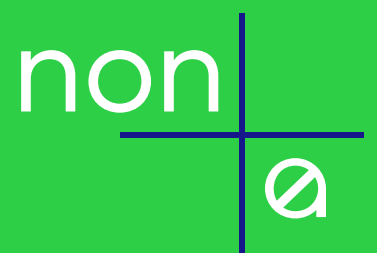


MANHATTAN WILDS CRAPER



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.

Manhattan Wildscraper is one of the Non Architecture “**Into the Wild**” competitions.

INTRODUCTION

In this competition, we encourage participants to come up with visionary concepts for a green skyscraper – Only 3 drawings, absolute freedom of scale and program dimensions.

Participants are asked to propose conceptual ideas to bring biodiversity back to the New York City, more specifically in Midtown Manhattan, through the design of a futuristic green skyscraper.

As the world becomes more urbanized, this competitions' purpose is to emphasise the importance of providing a synergy between architecture and biodiversity. By imagining a world where nature and people coexist as much as possible, it's up to the participant to come to a very high degree of interaction between these two entities in many possible ways.

As designers, how can we bring biodiversity into architecture through the use of new technologies, materials, programs, aesthetics, and spatial organizations?

Manhattan Wildscraper aims to answer those questions with a particular focus on biodiversity, with a particular focus on the relationship between humans and nature.

COMPETITION BRIEF



NATURE IN MIDTOWN MANHATTAN

It is no news that the global pandemic hit New York City hard. Compared to 2019, in 2020 there was 487% growth in the number of outgoing movers that left Manhattan.¹ Midtown Manhattan is one of the areas that is hit hardest in NYC. Once the prestigious place to be for corporate headquarters, high-end residentials and retail, today is struggling with the growing vacancy in rentals, offices moving to smaller and more affordable spaces, and retail suffering from the lowered foot traffic. Articles cover how to score a “COVID Discount” in midtown, with home prices dropping 11-12%.²

Why the move? The city that never sleeps went into a coma: the exhilarating street and event life vanished in early 2020, and the already expensive city became incredibly overpriced for what it has to offer. Work from home life became a sharp awakening of how the homes aren't necessarily all liveable. New Yorkers, and especially Manhattan dwellers, remembered the importance of sunlight in the apartment, liveable spaces that can offer flexibility and perhaps most importantly, proximity to nature.

¹ <https://www.mymove.com/moving/covid-19/coronavirus-moving-trends/>

² <https://www.brickunderground.com/buy/urbandigs-report-midtown-manhattan-condo-co-op-apartments-steepest-covid-pandemic-discounts-nyc>

by Pinar Guvenc (Partner at SOUR)

Multi-storey office buildings and large apartment blocks are common reminders of the lack of available space in cities around the world. The iconic skylines of the world's most famous cities came out of a necessity to fit as much as possible into a smaller space. A lot of research about the biodiversity of cities has taken place after these cities were filled so a new issue was created - how do we promote biodiversity with no land? In the '80s and '90s, green roofs and living walls began to be produced and by the 21st century, they had become fixtures in cities across the globe. Green roofs, living walls, balconies and terraces cover space that has already been taken up by buildings, adding to their beauty and biodiversity. Numerous cities are now calling for green features like these in all future building plans, as the benefits they provide to local biodiversity have been clear. A city's ecosystem supports a far denser population than any rural area- living walls and green roofs are essential to helping that ecosystem to sustain all forms of life when faced with limited space and air pollution. In the bustle of city life, it can be easy to not notice the wildlife that shares the ecosystem but thanks to features like green roofs and living walls, everything in a city can co-exist in a healthy way.

What is a skyscraper in the 21st century? How can a skyscraper incorporate biodiversity? What are the historical, contextual, social, urban, and environmental responsibilities of these mega-structures?

Submission can address some of these questions. The proposal should envision a high-rise structure that embodies biodiversity elements in the most creative way. Scale of intervention and program dimensions are not given, and they can be arranged by the participants to better suit their design.



RETHINKING MANHATTAN

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

In relation to **Ecology**:

1. Ecosystem restoration,
2. Repopulation & Endangered Species,
3. Desertic habitats,
4. Grassland habitats,
5. Water habitats & Deltas,
6. Tundra & Mountainous habitats,
7. Forests & Deforestation,
8. Re-wilding and natural reservoirs,
9. Agriculture & farming.

In relation to **Society & Culture**:

10. Natural heritage & Landmarks,
11. Musealization of nature: Zoos & botanical gardens,
12. Beautification & Public Space,
13. Support to mental health & stress reduction,
14. Physical Activities & Wellbeing,

- 15. Social Gatherings & Events,
- 16. Sense of belonging & Placemaking,
- 17. Art & Nature,
- 18. Eco tourism & Nature destinations,
- 19. Biotechnologies.

In relation to **Architectural Design**:

- 20. Green Roofs & Green Walls,
- 21. Vertical forests,
- 22. Biodiversity and Interior design,
- 23. Terraces & Gardens,
- 24. Artificial Ecosystems, House plants & Pets,
- 25. Cabins & Temporary Structures.

In relation to **Urban Development**:

- 26. Urban Parks & Community Gardens,
- 27. Planters, public furniture & urban décor,
- 28. Air quality & Heath Island control,
- 29. Smart Cities & Smart park management,
- 30. Abandoned buildings & sites.

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 focusing 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.

AREA OF INTEREST



BACKGROUND

Midtown Manhattan is the central portion of the New York City borough of Manhattan. Midtown is home to some of the city's most prominent buildings, including the Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building, the Hudson Yards Redevelopment Project, the headquarters of the United Nations, Grand Central Terminal, and Rockefeller Center.

The majority of New York City's skyscrapers, including its tallest hotels and apartment towers, are in Midtown Manhattan.



MANHATTAN SKYLINE

New York City is defined by its skyline. The silhouette created by Manhattan's buildings is instantly recognizable and utterly mesmerizing. In fact, NYC is home to more than 200 buildings measuring 150m or taller.

For many years the city's skyline was primarily defined by the Empire State and Chrysler Buildings, both over 300m tall and built in the early 1930s. But New York's horizon has been in perpetual flux now for the better part of a decade.

The city's skyline has been reaching ever higher, but the changes in the last few years have been especially dramatic, allowing some people to literally live in the clouds, while leaving a growing number of New Yorkers in the shadows.



Originally, real estate developers built skyscrapers to be near already established centres of commerce, where transportation was easily accessible, and away from manufacturing districts.

Technology played a huge role in allowing tall constructions: steel frames replaced load-bearing masonry walls. Load-bearing masonry needs to get thicker at the base the taller a building rises, limiting its use on small plots of land. The other great skyscraper technology will be intimately familiar to anyone who has ever regularly walked up five or more flights of steps: elevators.

A recurring issue for new projects is the lack of space, and as a result, today the only space left in Manhattan is vertical. The high-rise structures would allow much needed vegetation to grow over a smaller surface area and improve the poor air quality that cities are known for, demonstrating that a civilization's urbanization does not have to be at the expense of the natural environment.



SITE

For the purpose of this competition, we've defined the area of interest to be Midtown Manhattan, but the specific location of the intervention should be defined by each participant, within this area.

The northern boundary of Midtown Manhattan is defined to be 59th Street and its southern boundary is the 14th Street. Midtown spans the entire island of Manhattan along an east - west axis, bounded by the East River on its east and the Hudson River to its west.



Satellite image with context

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

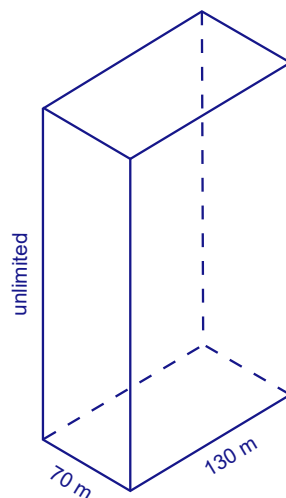
Participants are free to propose a futuristic green skyscraper in the most bold and creative way possible. This is a chance to imagine a scenario where nature and humans coexist in a way that improves biodiversity in the cities.

Designers should take into consideration the advances in technology, the exploration of sustainable systems, and the establishment of new urban and architectural methods to bring biodiversity into architecture.

It is up to the participants to choose the site (within the area of interest of Midtown Manhattan), materials, colour, esthetic and the type of skyscraper they want to develop.

The proposal can be set on an existing plot, replacing or repurposing an existing building. The design should not exceed the footprint of 70 m x 130 m which can be accessed by roads on two sides.

There is no maximum building height defined, no restrictions for underground construction and no minimum distance requirement from the road or neighbouring buildings.



The tower is supposed to be a hybrid building, containing in different proportions the following functions:

- **Retail Component** – Ground floor
- **Food and beverage**
- **Office Spaces**
- **Apartments**

Any accessory facilities are up to the contestant.

The proportions and program division is up to the participants to be defined.

North indication and graphic scale of the drawing must be indicated in the section and floorplan in some way.

The presented section and floorplan is chosen by the participant. You can select the one that better explains your project. Make sure the presented drawings are clear and readable.

For access to a 3D model of the area, use this [LINK](#).

NYC has updated its publicly available aerial imagery, available via the NYS GIS Program Office. You can now compare on [OASIS](#) aerial images from 1609 until today.

You can also access to a wealth of information on a [MAP](#) including NYC facilities and services.

INSPIRATION BOARD



Farmscraper by Vincent Callebaut



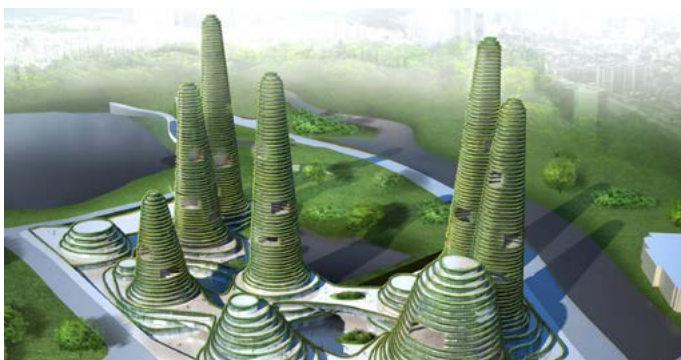
Dragonfly by Rescubika



The Urban Forest by Mad Architects



Urban Rural V1 by SOUR Studio



Gwanggyo power centre by MVRDV



Vertical Forest by Stefano Boeri

RULES



PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS



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.

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 section (.JPEG) showing the qualities of your design, in one catchy and representative impression. File name: "CODE_Title of the project_Section".

02. A floorplan (.JPEG) one image to highlight the main approach of the project. File name: "CODE_Title of the project_Floorplan".

03. A presentation image (.JPEG) showing the qualities of your design, in one catchy and representative impression. File name: "CODE_Title of the project_Presentation".

04. 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

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 (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 NYC

01. Section: 56789_NonA NYC_Section

02. Floorplan: 56789_NonA NYC_Floorplan

03. Presentation Image: 56789_NonA NYC_Presentation

04. Text Document: 56789_NonA NYC_Text

05. Team Document: 56789_NonA NYC_Team

ZIP folder: 56789_NonA NYC

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

/ You need to come up with your own project title and replace "NonA NYC" 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 Section, Floorplan and Presentation 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 two winners, one selected by each jury, 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

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

01 – 14 May	Special registration period (40€).
15 May – 14 June	Early registration period (55€).
15 – 30 June	Regular registration period (70€).
01 – 15 July	Late registration period (85€).
16 – 31 July	Final registration period (100€).
01 – 15 August	Last Minute registration period (115€).
05 August	Submission opens on our website.
15 August, 11:59 PM	Submission closes.
06 –10 September	Winner announcement.

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

JURY

The jury will be formed by the following members:

Inanc Eray

Partner at SOUR

Helen Brennek

Director of Sustainability at Michael Green Architecture

Helge Lunders

Architect and Partner at MHD Architects

Paolo Russo

Design Team Leader and Expert in Sustainable Design and Green Architecture at Stefano Boeri Architetti

Francesca Cesa Bianchi

Partner and Project Director at Stefano Boeri Architetti

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

01 - 14 May	Special registration period (60€).
15 May - 14 June	Early registration period (85€).
15 - 30 June	Regular registration period (105€).
01 - 15 July	Late registration period (135€).

x3 Competitions: Third competition for free

02 - 14 May	Special registration period (80€).
15 May - 14 June	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)**, 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 a 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**

SUBMISSION



Submissions must be done through the Non Architecture website (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 3 JPEG images and 2 DOC files.
2. Upload it to wetransfer.com and choose the option “Get transfer link”. Make sure that you save your link for future use.
3. Go to 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 uploading 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.

5. Participants are expected to submit original work. Copying somebody else's work or using copyrighted photos, images, architectural/art pieces is strictly prohibited and will result in recalling all prizes and removal from the website, social media and the publication.

CONTACTS

For additional info please check the FAQ on our website:
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

CO-CURATOR

SOUR

RESEARCH
PARTNERS

KooZA/rch
A Visionary Platform for Architectural Research

A DOM
publishers

TRUST
Transdisciplinarity for Urban Sustainability Transition

**ROMA
TRE**
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI

Future
Urban Legacy
Lab

Rhinoceros®
modeling tools for designers

**in
arch**

European Urban
Knowledge Network



UTH

**METABOLISM
OF CITIES**

MEDIA PARTNERS

**LANDSCAPE
FIRST**

ARCHEZ

**Architecture
On
Paper**

**URBAN
DESIGN
LAB**

show it
better.

