

# WATERLESS WORLD

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# 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.

The **Waterless World** is one of the Non Architecture “H2O” competitions.

# INTRODUCTION

In this competition, we encourage participants to come up with visionary concepts for life in a scenario of extreme water scarcity – Only 2 drawings, absolute freedom of scale, site or program. You are asked to reimagine urban life through a variety of creative design concepts and ideas.

Our water resources are at risk due to a series of human related issues: water pollution, intensive runoff in urbanized areas, climate change, saltwater intrusion, freshwater waste. Freshwater scarcity might soon be an outcome of all these processes. Participants are asked to propose conceptual ideas to mitigate and cope with the effects of a water crisis in our cities, landscapes and rural areas.

Waterless World is part of the “Cities of Tomorrow” competition series, developed to reimagine life through a variety of creative design concepts and ideas. What kind of role can we play as designers in reimagining urban life? How can we produce new inspiring visions to trigger a discussion around alternative models of living?

**Waterless World** aims to answer those questions with particular focus on the water crisis as a result of a global water shortage.

# COMPETITION BRIEF



# DESIGN FOR A WATER-SCARCE FUTURE

We have taken water for granted for a long time. Yet a global water crisis threatens our future. Currently, water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of people, an alarming figure that is projected to rise as temperatures do. This crisis is a profound challenge for designers of the built environment.

Water scarcity, both natural and of human origin, is the lack of sufficient available water resources to meet the demands within a region. Water is unequally distributed over time and space. Much of it is wasted, polluted and unsustainably managed.

The degradation of water quality, the misuse of water resources, climate change and the growing freshwater demand due to a growing world population are all contributing to the shortage.

Everyone understands that water is essential to life. But many are only just now beginning to grasp how essential it is to everything in life – food, energy, transportation, nature, leisure, identity, culture, social norms, and virtually all the products used on a daily basis.

Water scarcity is a globally significant accelerating condition, leading to challenges in food production, human health, and economic development in regions and states as a whole.

We have never been more aware of the catastrophic consequences of the world's accelerating water crisis. We need to redesign water's future by uniting people, creativity and technology to shift the crisis course.

Beyond looking for water sources and creating sustainable ecosystems, how can we begin to create cities and buildings that will help us to celebrate and mitigate hydrological concerns? Will further urbanization intensify the water crisis, or does it provide an opportunity to find a solution?

Submission can address some of these questions. The proposal submitted could be a device, piece of furniture, interior design project, pavilion, building, urban plan or something different. Scale of intervention, program dimensions, and location are not given, and they can be arranged by the participants to better suit their design.



# H2O

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 a few that could be relevant to this competition.

In relation to **Biodiversity & Ecosystems:**

1. Ocean Habitats,
2. Sweet water ecosystem,
3. Water Pollution,
4. Fish Farming,
5. Life below water,
6. Fresh Water cycle,
7. Drought and Irrigation.

In relation to **Society & Culture:**

8. Water and Recreation,
9. Beautification & Public Space,
10. Mobility: Boats, ferries, cargo,
11. Water tourism & Cruise ships,
12. Cultural heritage around Water,
13. Water sports.

In relation to **Climate Change:**

14. Polar Ice Caps,
15. Weather patterns,
16. Global Warming,

17. Drylands,
18. Sea level rise,
19. Flooding,
20. Heavy rains & Monsoons,
21. Heat Island effect,
22. Water shortage.

In relation to [Urban Development](#):

23. Freshwater availability,
24. Responsible Consumption,
25. Hydropower,
26. Large Water Infrastructure and accessibility,
27. Sewage & Wastewater treatment,
28. Clean water & Sanitation,
29. Underground Water Infrastructure,
30. Smart Cities.

[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.

# RULES



# PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS

## PRESENTATION IMAGE

.JPEG  
A4, 300 DPI  
(2480 x 3508 px)  
MAX. 5 MB

CODE\_Title of the  
project\_Presentation

## FUNCTIONAL IMAGE

.JPEG  
A4, 300 DPI  
(2480 x 3508 px)  
MAX. 5 MB

CODE\_Title of the  
project\_Functional

## TEXT DOCUMENT

.DOC  
Title + subtitle  
5 keywords  
200-word  
description

[↓ TEMPLATE](#)

CODE\_Title of the  
project\_Text

## TEAM DOCUMENT

.DOC  
Team member  
info

[↓ TEMPLATE](#)

CODE\_Title of the  
project\_Team

CODE\_Title.zip

This competition is an opportunity to address critical issues of tomorrow by creating innovative and unconventional ideas today. Designers are asked to answer the questions posed by the brief with absolute creative freedom.

The proposal submitted could be a device, piece of furniture, interior design project, pavilion, building, urban plan or something different. Scale of intervention, program dimensions, and location are not given, and they can be arranged by the participants to better suit their design.

Non Architecture is also unconventional in its submission requirements. The participants are asked to submit **1 ZIP folder, named with the registration code and the title of the project (CODE\_Title)**, containing:

**01. A presentation image (.JPEG)** showing the qualities of your design, in one catchy and representative impression. File name: “CODE\_Title of the project\_Presentation”.

**02. A functional image (.JPEG)** showing a specific functional peculiar aspect of the project. File name: “CODE\_Title of the project\_Functional”.

**03. A text document in Word (.DOC)**, that clearly states  
/ the title and subtitle of the project (maximum of 10 words)  
/ 5 keywords, at least 1 from the given list (page 5-6), that better explain your project,  
/ a short project description (maximum of 200 words, must be written in English).  
File name: “CODE\_Title of the project\_Text”

**[USE THIS TEMPLATE](#)**

**04. 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 (company or university attended, to be included just in case you want it to be visible once your project is published).

There is no need to create a team name.

One team should consist of 1-4 people.

File name: "CODE\_Title of the project\_Team"

[USE THIS TEMPLATE](#)

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

An example of naming the files correctly:

CODE: #56789

Title of the project: NonA Waterless

**01. Presentation Image:** 56789\_NonA Waterless\_Presentation

**02. Functional Image:** 56789\_NonA Waterless\_Functional

**03. Text Document:** 56789\_NonA Waterless\_Text

**04. Team Document:** 56789\_NonA Waterless\_Team

**ZIP folder:** 56789\_NonA Waterless

Please, do not use the # in the file names.

/ You need to come up with your own project title and replace "NonA Waterless" in the example.

**THE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECTS IS ANONYMOUS**, so do not include your name, your registration code, or any other reference to you in the images. After being evaluated by the jury, the projects will be reconnected to their authors

through the submission code. Additional details on the team members and on the projects will be required during the submission procedure.

## IMAGE REQUIREMENTS:

/ A4, portrait (vertical), 300 dpi (equals 2480 x 3508 px),  
/ High Quality (for example, in Photoshop JPEG output quality: 8, or 80-85 in Gimp is recommended),  
/ 5 MB maximum file size.

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

## FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS:

/ The Presentation, Technical and Functional Images should display ONE SINGLE VISUALIZATION each (ex. one drawing or one rendering). We recommend not to create a layout of several images.

/ There is no need to entirely fill the A4 size image or to add a frame.

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

/ We highly recommend you to not add text to the images, please use the Text Document for further explanation. The projects should be explanatory enough through the graphic material.

/ It is compulsory to use the provided Word templates to create your Text Document and Team Document.

/ In case the Text Document and Team Document are submitted in any other format than a Word file (.DOC), its content is might be excluded from publishing.

/ The language of the submission is ENGLISH, any text written in a different language will not be taken into account during the evaluation.

**EVERY SUBMISSION THAT DOESN'T RESPECT THE PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS, MIGHT GET DISQUALIFIED FROM THE COMPETITION.**

## 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 4 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 one winner, selected by the jury collectively, and 7 honourable mentions.

## WINNER (1 PRIZE)

/ 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 (7 PRIZES)

/ publication in the Non Architecture Competitions books and website

/ reviews in digital magazines and several architecture blogs

## NON ARCHITECTURE EDITORIAL PICK (MINIMUM 6 PRIZES)

/ publication in the Non Architecture Competitions books and website

## FINALISTS (UP TO 36 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

02 - 14 January	Special registration period (40€).
15 Jan - 14 Feb	Early registration period (55€).
15 - 28 February	Regular registration period (70€).
01 - 15 March	Late registration period (85€).

05 March	Submission opens on our website.
15 March, 11:59 PM	Submission closes.
03 -07 April	Winner announcement.

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

## JURY

The jury will be formed by the following members:

### Joyce Van Den Berg

Chief Designer for Sustainability & Public Space, Urban Planning department Amsterdam Municipality

### Karoline Liedtke

Head of Landscape at Cobe

### Ad Kil

Founder of Ro&AD Architecten

### Rens Wijnakker

Senior Landscape Architect at FABRICations

### Megan Born

Senior Associate at James Corner Field Operation

# REGISTRATION

Thinking about the participants interested in registering in our different competitions, we are giving the possibility to register to more than one competition with a special price.

## Registration Bundles:

**x2 Competitions:** Second competition with 50% discount

02 - 14 January	Special registration period (60€).
15 Jan - 14 Feb	Early registration period (85€).
15 - 28 February	Regular registration period (105€).
01 - 15 March	Late registration period (135€).

**x3 Competitions:** Third competition for free

02 - 14 January	Special registration period (80€).
15 Jan - 14 Feb	Early registration period (110€).

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 exact same participants for both competitions.

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 \(nonarchitecture.eu\)](https://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 which confirms 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 confirmation email from Non Architecture arrives, your payment will be kept on hold and you will be able to cancel your purchase any time you want without any consequences.

After your Non Architecture confirmation is sent, you can't cancel your payment anymore and it is not possible to get a refund of the registration fee.

In case Paypal is not available in your country, contact us at [info@nonarchitecture.eu](mailto:info@nonarchitecture.eu)

# SUBMISSION



Submissions must be done through the Non Architecture website ([nonarchitecture.eu](http://nonarchitecture.eu)), before the submission period ends, the deadline is indicated in the calendar.

The submission surface opens 2 weeks before the submission deadline. It is going to be placed on the Non Architecture website, on the corresponding competition page.

Submission process:

1. Create your ZIP file, containing 2 JPEG images and 2 DOC files.
2. Upload it to [wetransfer.com](http://wetransfer.com) and choose the option “Get transfer link”. Make sure that you save your link for future use.
3. Go to [nonarchitecture.eu](http://nonarchitecture.eu) and fill the submission form, there you need to include the WeTransfer link you created.

By filling the form, your submission is finalized. You are going to receive **one confirmation email** when you finalize your submission on the website.

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.

We suggest to upload your project 24 hours in advance to make sure that everything works out correctly. This way you have time to solve any issues that might come up along the submission process.

## EVALUATION

The core values of the competition are:

/ Innovation - In terms of program management, technology and originality of the formal solution proposed.

/ 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. The 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 mentioned 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 materials 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 materials in order to better adapt it to the different formats and layouts that different publications might have.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

1. Non Architecture reserves the right to make any changes to this document (dates, deadlines, requirements, etc.) as long as the changes benefit the majority of the competition participants. Any modifications will be announced on the Non Architecture Competitions Facebook page, Instagram account and weekly newsletter. It is the responsibility of each team to check the above mentioned sources on a regular basis to follow and incorporate if any changes are made.

2. The purpose of this competition is an intellectual exercise and will not be built. 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 reserves the right to proceed with the evaluation and publication, without awarding the monetary prize. In this eventuality, all the registration fees will be reimbursed to the participants.

3. No one has hired Non Architecture 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 the Non Architecture Team to serve solely as an academic exercise.

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

## 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 Facebook page](#). This ensures that all participants have access to the same amount of information.

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  
WWW.NONARCHITECTURE.EU

# CURATOR

non|  
architecture

# RESEARCH PARTNERS

**KooZA/rch**  
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publishers

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**UTH**

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OF CITIES**

# AMBASSADORS

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STUDIO**

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