Aug, 11:59 PM	Submission closes.
21-27 Sept	Winner announcement.

The timing always refers to Central European Time (CET).

# REGISTRATION

Considering the current world situation due to the pandemic Covid-19, we are exceptionally launching our competitions with a Special registration price: **we are changing the registration price for the first two weeks from 40€ to a 30€ price.**

If you would like to register for both competitions of the Pandemic Society theme, **we can offer you a 50% discount on the registration fee of the second one.** In order to use the discount, register using the promotion link at the bottom of the competition page. In this case, the competition team should include the same participants for both competitions. Check out [HEALING](#) competition to know more! This offer is valid for the whole registration period.

This is our way to provide you with something fun to do while dealing with quarantine! It might not be much, but we hope it will help, in a Non Architectural way.

The registration fee is per team, regardless of how many members are on the team.

If a team wants to submit more than one proposal to the competition they will have to register each proposal separately and pay an additional fee for each proposal they wish to submit.

For a project to be accepted the team must be properly registered to the competition. All registrations will be done through the **Non Architecture website (nonarchitecture.eu)**, where you have to create an account, log in and choose your payment option.

All the payments will be organized through our Paypal profile, in order to provide the safest procedure to all the participants. Payments will be available for Paypal accounts and credit cards. In case you do not have a Paypal account, the credit card payment will be automatically made available.

After completing the payment, you will receive a first email from Paypal in order to confirm the transaction. Non Architecture will later accept your payment and provide you with a registration code. **THE REGISTRATION CODE WILL BE THE FIVE DIGITS CODE INDICATED AS “ORDER NUMBER”**, which will be sent to you once your payment is accepted.

Before that happens, your payment will be kept on hold and you will be able to cancel your purchase any time you want without any adding cost. When your payment will be accepted, you will automatically receive a confirmation e-mail from Non Architecture Competitions, and you will not be able to cancel your subscription anymore. In the e-mail, you will also find your registration code. It's important to keep this registration code in a safe place since it will allow your team to access the intranet where you'll have access to the upload form to submit your project.

In case Paypal is not available in your country, contact us at **info@nonarchitecture.eu**

# JURY

The jury will be formed by the following members:

**Laurent Rosset**

Architect - 3XN

**Fala Atelier**

Partners: Filipe Magalhães, Ana Luisa Soares e Ahmed Belkhodja

# CONTACTS

For additional info please check the FAQ on our website:  
[www.nonarchitecture.eu/faq](http://www.nonarchitecture.eu/faq)

During the competition, all participants are permitted to ask questions which help them better understand the project description and/or any other aspect of the competition. Any questions that are not resolved in this document must be made through the [Non Architecture Competitions' Facebook page](#). This ensures that all participants have access to the same amount of information.

# SUBMISSION

Submissions must be done through the Non Architecture Competitions' intranet only before the date indicated on the competition calendar. A login section will be opened 2 weeks before the deadline. You must log in with your username and password and follow the upload process. No submissions will be accepted by e-mail or any other medium. The submission page will be automatically closed after the submission date and time are reached, not allowing any modifications or aggregations after that, so please, try to upload your project 24 hours in advance so that you have time to solve any issues that might come up along the way (they always do!).

# EVALUATION

The core values of the competition are:

/ Feasibility - Realism of the proposal, in strict terms of technology, costs and management.

/ Communication - Clarity, appeal and experimentation in the presentation of the proposal.

/ Relevance - The degree to which the proposal is related or useful to the proposed theme.

These values will lead the selection of the finalists' projects and they will be used by the jury as a guideline in their decision.

Remember that this is a competition of ideas, an opportunity to experiment and explore the limits of architecture representation. The jury reserves the right to award any proposal that fails at any of the parameters mentioned in these rules, as long as it justifies the breach of the rule in favour of the value of the proposal.

The voting system to choose the winning projects is as follows:

1. Non Architecture Competitions team, following the main values of the competition, will make an initial selection of 50 finalist projects in response to the above criteria. The amount of pre-selected projects can slightly vary according to the judgment of the pre-selection team.
2. The members of the jury will study the pre-selected projects privately and give an evaluation for each one of them. Votes will be compared and revised to reach a common agreement on the selection of winners and honourable mentions.

In order to guarantee the authenticity of the awarding process, the prize's selection cannot be appealed.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All the material submitted to the competition will become part of Non Architecture Competitions' files. Non Architecture will have full rights to publish and promote this material, always making proper mention of their authors.

The material might also be used for the platform's merchandising and exhibition purposes. For any other purpose, the authors of the projects will keep full rights over their design and will be asked to grant permission.

By submitting a proposal you are giving Non Architecture the right to use the received material in both printed and online publications. Non Architecture Competitions will also have the right to slightly modify any of the mentioned material in order to better adapt it to the different formats and layouts that different publications might have.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

1. Non Architecture Competitions reserves the right to make any changes to this document (dates, deadlines, requirements, etc.) as long as the changes benefit a majority of the competition participants. Any modifications will be announced on the Non Architecture Competitions Facebook page. It is each team's responsibility to check the Non Architecture Competitions Facebook page on a regular basis to follow and incorporate all changes.

2. The purpose of this competition is an intellectual exercise and will not be built. In order to produce a relevant collective research, a minimum amount of 50 registrations has to be submitted. If the registrations are less than 50 by the day of the deadline, Non Architecture Competitions reserves the rights to not proceed with the awarding of the monetary prize but we will proceed with the winners'

selections and the book's publication. In this eventuality, all the subscription fees will be reimbursed to the participants.

3. No one has hired Non Architecture Competitions in order to organize this contest. The only purpose of this initiative is to raise questions that could lead to the progress of architecture practice and engage a community of enthusiastic and creative designers in the creation of what could be a new way to represent architecture. The idea and program of this competition have been fully developed by Non Architecture Competitions to serve solely as an academic exercise.

4. Non Architecture Competitions is not held responsible for a breach of contract regarding the publications.

THE NON ARCHITECTURE TEAM  
AND ALL THE COMPETITION  
PARTNERS WISH YOU THE BEST  
LUCK, CONFIDENT THAT YOU  
WILL APPROACH THE CONTEST  
WITH ALL YOUR CREATIVITY AND  
INNOVATIVE MIND.

[INFO@NONARCHITECTURE.EU](mailto:INFO@NONARCHITECTURE.EU)  
[WWW.NONARCHITECTURE.EU](http://WWW.NONARCHITECTURE.EU)

CURATOR

non|  
architecture

RESEARCH  
PARTNERS

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