

ENCOUNTERPOINTS

International Design Ideas Competition

The ENCOUNTERPOINTS Design Ideas Competition invites architects, designers, planners, activists, and postgraduate students across the world to redesign and (re)activate neglected and marginal spaces to promote a more resilient, cohesive, and equal urban future.

Target	neglected urban spaces, interstices, underexploited sites, worldwide
Objectives	elaborate an architectural project and a programme of activities to (re)activate an urban marginal space
Participants	architects, urban planners, designers, landscape designers, creatives, activists, postgraduate students, alone or in partnership with other professionals
Submission Fee	free
Registration	<u>30 April - 30 June 2021</u>
Submission	<u>15 July - 31 August 2021</u>

A Research Based Call

Short-term commitment is often the first step towards longer-term change. We believe that participatory activities, activism, and appropriations of public spaces positively impact individuals, society, and offer a unique chance to face and untangle complex issues of cultural dialogue, integration, and negotiation.

The ENCOUNTERPOINTS Design Ideas Competition ensues from the EU funded research project *en/counter/points: (Re)Negotiating Belonging through Culture and Contact in Public Space and Place*, which investigates the relationships between official and unofficial sites, practices, processes, and discourses of public space, culture and integration to uncover multiple (re) negotiations of belonging in a diverse Europe.

It analyses problematic notions of “integration”, examining participatory, dialogic cultural activities, activism, and appropriations in (and of) public spaces to question their perceived and actual impact on individuals, society, culture, and on public space in return. It hinges on the significance of encounters between people and culture in public spaces, points of encounter where they may take place, and counterpoints that may be contained, silenced, or expressed within them.

The ENCOUNTERPOINTS Design Ideas Competition is aimed at investigating how public space design can promote, enable, and encourage these processes, by collecting innovative approaches and solutions in this regard.

Topic & Objectives

The ENCOUNTERPOINTS Design Ideas Competition invites architects, designers, planners, activists, and postgraduate students across the world to redesign neglected and marginal space through catalyst low-cost interventions aimed at implementing the character of the place and the quality of life of the residents and visitors of a neighbourhood.

Designers will be challenged to engage with a five-step process:

1. Select a neglected urban space they are familiar with.
2. Elaborate an architectural and urban regeneration project to re-activate the site and turn it into an attractive space open to the local community and external visitors.
3. Target possible uses and possible users.
4. Outline the implementation process of the project.
5. Develop a programme of activities that could guarantee the success of the project over time.

No limitations in the national and geographical settlement of the project area are set. Select a city anywhere in the world and suggest a design intervention that could radically improve the quality of life of residents and visitors.

Cutting-edge proposals will be welcome, but a fundamental selection requirement is the effective potential of re-enhancement: the site can be an urban spot where an ongoing activation process can be

implemented with further actions, or an underexploited place for which local actors (administrations, institutions, associations, citizens' groups, etc.) have already expressed an interest and tested the latent value. In this sense, the collaboration with local stakeholders is highly relevant.

Type of projects

The design interventions can be any or a combination of the following:

- Micro-architectures
- Urban landscape projects
- Public facilities
- Installations
- Equipped green areas and shared open spaces

Other approaches will be accepted, as long as they do not extend to large-scale transformations of the built fabric.

Choice of the site

- The sites can be either neglected interstices or underexploited urban spaces resulting from uneven transformations of the built fabric over the years.
- Alternatively, the project can focus on a place with a well-defined character and public use that is worth implementing and integrating with further facilities.
- The space must be enclosed by precise margins consisting in physical boundaries (fences, edges, walls, secluding elements) or can be a series of spots

in an identifiable urban area (along a street, in a square, in the same neighbourhood, etc.).

Objective & Requirements

The ultimate goal of the call is to gather a collection of best practices and challenging, innovative, original proposals targeting the common goal of creating a more inclusive, equal, sustainable built environment.

Opening the call to the entire world, we aspire to search for advanced solutions that can respond to the global reduction of high-quality public spaces within cities and consequent increasing social inequality and disaggregation.

Mandatory requirements are:

- Low budget
- Short term
- Low and easy maintenance and repair
- Versatility of use

Additionally, projects must particularly take care of the following aspects:

- Social inclusivity
- Building sustainability
- Accessibility for people with special needs
- Variety of the activity programme and openness to a multifarious audience

Note that the submitted proposals are *not* meant for realisation by the ENCOUNTERPOINTS project.

Communication & Inspiration Materials

The Call is primarily intended as an educational experience and an applied research process.

Accordingly, a series of talks on the topics of tactical urbanism, small-scale public regeneration project, and participatory practices will be presented and shared in June and July 2021 through the ENCOUNTERPOINTS website (www.encounterideas.polimi.it).

“Inspirational” materials collected by the promoting committee during the early stages of the competition (audio, video, texts, images, bibliographical references, quotations, etc.) will be available open access, featuring resources from: Atelier Mob / Bruit du Frigo / Colectivo Warehouse / Collectif Etc / ConstructLab Studio / Gravalos di Monte / Orizzontale / Raumlabor.

Eligibility & Composition of the Teams

The design competition is open to any team consisting of architects, urban planners, designers, landscape designers, engineers, students who graduated at least with a bachelor's or licence's degree in these fields and disciplines, working alone or in teams.

They are professionals with a university degree recognised by Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications, in any of the relevant disciplines and regardless of nationality. The compulsory requirement is to hold at least a bachelor's degree. Membership in a European professional body is optional.

The partnership with figures specialised in other disciplines (artists, sociologists, experts in participatory practices, etc.) is encouraged.

Authorship

Every team member is considered the author of the project and will be credited as such on the website, all publications, and exhibitions. By participating in the call, the author(s) transfer to the organisers the reproduction rights of all the material (drawings, images, texts, videos) submitted. The author(s) retain exclusive intellectual property rights. Teams may not publish the material submitted to the competition or disclose their names by using their project for any communication before the official announcement of

the results. Any such publication may result in the disqualification of the team.
The organisers reserve the right to publish and exhibit all the projects submitted, under the names of their authors.

The submission of a project implies the acceptance of the competition rules.

Team Representative

Each team names one Team Representative among the associates. The Team Representative is the sole contact with the organising board during the whole competition. All communication shall be done via e-mail. The Team Representative must be an architect, urban or landscape professional or a postgraduate student in these fields.

Non-Eligibility

No competition organiser and/or member of the Jury is eligible to take part in the competition.
The participants cannot have familiar or working terms with members of the Jury or the Organising Board.

Rules & Guidelines

Registration

Each team must be registered on the competition website (www.encounterideas.polimi.it) before the closing date for registrations (30 June 2021). A registered team can modify its composition until the closing date for submission, but no further change shall be accepted after this date.

Each team can submit projects on different sites in the same or different countries and one person can be part of different teams.

A certificate attesting participation to the competition will be delivered via e-mail once the competition is closed.

After registration, a dedicated shared folder will be created for each team to upload the final submission material. Detailed instructions will be sent via e-mail to the Team Representative.

Project submission

We are looking for conceptual ideas rather than detailed architectural or technical drawings.

The proposals must be innovative, original, and previously unpublished.

The format and layout of the presentation are up to the participants but must be digital. Ideas and concepts can be expressed with high-resolution drawings, diagrams, sketches, renderings, photographs of maquettes, story-

telling, videos, etc. The quality of the proposal will be evaluated for both the contents and the effectiveness of communication.

Required materials:

- 2 A1 panels with drawings (open .pdf file)
- 1 A3 dossier, 5 pages long (max), including a summary of the most relevant drawings and graphic elaborations, and a narrative description of the project (open .pdf file)
- 1 high resolution iconic image (.jpeg, 300 dpi)
- 1 text* (.doc / .docx / open text file) illustrating the proposal
- Optional: 1 free-format iconic file (drawing, diagram, sketch, rendering, photograph of maquette, storytelling, video, etc.)

The text* must include:

- Title of the project
- Team number assigned during registration
- Site (Address, City, Country)
- Abstract (max 500 characters, including spaces)
- Description of the context and the neighbourhood: current urban layout, urban and social history, social and cultural issues (max 4000 characters, including spaces)
- Description of the design proposal (max 4000 characters, including spaces)

The competition's official language is English (BE) and all the materials submitted should be in English (BE). The use of a different language will not be admitted.

Calendar

Competition announcement:	30 April 2021
Registration:	30 April – 30 June 2021
Submission page opening:	15 July 2021
Submission deadline:	31 August 2021
Winners announcement:	30 September 2021
Closing ceremony:	29 October 2021

Prizes & Awards

ENCOUNTERPOINTS will award 3 winners and at least 2 honourable mentions.

The awarded projects will be published on the ENCOUNTERPOINTS website (www.en/counter/ideas.polimi.it) and in the book *The Design of Tactics: Critical Practices Mediating Changes in Public Landscape*, which will present the awarded projects (winners, special mentions) with the design teams' and jury's remarks. Interviews with architecture practices specialised in the field of tactical urbanism and participatory practices, and critical essays analysing the competition process, the theoretical framework, and innovating tactical practices will complete the text. A printed copy of the book will be granted to each member of the winning and mentioned teams.

The awarded projects will be also presented within a virtual exhibition dedicated to the topic.

Winning teams & Honourable mentions prizes

- Publication of the project
- Copies of the competition catalogue

Organisers & Jury

Jury members:

Sebastião de Botton – Colectivo Warehouse

Patrizia di Monte – Gravalos Di Monte

Mascha Fehse – ConstructLab

Tiago Mota – AtelierMob

Théo Mouzard – Collectif Etc

Stefano Ragazzo – Orizzontale

Competition Organising Board:

Cristina F. Colombo – Politecnico di Milano (DASStU)

Francesca Gotti – Politecnico di Milano (DASStU)

Jacopo Leveratto – Politecnico di Milano (DASStU)

Francesca Lanz – School of Arts & Cultures, Newcastle University

Contacts

encounterideas@polimi.it