

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Registration

February 15 to April 25, 2016

### Submissions

April 15- 30, 2016

### Selection of projects by the Jury:

May 13 - May 31, 2016

### Press release on the winning projects:

June 13, 2016

### Design workshops to realize the Top 20 Design Entries:

February 2017 to July 2019



NKA FOUNDATION ... serving the underserved communities  
[www.nkafoundation.org](http://www.nkafoundation.org) / [info@nkafoundation.org](mailto:info@nkafoundation.org)

Designed by Dalibor Vugrinec, an Online volunteer recruited  
from <https://www.onlinevolunteering.org>



## 4th EARTH ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

DESIGNING A SCHOOL FOR GHANA



Nka Foundation announces a call for entries for its **4th Earth Architecture Competition, Designing a School for Ghana**, an international architecture competition open to graduates and advanced students of architecture, design and others from around the world who think earth architecture can be beautiful. Registration deadline is April 25, 2016 and submission of entries is until May 31, 2016. Contact: [info@nkafoundation.org](mailto:info@nkafoundation.org) / [www.nkafoundation.org](http://www.nkafoundation.org).

The design entry will emphasize sustainable architecture and cost-efficient construction by fully integrating local materials and passive solar design. The challenge is to design an earth architecture type that will be built as a unit of a community secondary school for students of ages 12 to 18 years in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. The school will consist of the following building types: classrooms, offices for school administrators, library, laboratories, dorms for boarding students, cafeteria hall, teachers quarte and sports ground for a population of 600 students. This means that your challenge is to design one of the following types for the school: a classroom type, laboratory type, office building type, dormitory type, group toilet type, cafeteria type and a dwelling type for the teachers. You should design the type for construction by maximum use of earth and local labor. Total costs of constructing the design entry must not exceed \$8,000 (USD) for materials. The local community will supply local labor for the construction and land value is also excluded from this price point. Because the construction of best design entires is a priority, each design team gets an opportunity to build their design at Abetenim in Ghana. Be a part of this! Let's create change where it is most needed.

What is the preferred construction method for the winning entries? The method to be used to build your design can be rammed earth, poured earth or any other earth construction technique that can be easily learned by local labor. Roof design should involve metal roof with such as corrugated zinc or aluminium roofing sheets, which is the conventional roofing material in the region. Other roofing methods such as vault roof, tiled stone, ferro-cement roof and canvas roof are all possibilities but not duly tested to stand the region's torrential rain storms.

The jurors will use judging criteria involving functionality, aesthetics and technical matter to select three prize-winning designs. Jurors will award prizes for first, second and third place consisting of a commemorative certificate and cash prizes to the winning designs as follows: 1st prize- \$1,500 or construction of design in Ghana plus a trip to Ghana for a workshop to build the winning design (in case the winner does not reside in Ghana and to a maximum of 1 person); 2nd prize- Construction or \$1,000 and 3rd prize- Construction or \$500. Honorable mentions may be

awarded at the discretion of the jury but will receive no cash prize. Registration runs from February 15 to April 25, 2016; and submission of entries will be from April 15 to 30, 2016. The registration fee per entry is \$40 for individual and \$60 for a team. Here is where to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/4th-earth-architecture-competition-tickets-20450604308> and submit your design entry via [mudhousedesign@mail.com](mailto:mudhousedesign@mail.com). For additional information, see the competition discussion board: <http://nkaprojects.boards.net>.

**Be a part of this! Let's create change where it is most needed.**

### CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

(1) An individual or a design team can submit an entry to the 4th Earth Architecture Competition. Each team shall identify one team member as its Point of Contact ("Point of Contact") during the submission process.

(2) In order to enter the design contest, you must register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/4th-earth-architecture-competition-tickets-20450604308> On your Eventbrite ticket, you will see a 9-digit order #. This is your registration number for one design entry. If you are submitting more than one entry, each design entry requires a separate ticket. With your entry ticket number submit your design entry via [mudhousedesign@mail.com](mailto:mudhousedesign@mail.com). If you want to pay by check, send us an e-mail: [info@nkafoundation.org](mailto:info@nkafoundation.org) / [www.nkafoundation.org](http://www.nkafoundation.org) and the following information: Team Name, Team Leader, Name, Phone Number and Email for Each Team Member. To submit your design, place your ticket number and the title of the project (no name) on all pages of your design submission to allow the jury to select blindly.

(3) SUBMISSION FORMAT: (1) Text file (Word format) containing the design statement (300 words max) for publication purposes. The design statement should include material description, budget in USD, and the entrants' personal information including name, profession, address, and email address. (2) One A1 presentation board submitted as a JPG file of high-quality resolution (15 MB) to be printed in landscape format. For uploading to the competition's projects board, the file size of the presentation board to be submitted must not exceed 600 kb. The upper right corner of the board must contain the entry ticket number. There should not be any marks or any other form of identification, less the entry is disqualified. The file must be named after the ticket number followed. For example, 112334567.jpg (for your presentation board). The presentation board includes the floor plan, roof plan and elevations. The project statement should explain the design. Submissions must be in English language.

(4) Of the nominated projects (20), there will be three winning projects, according to the highest scores. Jurors will award prizes for first, second and third place consisting of a commemorative certificate and cash prizes to the winning designs as follows: 1st prize- \$1,500 or Construction of design in Ghana plus a trip to Ghana for a workshop to build the winning design (in case the winner does not reside in Ghana and to a maximum of 1 person); 2nd prize- Construction or \$1,000 and 3rd prize- Construction or \$500. Honorable mentions may be awarded at the discretion of the jury but will receive no cash prize.

(6) Judging criteria involve: (1) Functionality: space patterns and usage as a school, climatic performance, and sustainability over time; (2) Aesthetics: visual/aesthetic appeal; and (3) Technical: adaptive/creative use of abundant local materials and labor to the degree they enhance the design, resource efficient construction process, and attention to scalability and construction budget. Decisions of the jury will be final and binding.

(7) Q&A: Registered participants may post questions or share materials at <http://nkaprojects.boards.net> or by email to the address: [mudhousedesign@mail.com](mailto:mudhousedesign@mail.com). The deadline for questions is April 14, 2016. The organizer will continually post replies to questions received on the competition discussion board: <http://nkaprojects.boards.net>

(8) Any person entering this contest shall certify and guarantee the organisers that he/she is the sole author of the project and by participating, each contestant grants their free and exclusive consent that all designs and ideas will be published and shared to inspire others. By entering the competition, all participants agree to all the conditions of participation in the competition.

(9) You can pay the entry fee by: (1) Teaming up with one or two other people who have a credit care and can pay via Eventbrite; or (2) You can pay by check or international money order that can be withdrawn at a Bank in the United States. Mail it to Nka Foundation, 2633 SW 92nd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73159, USA. After, you have mailed the check, send us an e-mail via [info@nkafoundation.org](mailto:info@nkafoundation.org) / [www.nkafoundation.org](http://www.nkafoundation.org). Include the following information: Team Name, Team Leader, Name, Phone Number and Email for Each Team Member.

### MAIN JURY

The body of the jurors is to be made public by April 15, 2016 on the competition board: <http://nkaprojects.boards.net>

### PROJECT ORGANIZER

Nka Foundation is a nonprofit organization in the United States that exists to serve underserved communities in Africa and similar places through arts and design education. At Abetenim in the Ashanti Region of Ghana, we are building an arts village designed as a learning center to provide stable places for creative people from the region and other countries to live, work, learn and create. The arts village social housing draws on asset-based approach to rural community development by cultural immersion and mobilization of existing, but often unrecognized abundant local resources to drive the development process. Throughout the year, we organize international workshops such as earth architecture workshops and community arts workshops. From 2008 through 2010, our organization organized workshops and symposium series in partnerships with some universities in Ghana and Mali to stimulate conversations and artistic interventions for solutions to the problem of tapping local resources for sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa. By 2009, we felt a deep need to create an arts village of our own to continue to address the problem through design-build workshops, artist-in-residence, architecture competitions, conferences and outreach to the local schools.

### THE BACKGROUND

Nka Foundation is issuing a challenge to the architecture world to help generate modern mud housing for education to replace the rural mud house type. The basic idea is to generate durable and scalable mud house types by drawing on the accumulated knowledge about ways of building in a tropical climate. We emphasize durable housing because, in Ghana, as in other countries in West Africa, stereotypes about buildings made of earth persist because of poor construction.

In light of these, the competition promotes open source design, which implies that the submitted designs will be available for all to appreciate, use, or improve them to generate more practical and contemporary design solutions for the region. Our aspiration is to help develop a contemporary earth architecture tradition for the region and along the way, create arts villages to promote arts and design education. The long-term goal is to enable the Ghanaian population and lots of other places, to overcome the stigma that mud architecture is architecture for the very poor.