

MEDITATION ROOFS

02/10/2023



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.

Meditation Roofs is one of the Non Architecture “Well-being” Competitions.

INTRODUCTION

In this competition, we challenge participants to propose innovative rooftop designs that not only offer a sanctuary for meditation, but also actively endorse and uplift the practice of mindfulness in an urban setting - only 1 drawing, with absolute freedom of scale, site or program.

We invite designers to imagine a solution that harmoniously blend the serenity of meditation spaces with the dynamic energy of the urban environment, by pushing the boundaries of creativity.

Participants are encouraged to redefine traditional urban space design and contribute to enhance well-being, promoting more serene and sustainable lifestyle choices centered around meditation.

Consider factors like privacy, quiet areas, access, and soundproofing. Also, think about how your design could attract people who haven't tried meditation before to start practicing it as part of their daily lives.

How can rooftops be designed to encourage and facilitate meditation as an integral part of daily life?
How can architectural innovation and design aesthetics come together to create a space that endorses mindfulness as an essential component of urban living, fostering a strong connection between residents and their environment?

Meditation Roofs aims to answer those questions with a particular focus on well-being.

COMPETITION BRIEF



ELEVATED MINDFULNESS

The practice of meditation has long been celebrated for its diverse range of benefits, including enhanced mental clarity, stress reduction, and improved emotional well-being. In today's fast-paced society, where our minds are constantly bombarded by stimuli, the necessity for pockets of serenity has never been more urgent. This is particularly true in urban environments, where the cacophony of city life can often drown out opportunities for inner peace. Amidst towering skyscrapers, ceaseless traffic, and the relentless buzz of human activity, the question arises: where can one find a haven for cultivating mental well-being?

Traditionally, rooftops in urban landscapes have been grossly underutilized, often relegated to housing mechanical equipment or, at best, a small garden. However, as cities increasingly become packed to the brim, the need for open, quiet spaces is becoming more acute. Here, rooftops emerge as a novel yet obvious solution. These elevated platforms have the potential to serve as much-needed sanctuaries, offering an oasis of calm above the chaotic tapestry of city life.

Creating a rooftop suitable for meditation is not merely a matter of carving out a quiet nook away

from urban distractions. It involves thoughtful design considerations that actively support and nurture the practice of mindfulness. For example, integrating natural elements such as water features or Zen gardens can create a multisensory experience that calms the mind and soul. The soothing sounds of water or the visual balance of a well-arranged garden can enhance the meditative experience, offering a tactile richness that indoor spaces often lack. Acoustic planning is equally crucial, especially in shielding the rooftop from the omnipresent noise pollution that plagues city life. Insulated walls, strategic plantings, and perhaps even ambient soundscapes can transform the space into a sanctuary of true tranquility.

Imagine that these rooftop spaces are open to everyone, but the key question is how to encourage people to use them. While these spaces should offer a sense of seclusion and tranquility, they should also

be easily reachable. This could involve integrating them into public facilities such as shopping malls or community centers or creating direct pathways within residential buildings.

Furthermore, these rooftops have the potential to serve as introductory gateways for those yet to discover the merits of meditation. By making such spaces visually and experientially appealing, architects can play a significant role in demystifying mindfulness practices. They offer an inviting, easily accessible entry point for people who may be new to meditation but are seeking avenues to improve their mental health.

The architectural challenge of designing rooftops as meditation spaces is not merely a structural endeavor but a societal one. It's about endorsing a lifestyle change, promoting collective wellness, and weaving mindfulness into the very fabric of urban living.

Through smart, innovative design, rooftops can evolve beyond their traditional utilitarian roles, serving as elevated platforms for peace, tranquility, and introspection in the fast-paced heart of our cities.

This competition aims to transform underutilized urban rooftops into sanctuaries of mental well-being by encouraging architects to create innovative designs that not only provide a space for meditation but also actively endorse and elevate the practice of mindfulness within the bustling urban landscape.

A rooftop should be more than just a place to accommodate mechanical equipment or gardens; it should serve as a multifaceted wellness hub that fosters mental well-being, community engagement, and environmental sustainability.

Within this context, with critical thinking and creative attitude, the participants are asked to develop a proposal, merging considerable programmatic innovation and valuable design tools. The proposal can be a device, a piece of furniture, an interior design project, a pavilion, a building or an urban plan. Scale of intervention, program dimensions and location are not given and they can be arranged by the participants to better suit their project.

How can rooftops be designed to encourage and facilitate meditation as an integral part of daily urban life? What role can technology play in seamlessly integrating mindfulness practices into the daily routines and functions of city dwellers?

MEDITATION ROOFS

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

In relation to the **Ecology**:

1. Ecosystem revitalization,
2. Endangered species protection,
3. Arid environment survival,
4. Grassland ecosystem,
5. Aquatic life wellness,

6. Mountainous habitat harmony,
7. Forest preservation,
8. Wilderness restoration,
9. Sustainable agriculture.

In relation to **Society & Culture**:

10. Sustainable living,
11. Community wellness,
12. Hunger eradication,
13. Environmental stewardship,

- 14. Public health enhancement,
- 15. Conscious consumption,
- 16. Circular economy,
- 17. Community development.

In relation to **Architectural Design:**

- 18. Green architecture,
- 19. Vertical gardens,
- 20. Biodiversity-focused interior design,
- 21. Therapeutic outdoor spaces,
- 22. Indoor ecosystems,

- 23. Restorative structures,
- 24. Eco-conscious design.

In relation to **Climate Change:**

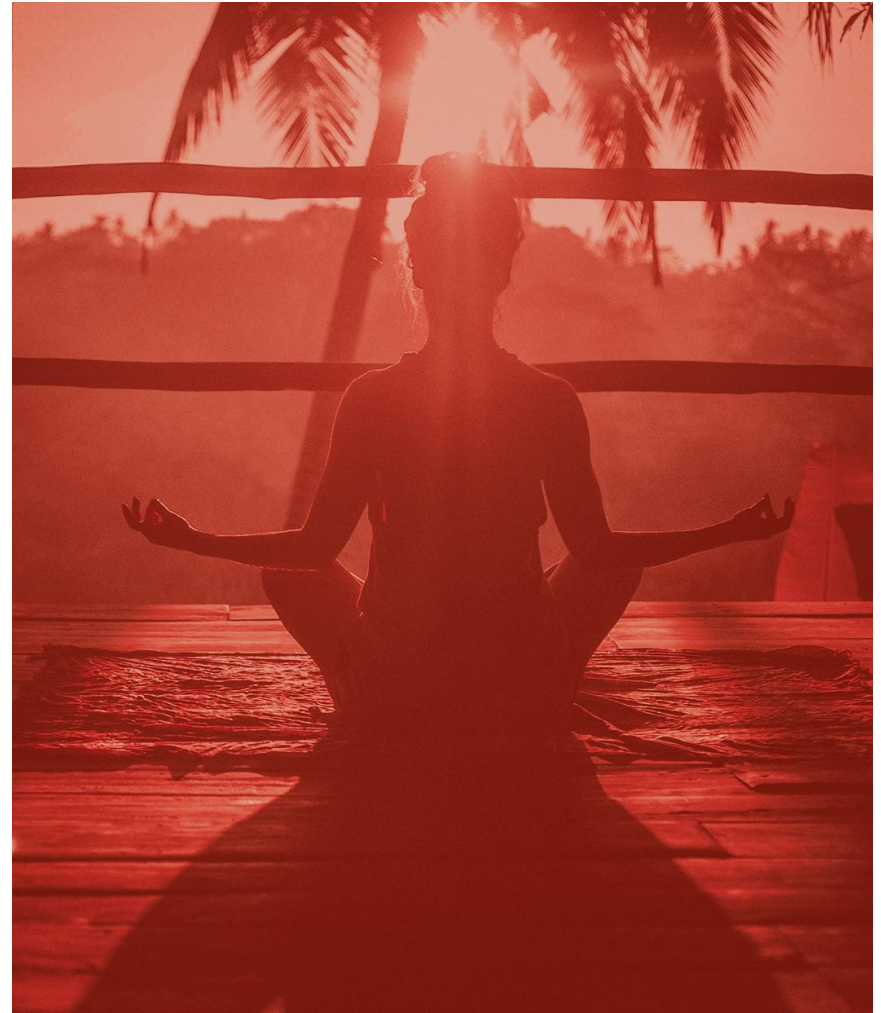
- 25. Resource conservation,
- 26. Greenhouse gas reduction,
- 27. Climate resilience,
- 28. Carbon footprint minimization,
- 29. Global warming mitigation,
- 30. Sustainable lifestyle choices.

These are only a few of the critical aspects to address around the theme of Well-being. **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.

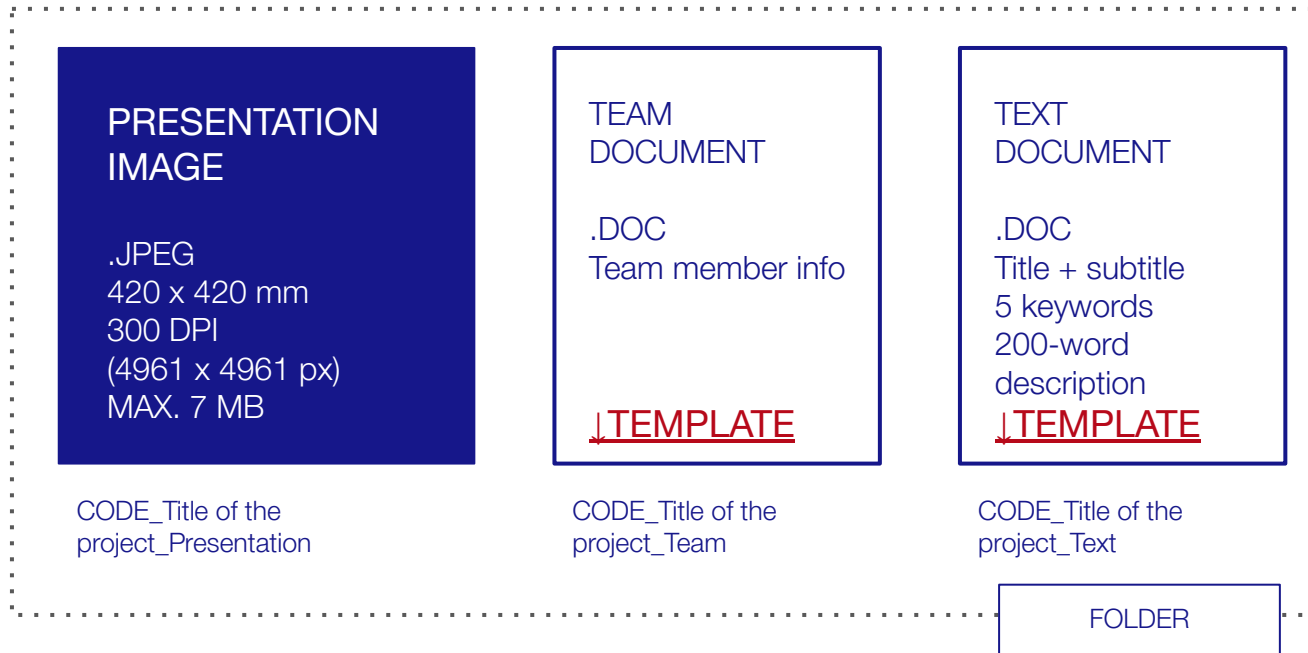


RULES



PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS

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 team document in Word (.DOC), containing / the title and subtitle of the project (maximum of 10 words)

And 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

02. A text document in Word (.DOC), clearly stating / the title and subtitle of the project (maximum of 10 words)

/ 5 keywords, at least 1 from the given list (page 8-9), 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

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**.

Do not include your name, your registration code, or any other reference to you in the image. 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.

An example of naming the files correctly:

CODE: #56789

Title of the project: Meditation Roofs

01. Presentation Image:

56789_Meditation Roofs_Presentation

02. Team Document:

56789_Meditation Roofs_Team

03. Keywords Document:

56789_Meditation Roofs_Keywords

Folder: 56789_Meditation Roofs

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

/ You need to come up with your own project title and replace “Meditation Roofs” in the example.

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 image don't respect these criteria, may lead to the disqualification of the team.

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS

/ The Presentation Image 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 image do not demand for any kind of specific technique of representation, as long as they respect the given guidelines. Be creative!

/ We highly recommend you to not add text to the image, please use the #KeyWords in the Word Document for further explanation. The projects should be explanatory enough through the graphic material, without the usage of flowing text.

/ It is compulsory to use the provided Word templates to create your Team and Keywords Documents. In case the Team and Keywords Documents are submitted in any other format than a Word file (.DOC), its content 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.

PRIZE

Non Architecture Competitions will award only 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

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.

All participants submitting a project can request a certificate of participation at info@nonarchitecture.eu

Winner, HMs, and Finalists, will be awarded with a badge on their non-a.com profiles.

*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 the involved architectural platforms are subject to the agenda and availability of the external platforms involved.

CALENDAR AND PRICING

01 October 2023	Competition launch.
01 - 31 October	Special registration period (50€*).
01 - 30 November	Early registration period (65€*).
01 - 31 December	Regular registration period (80€*).
01 - 31 January 2024	Last minute registration period (100€*).
15 January 2024	Submission opens on our website.
31 January 2024 11:59 PM	Submission closes.
26 February - 01 March 2024	Winner announcement.

* +22% VAT.

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

To avoid confusion, please check the countdown on the competition page.

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.

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

By registering to the competition, you are stating that you and your team are accepting all the conditions stated in the competition brief and that you are familiar with the generic [Terms and Conditions of Competition](#) displayed on our website.

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:

Iwo Borkowicz

Co-founder and lead architect
JEJU.studio

Neda Kakhsaz and Zabie Mustafa

Co-founders of Studio MUKA

Szymon Rozwałka

Founders of RO_aR architects and teacher at the
Faculty of Architecture in Brno

Olav Bruin

Founder and Creative Director of Atelier Nomadic

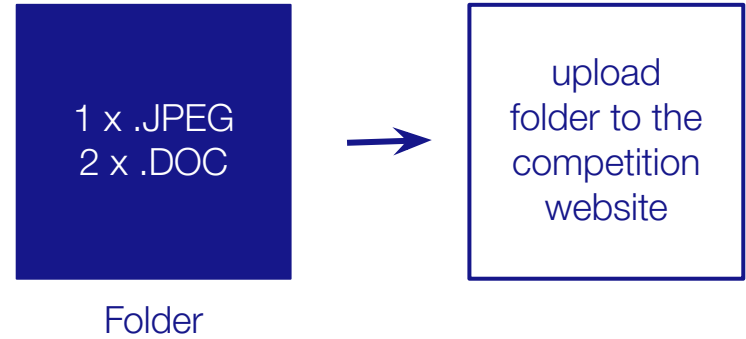
All jury members expressed their formal commitment in reviewing shortlisted projects and selecting winners according to the awarding criteria expressed in the brief.

SUBMISSION

Submissions must be done through the Non Architecture website (non-a.com), before the submission period ends, the deadline is indicated in the calendar. You will find the submission tab within the Competition Group. We recommend to create an account on non-a.com before the submissions open.

The submission group on non-a.com 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 directly 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.

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.

EVALUATION

The core values of the competitions are:

- / Effective communication of the design qualities through the drawing
- / Innovation and Originality of the design
- / Relevance to the building function addressed by the competition

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

All jury members have agreed to assess the projects. Should any juror(s) fail to adhere to this agreement and not submit their evaluation on time, the Non Architecture team reserves the rights to select the winners and honourable mentions.

CONTACTS

For additional info please check the FAQ on our website: www.nonarchitecture.eu/faq

Terms and conditions of competing: <https://www.nonarchitecture.eu/terms-and-conditions/>

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 via email at info@nonarchitecture.eu - if you didn't register yet - or through our server on Discord - if you already registered to the competition.

You will find there a dedicated channel for the competition Q&A. Access to the Discord 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 channel 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.

info@nonarchitecture.eu

www.nonarchitecture.eu

CURATOR



COMPETITION PARTNERS

RESEARCH PARTNERS

MEDIA PARTNERS

