

OPEN CALL FOR TALLINN ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE TAB 2019 INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE SCHOOLS' EXHIBITION "TERRIBLY BEAUTIFUL!"

BRIEF

Tallinn Architecture Biennale TAB 2019 Architecture Schools' Exhibition "Terribly Beautiful!" investigates school as a facility for getting (terribly) lost and making (terrible) mistakes. The best school project is not necessarily the one rated with the top grade, but the one that restructures it's author by taking them to unknown path prone to failure – a crucial part of the creative process.

TAB International Architecture Schools' Exhibition is part of TAB Main Programme and meant for students of architecture, practicing architects and everyone else who has ever studied in architecture school. TAB 2019 Architecture Schools' Exhibition is curated by young Estonian architects: **Merlilin Kaup**, **Margus Tammik** and **Ulla Alla**. The Exhibition will be exhibited in September 2019 at Estonian Academy of Arts gallery.

What is a school project about?

Should one's work find its finalisation through solving a problem set up by the professors? Or should it doubt the problem itself and the value systems constituting it? Is there a space in the academia, above all, to really explore, or are we expected to diligently perform the task given with known methods? The final results at the schools evaluation are usually considered by the committee of critics. The most defining moments of the process – including emotional lows and production of “junk” are often overseen even by the supervisor. Those are the moments that actually teach us the most.

A School project that seeks to be acclaimed can be compared to a mainstream practice serving the developer's status quo. Diligence also deserves acknowledgement, just like work not fear failure challenging the problem setup itself.

What are we looking for?

We are mostly interested in projects that hide a sinuous process and tell a story in which we can see author's state of mind, personality and value systems. These can be projects that might be considered as a failure by the academia, but have a strong core idea that meets the the author's belief system; unfinished projects that have a potential and allure in them, evoking imagination which continues an open-ended story; completely random projects that you would not dare to show your professor; projects, that in the end turned out to be good.

Terms and Conditions

Open Call targets current students, practicing architects and everyone else who has ever studied in architecture school.

TIMEFRAME

The Competition consists of 3 stages:

Stage 1:

We ask students to send us their most explorational, wild works. We expect it digitally in a format it was originally presented and accompanied by a short personal statement (**max A4**) about the background of the project.

Works to be submitted via e-mail to schools@tab.ee

Deadline: 18.03.2019

Some guiding questions for the short personal statement:

- What did you initially expect from the project?
- What disappointed you?
- How seriously did you take it?
- What was the hardest part?
- What did your emotional spectrum look like?
- What was the most unexpected thing that you learned in the process?

Stage 2:

A number of works will be selected to the second round with whom the curators will continue to work individually. The authors are asked to explore and analyse meta-context surrounding the project, open up about their value judgements and origins, work methods and thinking techniques.

Deadline: 01.06.2019

Stage 3:

Workshop in Tallinn. The goal is to add a new layer to the project based on analysis and reflections from the stage 2. Workshop takes place in the beginning of September.

Exhibition opening:

September 11, 2019. In the final exhibition the initial work, analysis, reflections and new layer will be presented as a continuous story.

Curators/Jury:

Margus Tammik, Merilin Kaup, Ulla Alla

Q&A

Questions are to be submitted via email to schools@tab.ee by February 2nd 2019.

Q&As will be published on the competition page www.tab.ee/schoolsexhibiton.

INFO

“**Beauty Matters: The Resurgence of Beauty**” is the topic for the next Tallinn Architecture Biennale – TAB 2019. The winning proposal was selected from the international curatorial call for the 5th installment of the biggest architecture event in the region. The selected head curator is **Dr Yael Reisner**, a registered architect in Israel, who works and lives in London ([Yael Reisner Studio](#)). Her proposal focuses on the subject of how beauty matters again, reflecting on a cultural shift, after nearly eighty years of dormancy, as beauty was a tabooed, denigrated subject. Curators' assistants roles in the TAB curatorial team has been appointed to architect Liina Soosaar (Tallinn), who has recently graduated from Architecture and Urban Design at the [Estonian Academy of Arts](#) and architect **Barnaby Gunning** (London), from [Principal, Barnaby Gunning Studio Ltd, London](#).

TAB 2019 Opening Week September 11–15, 2019.