

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

AMBER ROAD TREKKING CABINS

COMPETITION CONDITIONS

PARTNERS:



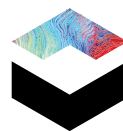
Nature
Conservation Agency
Republic of Latvia



Bee Breeders Architecture Competition Organisers,
in partnership with
Latvia Nature Conservation Agency,
have prepared this document for the
AMBER ROAD TREKKING CABINS
architecture competition.

Full Competition Terms & Conditions:
AMBERROADTREKKINGCABINS.beebreeders.com/terms

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architecture competition organisers
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INTRODUCTION

The Amber Road Trekking Cabins architecture competition, in partnership with the Latvia Nature Conservation Agency, is calling for designs for a series of trekking cabins to be situated along the immense and beautiful Amber Road trekking path. The path will span the full length of Latvia, running along the Baltic Sea beaches which are an undiscovered gem of Northern Europe's pristine natural beauty.

LATVIA

Latvia has been described as a vast, unspoilt parkland that is a tapestry of sea, lakes, and woods. With only one major cosmopolitan city, the capital city Riga, Latvia is a small country that provides its visitors and inhabitants with a vast amount of personal space. As one of the greenest countries in the world, most of Latvia is composed of fertile lowland plains and moderate hills. The countryside is a mixture of vast forests, fields, farmsteads and pastures with hundreds of kilometres of undeveloped seashore, - lined with pine forests, dunes, and continuous white sand beaches.



Abandoned fort in Liepaja, Latvia; Image courtesy of <http://lifeinriga.com/>



Latvia lies in Northern Europe, on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea and the northwestern part of the East European craton; with a mixed and diverse cultural history birthed from having at one point been invaded by almost every regional power. It has a temperate, humid, continental climate with coastal regions possessing more of a maritime climate with cooler summers and milder winters.



Pine tree forest near the seashore; Image courtesy of <http://www.latvia.travel/>



Kemer national park; Image courtesy of <https://www.checkoutsam.com/>



TOURISM IN LATVIA

Latvia has yet to be properly discovered by tourists, with the capital city of Riga still being the country's main tourism hub. The dynamic capital is a unique city that boasts beautiful Art Nouveau architecture, traditional cobblestone lanes, the historic old quarter, and steeples as far as the eye can see.

However, the country's biggest resource is its breathtaking natural regions. Latvia provides endless opportunities for both locals and visitors alike to enjoy the pristine natural beauty of this sparsely-populated country; providing an ideal setting for hiking, cycling and nature-watching in a variety of natural settings that includes white-sand beaches amid pine-covered dunes.



Old Town of Riga, capital of Latvia;
Image courtesy of <http://www.adventurouskate.com/>



Latvia, Turaida castle; Image courtesy of <http://www.pbase.com/>

TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN LATVIAN COUNTRYSIDE

Traditional Latvian architecture in the countryside and villages outside of the country's main cities has long been constructed out of wood. For centuries, Latvian villagers constructed their homes from timber that could be collected from nearby forests, and covered with thatch roofing. While the homes were small and modest, they still had some architectural details that made them unique, such as the iconic forms of the gabled roofs.

When Latvia was conquered by German knights in the 13th century, German architectural styles began to displace the Latvian vernacular architecture from towns and cities. As such, larger building and more ornate structures like churches would not have typically been built in the vernacular style, although some do exist in certain villages.



Wooden country house on the lake shore in Latvia;
Image courtesy of Alexander Lebedev, <http://shutterstock.com/>



Thatch roof house; Image courtesy of <http://venividizoom.com/>

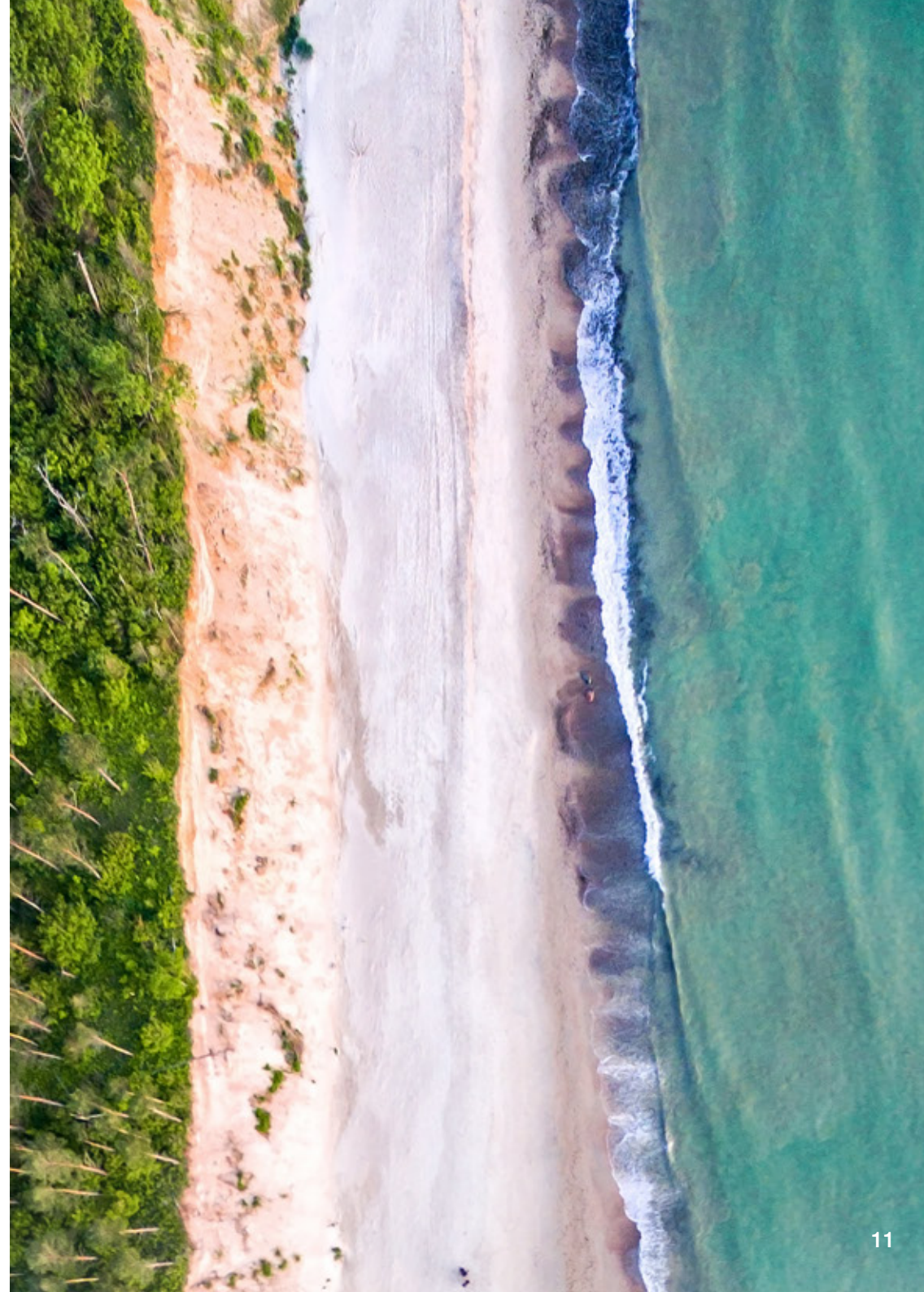


BALTIC SEA BEACHES AND AMBER

Latvia features over 500 km of beaches along the Baltic Sea coastline, with crashing waves coming in along the Kurzeme coast, and calmer waters from the Gulf of Riga hugging the coast at Cape Kolka. The country's most popular stretches of white sand beaches are located in Riga and Jurmala, contrasting with the rocky beaches of Vidzeme. Punctuated by dunes, steep cliffs, sandstone outcrops, rocks and caverns, the Baltic Sea coastline is home to charming and unspoilt fishing villages, imposing port cities, as well as the popular resort city of Jurmala.



Amber stones; Image courtesy of <http://inspiritcrystals.com/>



Baltic Sea is famous for its amber fragments that are often washed up on beaches, appearing in a variety of shades which characterise Latvia. Originally formed from fossilized pine tree resin about 40 million years ago, the shiny specimens that wash up along the Baltic Sea coast sometimes contain plant and insect inclusions, from ferns to frogs and even dragonflies caught in the pine tree resin eons ago.



Amber stone on the beach; Image courtesy of Michal Bednarek, <http://shutterstock.com/>

THE COMPETITION

AMBER ROAD TREKKING CABINS

The Amber Road trekking path is planned to allow long-distance hikers to traverse the country, reaching from the Latvia-Lithuania border to the Latvia-Estonia border. Receiving its name from the shiny specimens that wash up on the beaches to this day, the total length of the trekking path would be 530 km, and it would be included as part of one of the European long-distance paths, a network of 12 paths designated by the European Ramblers Association. Path E9 is a hiking trail that follows the coastline, branching out from the Baltics to include countries like Germany, Belgium, France, Portugal, and Spain to name a few.

For the Amber Road Trekking Cabins architecture competition, participants are tasked with producing unique and creative designs for a series of cabins that could be placed along this long and arduous route. The designs should be suitable for the various different terrains that will be encompassed along this hiking trail, taking special consideration to be constructed in preserved environments.

The Trekking Cabins should be in keeping with Latvia's heritage, and their design should comfortably adapt to suit various environments, with the potential of becoming an iconic part of the landscape themselves. Working within a modest budget, the trekking cabins must provide guests with safe and comfortable lodgings, allowing both hikers and their guides the facilities to rest and enjoy the natural scenery.

Winning designs for the AMBER ROAD TREKKING CABINS will be considered for construction by the Latvia Nature Conservation Agency as a way to help boost Latvia's trekking tourism.



PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Participants must present designs for the following structures:



Construction process:

- Cost-effective, environmentally responsible and energy efficient construction for remote areas with no road access;
- No/minimal excavation.



Finished structure:

- Must provide very basic, safe, comfortable, and mosquito-proof lodgings for 4 guests;
- No service areas are required (no toilets; showers; kitchens etc.), but can be proposed as long as they do not significantly increase the project costs;
- Landscape elements can be proposed (benches; small playgrounds etc);
- Recommended building material - timber;
- Low maintenance in terms of effort and costs;

The project qualities listed above are minimum requirements; the competition brief is open to adaptation and improved development strategies.



Seashore at Kūrmrags, Latvia; Image courtesy of <http://dziedava.lv/>

PRIZES

3 winning proposals, 2 special award recipients and 6 honourable mentions will be selected. Bee Breeders will award a total of US \$6,000 in prize money to competition winners as follows:

<div>Prize money<div>US \$6,000</div></div>	
1st Prize <div>US \$3,000</div>	BB Student Award <div>US \$500</div>
2nd Prize <div>US \$1,500</div>	BB Green Award <div>US \$500</div>
3rd Prize <div>US \$500</div>	+ 6 HONOURABLE MENTIONS

More information about the special awards at AMBERROADTREKKINGCABINS.beebreeders.com



Winning designs for the AMBER ROAD TREKKING CABINS will be considered for construction by the Latvia Nature Conservation Agency as a way to help boost Latvia's trekking tourism.

PUBLICATIONS:

The winners will get international art and design media coverage and will be featured on the Bee Breeders website.

A full list of media partners who have committed to present the competition winners in their publications can be found at AMBERROADTREKKINGCABINS.beebreeders.com

CERTIFICATE:

Bee Breeders will acknowledge the outstanding performance of all winners and honourable mentions with Certificates of Achievement.



COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Early Bird Registration
MAY 16 - JUNE 7

Advance Registration
JUNE 8 - JULY 28

Last Minute Registration
JULY 29 - SEPTEMBER 27

Closing date for registration
SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

Closing date for submission
OCTOBER 25, 2017 (11:59 pm GMT)

Announcement of the winners
NOVEMBER 8, 2017

REGISTRATION FEES

	Architects, designers, enthusiasts and companies	Students*
Early Bird Registration	US \$90	US \$70
Advance Registration	US \$120	US \$100
Last Minute Registration	US \$140	US \$120

* See requirements here:
beebreeders.com/competition-registration-types



Trekking routes on Latvia's coastline; Image courtesy of <http://www.timesofmalta.com/>

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Participants are required to upload four (4) A2 landscape-orientated presentation boards (must not exceed 5mb per jpg) with sketches, renderings, plans, sections, elevations, diagrams, and/or other presentation tools to explain their proposal.
- No video files are accepted.
- All information provided in writing must be in English.
- All submissions must be uploaded via the beebreeders.com upload panel. Access information and instructions on how to upload the presentation panel will be issued to participants via email immediately after successful registration.
- Presentation boards must not indicate any information related to individual's/team's identity.

Participants who do not comply with the requirements will be disqualified without refund.

RECOMMENDED SUBMISSION CONTENT

- Proposed plans, sections and multiple internal and external perspectives demonstrating the spatial quality of the cabin as well as operational needs and accessibility requirements.
- Demonstration of project construction, materiality, functions, management and maintenance; approach to environment, energy and sustainability, indoor environment and logistics.
- Visualizations; artist impression to illustrate how their proposal fits in with the quality, value, and significance of the historical and modern Latvia.

PRESENTATION DELIVERABLES SET

- Primary sections; (suggested scale 1:50)
- Primary floor plans; (suggested scale 1:50)
- Enlarged sections and elevations highlighting key spaces or relationships; (suggested scale 1:10)
- Details: (suggested scale 1:5)
 - Envelope
 - Key materials
 - Site or landscape
- Axonometrics providing information on building systems or illustrating key architectural concepts;
- Diagrams:
 - Circulation
 - Public versus private space
 - Landscaping
 - Transportation
- Perspectives:
 - Primary interior spaces
 - Different site locations

Please note the PRESENTATION DELIVERABLES SET listed above is a suggestion only. Participants can choose to use the entire list, a selection from it, or propose a completely different set that would explain their design in the most efficient manner.





JURY & EVALUATION PROCESS

Competition jury consists of two jury panels:

- **Core jury panel**
- **Consultative jury panel**

Full jury panel members list is published at
AMBERROADTREKKINGCABINS.beebreeders.com.

The core and consultative jury panel will be responsible for setting the criteria that participants need to fulfill based on the site and brief and will evaluate each submission accordingly.

Participants are advised to research both the working site and previous similar case studies as part of the design process.

AMBER ROAD TREKKING CABINS” is a competition, which encourages participants to experiment with the limits of architecture. The jury may choose to reward projects that show a high degree of creativity, even if they breach any of the rules, as long as it’s justified.

Selecting Top 3 winners:

- ① Consultative jury panel will produce a shortlist of 40 from all submitted entries.
- ② Consultative jury panel will select 9 competition finalists from the shortlist.
- ③ Core jury panel will evaluate the 9 finalists and select the top 3 winning projects and 6 honourable mentions.

Student Award:

- ① Consultative jury panel will produce a shortlist of 40 from all submitted student entries.
- ② Consultative jury panel will select 9 competition finalists from the shortlist.
- ③ Core jury panel will evaluate the 9 finalists and select the winning project.

SA Special Award:

- ① Consultative jury panel will produce a shortlist of 40 from all submitted entries.
- ② Consultative jury panel will select 9 competition finalists from the shortlist.
- ③ Core jury panel will evaluate the 9 finalists and select the winning project.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to all. No professional qualification is required. Design proposals can be developed individually or by teams (4 team members maximum).

People who have direct personal or professional relationships with jury panel members or organisers may not participate in this competition.

MEDIA PARTNERS

A full list of media partners who have committed to present the competition winners in their publications can be found at AMBERROADTREKKINGCABINS.beebreeders.com

For potential media partners who are also interested in covering the present competition and its winners, please contact us at hello@beebreeders.com

Competition press kit (in English) and banners are available at AMBERROADTREKKINGCABINS.beebreeders.com/press

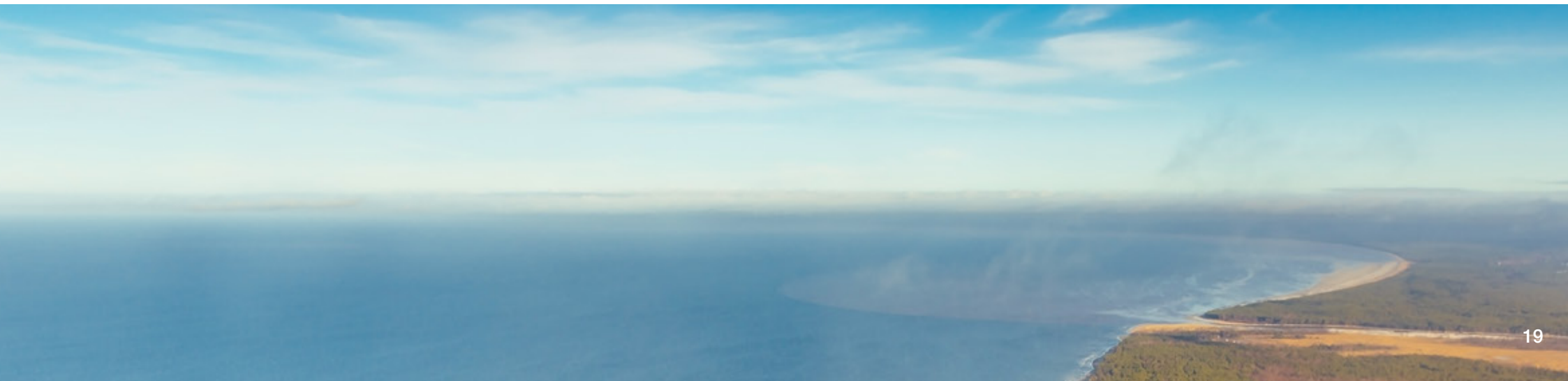
ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

Bee Breeders architecture competition organisers would like to hear from representatives of universities, schools, and colleges offering architecture/design studies.

Contact us to receive special student rates for group registration (discount applies for 3+ registrations from one university/school) as well as further information and support to get your students involved in architecture competitions.

Send us a request from your university email address along with basic information about you and your university/school.

Please note that only recognized university staff can apply for the reduced student rate.





Panoramic view over the Baltic Sea; Image courtesy of Valdis Skudre, <http://shutterstock.com/>

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