

architecture of necessity

The Architecture of Necessity is more necessary than ever

2022 sees the fifth Architecture of Necessity triennial, and the ideas founding it are more relevant than ever. We need architecture addressing sustainability at its very core.

A huge portion of greenhouse gasses can be attributed to buildings, from creation through to heating, cooling, lighting, ventilating and all the way to demolition. The numbers vary in different parts of the world, but in short the more complex the buildings available, the larger is the carbon footprint. Designing and constructing to combat the greenhouse effect is to design for a future.

This year, the jury of the triennial has a special interest for Rurban, the amalgamation between rural and urban where the functions and logics of one exists in the contexts of the other. This creates hybrid conditions with a great potential for for new architectural thinking and sustainable developments, ideally reinforcing local identities. The areas can be seen where the industrial society gave way to the new era, leaving empty buildings or now purposeless industrial landscapes in its wake. Or the ruralurban, often fragmented, fringe areas that no longer function as agrar land due to an increased need for housing and infrastructure in proximity to a city. Or the small towns with a currently shrinking population and empty town centres. As we now see the cities sprawling into the rural areas, all over the world, we need to apply the three dimensions of sustainability using system thinking when evaluating how to develop here now.

The questions are many. How can we live sustainably, which infrastructures do we need? Are we to travel as much for work, shopping and recreation? How will we create comfortable living environments, but using less energy? Will we share more, and if so, what and how? Which skills do we need and what will our homes be made of? With the exhibition and competition that is the Architecture of Necessity we will exhibit the entries addressing these issues, keeping the five criteria set out as guides and boundaries in the Architecture of Necessity manifesto in mind. The manifesto is available in its entirety [here](#).

The five criteria for an Architecture of Necessity

1. *Responsible architecture* regards insight and expertise.
2. *Conscientious architecture* regards attention to detail when planning, executing and evaluating.
3. *Sustainable architecture* regards resource management and recycling.
4. *Juste architecture* regards counteracting the social divide and defending democratic access.
5. *Open architecture* regards diversity, dialogue and change.

It is our belief that the architecture answering this brief will reflect human needs within the limits of the resources available. It will be insightful and user driven. This could mean transforming existing buildings, repurposing materials and functions. It could also mean entirely new typologies, new city- and landscape planning - we don't yet know but are eager to show you as the exhibition will open its doors on the 15th of June. We do know the scope is wide, the need is immense and immediate, and the entries are likely to make us reevaluate the way we build today. The winner, selected by our prominent jury, is invited to tell us more on the 15 of June during the Architecture of Necessity day, initiating the exhibition.

Participation

If you would like to participate, the call is now open. Entries are accepted from professionally active individuals or legal persons such as architectural bureaus, building contractors, local governments or other entities. The submitted project must be dated between 2019 and 2022. For more information read [here](#).

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