

RE-NATURE ROME

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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.

Re-Nature Rome is one of the Non Architecture “**Into the Wild**” competitions.

INTRODUCTION

In this competition, we encourage participants to come up with visionary concepts to reinvent a urban hotspot for biodiversity, within and beyond urban parks - only 2 drawings, absolute freedom of scale or program. Participants are asked to imagine a new urban model, to promote biodiversity into the specific context of the city of Rome, Italy. Submissions can be ideas for new green infrastructure, parks, green buildings or any kind of strategy that would boost biodiversity while enhancing the urban experience of a historical city such as Rome.

Increasing biodiversity of urban areas requires a great creative effort, trying to find quality in linking nature and the city. Solutions can be focusing on architectural aspects, green urban systems, parks, public space and the cityscape as a whole. Natural hotspots serve both citizens and biodiversity. On one hand, they can improve air quality, provide quality public space and generate a unique urban experience. On the other, they can create green links, protect different habitats and restore ecosystems for endangered species.

Re-Nature Rome is part of the “Cities of Tomorrow” competition series, developed to reimagine urban life through a variety of creative design concepts and ideas. What kind of role can we play as designers in reimagining urban life? How can we produce new inspiring visions to trigger a discussion around alternative models of living?

Re-Nature Rome aims to answer those questions with a particular focus on biodiversity in urban areas.

COMPETITION BRIEF



PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY

The Italian government recently announced the allocation of 18 million euros for the reforestation of metropolitan areas. This fund opens the way for a new range of projects to empower biodiversity in Italian cities, and Rome, the capital, seems to be a perfect battleground to imagine how new models could take place.

The city of Rome has been a major human settlement for almost three millennia. With 2,860,009 residents in 1,285 km² it is also the country's most populated municipality and the third most populous city in the European Union by population within city limits.

Rome's history spans 28 centuries, earning the name of "Eternal City". Its historic centre is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, and part of the cities' history and unique identity is related to nature.

The comune (Italian municipality) includes considerable areas of marshland which is suitable neither for agriculture nor for urban development but serves as a precious piece for ecosystems and biodiversity. As a consequence, the density of the comune is not that high, its territory

being divided between highly urbanised areas and areas designated as parks, nature reserves, and for agricultural use.

Next to large ecological areas, the city is also populated by a variety of small parks and gardens, created by the Italian aristocracy throughout history. While most of the parks surrounding the villas were destroyed during the building boom of the late 19th century, some of them remain.

Considering the richness of environments, flora and fauna, WWF has often referred to Rome as the European Capital of Biodiversity. The vastity and variety of natural environments is an asset for the city and it poses a great potential for virtuous practices. The city evolved around classical principles of balance between nature and civilization and could benefit from a general reflection on how this balance can be rediscovered in the context of today.

This is particularly relevant when mentioning also a serious of threats emerging for the present situation of the eternal city. Despite the city having one of the largest areas of green space among European capitals, the accessibility of these areas is sometimes limited, reducing their beneficial role for local populations and climate resilience.

Invasive species like wild boards and seagulls, attracted by a large amount of food in human waste, are now affecting critical ecosystems in urban areas. Next to it, pollution, urbanization and isolation could endanger some of the ecological islands around the urban areas.

Traffic has been dramatically increasing in modern times, making Rome one of the cities with the highest time spent in traffic per inhabitant. This factor affects the availability of clean air, quality public space and reachability of public parks or green areas. The riverfront of the Tiber, for

example, is reduced today to a large traffic lane for most of its course in the city centre, while wet areas comprise one of the most precious habitats for biodiversity and climate resilience.

From this perspective, it seems that city infrastructure and natural infrastructure could find a newly improved balance.

How can we create a beneficial synergy basing on the unique natural assets of the city of Rome? How can people and nature live together in a new way within the boundaries of the eternal city? When empowering biodiversity, how can we turn a city famous for its past, into a model for tomorrow?

Submission can address some of these questions. The proposal submitted could be a device, a piece of landscape design, an element related to architecture, the reinvention of existing pieces of the city, an urban park or something completely different. The scale of intervention and program dimensions are not given, and they can be arranged by the participants to better suit their design. Participants can choose any location within the metropolitan area of Rome for their proposal. There is only one fixed parameter: the proposal must promote the enhancement of biodiversity in the city.



RE-NATURE ROME

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

In relation to **Ecology**:

1. Ecosystem restoration,
2. Repopulation & Endangered Species,
3. Desertic habitats,
4. Grassland habitats,
5. Water habitats & Deltas,
6. Tundra & Mountainous habitats,
7. Forests & Deforestation,
8. Re-wilding and natural reservoirs,
9. Agriculture & farming.

In relation to **Society & Culture**:

10. Natural heritage & Landmarks,
11. Musealization of nature: Zoos & botanical gardens,
12. Beautification & Public Space,
13. Support to mental health & stress reduction,
14. Physical Activities & Wellbeing,

15. Social Gatherings & Events,
16. Sense of belonging & Placemaking,
17. Art & Nature,
18. Eco tourism & Nature destinations,
19. Biotechnologies.

In relation to **Architectural Design**:

20. Green Roofs & Green Walls,
21. Vertical forests,
22. Biodiversity and Interior design,
23. Terraces & Gardens,
24. Artificial Ecosystems, House plants & Pets,
25. Cabins & Temporary Structures.

In relation to **Urban Development**:

26. Urban Parks & Community Gardens,
27. Planters, public furniture & urban décor,
28. Air quality & Heath Island control,
29. Smart Cities & Smart park management,
30. Abandoned buildings & sites.

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. Feel free to pick from this list whatever issue might inspire them and develop it further following their creativity. We advise focusing on one or two topics in particular and make them the core of the design proposal.

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

PRESENTATION IMAGE

.JPEG
A4, 300 DPI
(2480 x 3508 px)
MAX. 5 MB

CODE_Title of the
project_Presentation

CONCEPT IMAGE

.JPEG
A4, 300 DPI
(2480 x 3508 px)
MAX. 5 MB

CODE_Title of the
project_Concept

TEXT DOCUMENT

.DOC
Title + subtitle
5 keywords
200-word
description

[↓ TEMPLATE](#)

CODE_Title of the
project_Text

TEAM DOCUMENT

.DOC
Team member
info

[↓ TEMPLATE](#)

CODE_Title of the
project_Team

CODE_Title.zip

This competition is an opportunity to address critical issues of tomorrow by creating innovative and unconventional ideas today. Designers are asked to answer the questions posed by the brief with absolute creative freedom.

The proposal submitted could be a device, piece of furniture, interior design project, pavilion, building, urban plan or something different. Scale of intervention and program dimensions are not given, and they can be arranged by the participants to better suit their design. Participants can choose any location in Rome for their proposal.

Non Architecture is also unconventional in its submission requirements. The participants are asked to submit **1 ZIP 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 concept image (.JPEG) one image to highlight the main approach of the project. File name: “CODE_Title of the project_Concept”.

03. A text document in Word (.DOC), that clearly states
/ the title and subtitle of the project (maximum of 10 words)
/ 5 keywords, at least 1 from the given list (page 5-6), 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

04. A team document in Word (.DOC) with 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

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**.

An example of naming the files correctly:

CODE: #56789

Title of the project: NonA Rome

01. Presentation Image: 56789_NonA Rome_Presentation

02. Concept Image: 56789_NonA Rome_Concept

03. Text Document: 56789_NonA Rome_Text

04. Team Document: 56789_NonA Rome_Team

ZIP folder: 56789_NonA Rome

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

/ You need to come up with your own project title and replace "NonA Rome" in the example.

THE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECTS IS ANONYMOUS, so do not include your name, your registration code, or any

other reference to you in the images. 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.

IMAGE REQUIREMENTS:

/ A4, portrait (vertical), 300 dpi (equals 2480 x 3508 px),
/ High Quality (for example, in Photoshop JPEG output quality: 8, or 80-85 in Gimp is recommended),
/ 5 MB maximum file size.

If the submitted images don't respect these criteria, may lead to the disqualification of the team.

FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS:

/ The Presentation and Concept Images 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 A4 size image or to add a frame.

/ The images do not demand for any kind of specific technique of representation, as long as they respect the given guidelines. They can be technical drawings, diagrams, collages, pictures, renders, models, paintings, hand drawings, etc. Be creative!

/ We highly recommend you to not add text to the images, please use the Text Document for further explanation. The projects should be explanatory enough through the graphic

material.

/ It is compulsory to use the provided Word templates to create your Text Document and Team Document.

/ In case the Text Document and Team Document are submitted in any other format than a Word file (.DOC), its content is 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.

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.

PRIZES

Non Architecture Competitions will award one winner, selected by the jury collectively, and 7 honourable mentions.

WINNER (1 PRIZE)

/ 1.000 euros worth in gift cards from one of the major online shops chosen by the winner

/ 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

/ reviews in digital magazines and several architecture blogs

NON ARCHITECTURE EDITORIAL PICK (MINIMUM 6 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.

Note: The appearance on the involved architectural platforms are subject to the agenda and availability of the external platforms.

CALENDAR AND PRICING

01 - 14 May	Special registration period (40€).
15 May - 14 June	Early registration period (55€).
15 - 30 June	Regular registration period (70€).
01 - 15 July	Late registration period (85€).
05 July	Submission opens on our website.
15 July, 11:59 PM	Submission closes.
09 - 13 August	Winner announcement.

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

JURY

The jury will be formed by the following members:

Amanda Sturgeon

Head of Generative Design at Mott MacDonald

Olivia Bina

Principal Researcher at ICS-ULisboa

Elizabeth Monoian & Robert Ferry

Founding Co-Directors of Land Art Generator

Annalisa Metta

Landscape Architect and Associate professor at Roma 3 University

Paolo Di Pasquale e Federico Aveni Cirino

ReTake Roma

REGISTRATION

Thinking about the participants interested in registering in our different competitions, we are giving the possibility to register to more than one competition with a special price.

Registration Bundles:

x2 Competitions: Second competition with 50% discount

01 - 14 May	Special registration period (60€).
15 May - 14 June	Early registration period (85€).
15 - 30 June	Regular registration period (105€).
01 - 15 July	Late registration period (135€).

x3 Competitions: Third competition for free

02 - 14 May	Special registration period (80€).
15 May - 14 June	Early registration period (110€).

In order to use the discount, register using the promotion link at the bottom of the competition page. In this case, the competition team should include the exact same participants for both competitions.

The registration fee is per team, regardless of how many members are on the team.

If a team wants to submit more than one proposal to the competition they will have to register each proposal separately and pay an additional fee for each proposal they wish to submit.

For a project to be accepted the team must be properly registered to the competition. All registrations will be done through the [Non Architecture website \(nonarchitecture.eu\)](https://nonarchitecture.eu), where you have to create an account, log in and choose your payment option.

All the payments will be organized through our Paypal profile, in order to provide the safest procedure to all the participants. Payments will be available for Paypal accounts and credit cards. In case you do not have a Paypal account, the credit card payment will be automatically made available.

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. Before a confirmation email from Non Architecture arrives, your payment will be kept on hold and you will be able to cancel your purchase any time you want without any consequences.

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 Paypal is not available in your country, contact us at info@nonarchitecture.eu

SUBMISSION



Submissions must be done through the Non Architecture website (nonarchitecture.eu), before the submission period ends, the deadline is indicated in the calendar.

The submission surface opens 2 weeks before the submission deadline. It is going to be placed on the Non Architecture website, on the corresponding competition page.

Submission process:

1. Create your ZIP file, containing 2 JPEG images and 2 DOC files.
2. Upload it to wetransfer.com and choose the option “Get transfer link”. Make sure that you save your link for future use.
3. Go to nonarchitecture.eu and fill the submission form, there you need to include the WeTransfer link you created.

By filling the form, your submission is finalized. You are going to receive **one confirmation email** when you finalize your submission 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.

EVALUATION

The core values of the competition are:

/ Innovation - In terms of program management, technology and originality of the formal solution proposed.

/ Communication - Clarity, appeal and experimentation in the presentation of the proposal.

/ Relevance - The degree to which the proposal is related or useful to the proposed theme.

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

Remember that this is a competition of ideas, an opportunity to experiment and explore the limits of architecture representation. The jury reserves the right to award any proposal that fails at any of the parameters mentioned in these rules, as long as it justifies the breach of the rule in favour of the value of the proposal.

The voting system to choose the winning projects is as follows:

1. The Non Architecture competitions team, following the main values of the competition, will make an initial selection of 50 finalist projects in response to the above mentioned criteria. The amount of pre-selected projects can slightly vary according to the judgment of the pre-selection team.
2. The members of the jury will study the pre-selected projects privately and give an evaluation for each one of them. Votes will be compared and revised to reach a common agreement on the selection of winners and honourable mentions.

In order to guarantee the authenticity of the awarding process, the prize's selection cannot be appealed.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All the materials submitted to the competition will become part of Non Architecture Competitions' files. Non Architecture will have full rights to publish and promote this material, always making proper mention of their authors. The material might also be used for the platform's merchandising and exhibition purposes. For any other purpose, the authors of the projects will keep full rights over their design and will be asked to grant permission. By submitting a proposal you are giving Non Architecture the right to use the received material in both printed and

online publications. Non Architecture Competitions will also have the right to slightly modify any of the mentioned materials in order to better adapt it to the different formats and layouts that different publications might have.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

1. Non Architecture reserves the right to make any changes to this document (dates, deadlines, requirements, etc.) as long as the changes benefit the majority of the competition participants. Any modifications will be announced on the Non Architecture Competitions Facebook page, Instagram account and weekly newsletter. It is the responsibility of each team to check the above mentioned sources on a regular basis to follow and incorporate if any changes are made.

2. The purpose of this competition is an intellectual exercise and will not be built. To produce a relevant collective research, a minimum amount of 50 registrations has to be submitted. If the registrations are less than 50 by the day of the deadline, Non Architecture reserves the right to proceed with the evaluation and publication, without awarding the monetary prize. In this eventuality, all the registration fees will be reimbursed to the participants.

3. No one has hired Non Architecture to organize this contest. The only purpose of this initiative is to raise questions that could lead to the progress of architecture

practice and engage a community of enthusiastic and creative designers in the creation of what could be a new way to represent architecture. The idea and program of this competition have been fully developed by the Non Architecture Team to serve solely as an academic exercise.

4. Non Architecture Competitions is not held responsible for a breach of contract regarding the publications.

5. Participants are expected to submit original work. Copying somebody else's work or using copyrighted photos, images, architectural/art pieces is strictly prohibited and will result in recalling all prizes and removal from the website, social media and the publication.

CONTACTS

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

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 through the [Non Architecture Facebook page](#). This ensures that all participants have access to the same amount of information.

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
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CURATOR

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modeling tools for designers

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rch**

European Urban
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METABOLISM OF CITIES

MEDIA PARTNERS

LANDSCAPE FIRST

ARCH*EZ*

Architecture
On Paper

URBAN DESIGN LAB

show it better.

