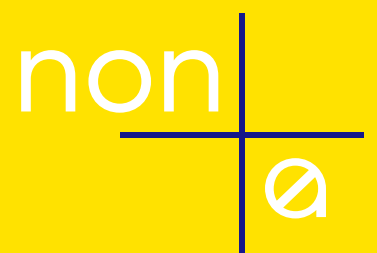


POWERLESS CITY

01/10/2022



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+2 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.

Powerless City is one of the Non Architecture “**Energy**” competitions.

INTRODUCTION

In this competition, we encourage participants to come up with a visionary concept for life in a scenario where cities, or even individuals, are energy independent – only 2 drawings, absolute freedom of scale, program or site.

The world is experiencing the first truly global energy crisis in history. Non-renewable energy is highly polluting, and comes from sources that will run out or will not be replenished in our lifetimes – or even in many, many lifetimes – to power our increasingly industrialised society. The challenges faced by the renewable energy industry are many. Political pressures, government policies, corporate influence, age-old infrastructure, lack of proper battery storage system, and present market scenario stand in the way of a wider adoption worldwide.

Participants are asked to propose conceptual ideas for a scenario where there's no global energy grid and cities, buildings, units or single individuals, have to be fully energy independent, either through renewable energies or creative new ways of producing and storing it.

Powerless Cities is part of the “Cities of Tomorrow” competition series, developed to re-imagine 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?

Powerless City aims to answer those questions with a particular focus on Energy in the urban environment.

COMPETITION BRIEF



DESIGN FOR A POWERLESS FUTURE

Over the last two centuries, energy needs have skyrocketed dramatically, especially because of the transportation and industry sectors. However, fossil fuels are polluting and their reserves are limited.

We know today that these resources are close to exhaustion and our societies are facing a major challenge: the energy crisis.

The energy crisis stems from the foreseeable end of the cycle of oil, gas, and coal, which, in addition, have been producing a considerable increase in greenhouse gases (GHG).

Global energy consumption is increasing and we will face a shortage of fossil fuels in the coming decades.

Our current consumption model relies almost entirely on the use of non-renewable energy sources such as oil, gas, coal, and uranium. At the current rate of consumption, oil will be the first fossil fuel to run out. According to projections, there would be between 40 and 60 years of proven reserves of conventional oil. Natural gas could be exploited for another 70 years. For coal, there would be around two centuries of reserves.

These data are to be put into perspective because they are based on current consumption, while it is clear that it will increase considerably. Energy demands are and will be amplified by the demographic – the world's population should reach nearly 10 billion people in 2050 – and economic boom of growing areas. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), global energy demand could increase by more than 50% by 2030 in the absence of public policies in this area.

The massive use of traditional energy sources leads – among other things – to the increase of greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), resulting in global warming and harming the environment and biodiversity. Therefore, the energy crisis is closely linked to the environmental crisis.

As humans consume more electricity and power, we'll need a mix of renewable and clean energy to heat our homes, light our offices, and power our cities and towns. No single renewable energy source can provide enough power on its own.

Which energy source is best? Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Hydropower, Nuclear Energy, Geothermal Energy – each one has advantages and disadvantages. On the pros side, renewable energy is an essentially limitless source of power, it has low or none ecological impact, and it lowers our reliance on energy from around the world. On the cons side, renewables can be intermittent, they often need energy storage to be fully effective, deployment is limited by some geographic factors, and most of the time they take too much space, resulting in a very strong visual impact on our cities and landscapes.

Energy efficiency and reduced consumption are the easiest and most cost-effective ways to combat climate change, clean the air, and save consumers and businesses money. Saving energy results in a higher quality of life: reduces air and water pollution and conserves natural resources, which in turn creates a healthier living environment for people everywhere. At the same time, efficiency also saves money and creates jobs.

Energy independence is independence or autarky regarding energy resources, energy supply and/or energy generation by the energy industry.

Large or resource-rich and economically-strong countries are attempting energy independence, but it is so far an idealized status that at present can be only approximated by non-sustainable exploitation of a country's (non-renewable) natural resources.

How can we as designers help cities tackle the energy crisis? How can we begin to design cities that are energy independent and create buildings that support the energy consumption of the population? Will further urbanization intensify the energy 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, 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.

POWERLESS CITY

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

In relation to the **Energy Production and Management:**

1. Fossil fuels, Gas & Oil,
2. Geothermal,
3. Wind power,
4. Solar Power,
5. Hydropower,
6. Biomass and natural gas,
7. Cinetic energy harvesting,
8. Hydrogen,
9. Nuclear Energy,
10. Alternative energy sources,
11. Batteries and energy storage,
12. Energy infrastructure and distribution,
13. Smart Grids,
14. Energy efficiency.

In relation to **Society & Culture:**

15. Energy saving behaviours & Responsible Consumption,

16. Visual Impacts of energy infrastructure,
17. Space occupation of energy infrastructure,
18. Energy Commons.

In relation to **Architectural Design**:

19. Energy saving for building construction,
20. Energy saving for buildings operations,
21. Integrated energy production systems,
22. Upgrade and innovation of energy systems.

In relation to **Urban Development**:

23. Urban energy network (cables, switching stations, shafts),
24. High voltage network,
25. Heat networks and district heating,
26. Urban Mobility,
27. Public transport,
28. Recharging / Refuelling stations,
29. Street lighting,
30. Internet of things and Blockchain.

These are only a few of the critical aspects to address around the theme of Energy. **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.

We ask participants to select a maximum of 5 keywords to explain their design. Keywords can be picked from our list or they can be proposed by the design team. See the submission requirements for further reference.

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



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 and program dimensions 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 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 concept image (.JPEG) one image to highlight the main approach of the project. File name: "CODE_Title of the project_Concept".

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: Powerless

01. Presentation Image: 56789_Powerless_Presentation

02. Concept Image: 56789_Powerless_Concept

03. Text Document: 56789_Powerless_Text

04. Team Document: 56789_Powerless_Team

Folder: 56789_Powerless

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

/ You need to come up with your own project title and replace "Powerless" 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:

/ Square format 420 x 420 mm, 300 dpi (4961 x 4961 px),
/ High Quality (for example, in Photoshop JPEG output quality: 8, or 80-85 in Gimp is recommended),
/ 7 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 and Concept 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 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*

/ 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.

*Taxes will be deducted and retained by overall prize amount. The prize will be taxed as professional income or other sorts of income according to Italian law, with a range from 20 to 30% according to winners' country of residence.

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

CALENDAR AND PRICING

01 September 2022	Competition launch.
01 – 14 September	40€*
15 – 30 September	47,50€*
01 – 14 October	55€*
15 – 31 October	62,50€*
01 – 14 November	70€*
15 – 30 November	77,50€*
01 – 14 December	85€*
15 – 31 December	92,50€*
15 December	Submission opens.
31 Dec, 11:59 PM	Submission closes.
01 – 15 February 2023	Winner announcement.

* +22% VAT.

The timing always refers to Central European Time (CET). To avoid confusion, please check the countdown on the competition page.

REGISTRATION

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 Website, in order to provide the safest procedure to all the participants. Payments can only be operated via credit cards & debit card.

After completing the payment, you will receive an email from Non Architecture which confirms the transaction and 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.

You can always find your order number in [My Account page](#), under My Order.

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 you have issues with payments, contact us at **info@nonarchitecture.eu**

JURY

The jury will be composed by a pool of platforms and experts specialized in the theme addressed by the competition. They will act as partners in the competition and final jurors of your work.

The jury members are the following:

Zean Macfarlane

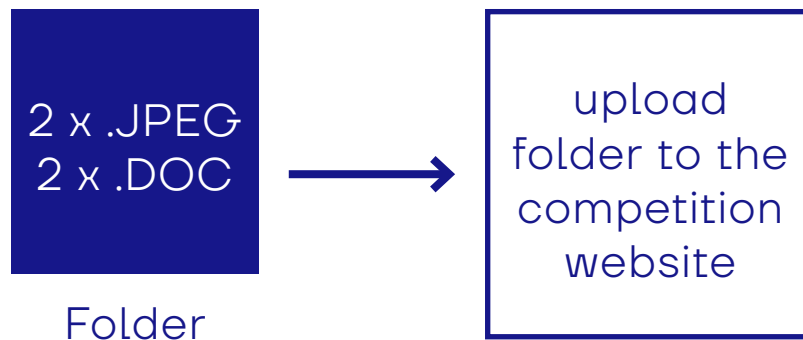
–

Emile Revier

Partner at PosadMaxwan

All jury members expressed their formal commitment in reviewing short-listed projects and selecting winners according to the awarding criteria expressed in the brief.

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.

Simply follow the submission instructions and upload the project folder directly on the website.

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 max 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 Discord, 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 30 registrations has to be submitted. If the registrations are less than 30 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 intellectual 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.

6. This competition as well as all products and brand elements related to Non Architecture are sole property of Non Architecture s.r.l., VAT 16621271002, located in Via delle Coppelie 3, 00186, Rome, Italy.

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 brief description and/or any other aspect of the competition.

Any questions that are not resolved in this document must be made via email at info@nonarchitecture.eu – if you didn't register yet – or through the [Nonaverse](#), our server on Discord – if you already registered to the competition.

You will find there a dedicated channel for competition Q&A. Access to the Nonaverse can be found in your [personal account page](#) after registration to the competition.

This ensures that all participants have access to the same amount of information. Questions via any other social media channels will not be addressed.

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.

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WWW.NONARCHITECTURE.EU

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Lab


Rhinoceros
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MAPPING**



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