

## **Open Call: Tbilisi Architecture Biennial 2022**

### ***“What's Next?”***

Biennial Dates: October 8 – 29, 2022

**Application deadline: June 19 and 30, 2022 23:59 CEST (Please, see deadlines for different categories below)**

### **Important dates**

- Submission opens: 26 May 2022
- Submission for categories #1, #2, #3 and #4 (Physical Projects, Digital Projects, Educational Activity / Workshop, Contribution to Publication) closes: 30 June 2022
- Submission for category #5 (Residency Program) closes: 19 June 2022
- Announcement of results for categories #1, #2, #3 and #4 (Physical Projects, Digital Projects, Educational Activity / Workshop, Contribution to Publication): 24 July 2022
- Announcement of results of category #5 (Residency Programme): 3 July 2022.

The results will be available on web, Facebook and Instagram pages of Tbilisi Architecture Biennial.

Applications and all related questions should be directed to the following e-mail: [submit@biennial.ge](mailto:submit@biennial.ge) . Please, indicate in the subject line the title of the category you are applying for or the inquiry relates to. Applicants will receive confirmation of receipt of submitted documents within 24 hours. In case, confirmation is not received please, resubmit the application package once again.

Applications received after the deadlines will not be considered.

What's Next?

### ***Topic***

#### ***About Temporality***

The new thematic research for the third edition of Tbilisi Architecture Biennial TAB 2022 focuses on the concept of temporality in urban and social life. Taking as an example the recent history of Georgia, the notion of temporality is proposed as an intersection of various conditional factors. The concept is shaped based on three main categories: parallel research of time, space, and the built environment. Therefore, we aim to discuss architecture in one of these categories in the section of time and reflect on how architecture coexists with everyday life in terms of duration rather than physical dimension.

Our goal is to look at the present conditional circumstances that are presenting themselves to us for a variety of reasons and do not adhere to concepts of permanence and conceptual stability. Although the "current" qualities of architecture may not make it permanent, it needs to be studied separately/individually and translated to produce a stable setting for the future.

In Georgia, we have been living in a temporary state already for many years. Since our childhood we have frequently found ourselves face-to-face with temporalities when speaking of living spaces, scarce resources, political instability, wars, or means of income. Similar to many post-socialist states, citizens of Georgia describe their lives as temporary, like anything else in their country. We never know what tomorrow brings and what will be the next thing that will help us to go on and keep surviving. What's Next? is a general question we ask regarding several specific themes connected to temporality and space. On the one hand, temporary living space is associated with instability, a fragile ground that might break any moment, however on the other hand, it offers a very important and interesting setting to be observed and worked on. By engaging with the question of temporality not only do we concentrate on the space that is to disappear soon but rather bring into the discussion the spaces that were meant to be impermanent, but have become permanent throughout their existence.

### Permanent Impermanence

How long can the temporalities last? What happens when something that was meant to be temporary becomes permanent? This phenomenon can be very well observed in the situation of internally displaced persons or refugees and their living environments. The internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees try to adapt to the new living space over time. However, the constant urge to return home gives the present a temporary category. They are torn between two living phenomena - a house and a shelter and try to be able to reconstruct an abandoned house on new land in a temporary (though often permanent) location, stay in existing buildings or a new camp-type setting.

### Temporary Spaces Produced Through Pandemic Related Restrictions

When we first experienced the lockdown in the spring of 2020, we all encountered temporary measures introduced to prevent spread of the disease. Several public buildings have been converted into field hospitals, some into the test centers, and new temporary structures have been constructed to help accommodate more patients while the hospitals were running out of space. The introduced measures have affected our living environments and changed our ways of movement and appropriation of the urban spaces in the cities. Therefore, we would like to explore these specific spaces that emerged during the pandemic, their meaning, duration, and influence on our built environment.

### Edge of the City and Places of Ongoing City Expansion

What is the edge of the city and what conditional factors determine its limits? The city limits are closely linked to the major infrastructure artery posed by the modern urban challenges. However, in addition to the urban development plan, the cities have over time established de facto boundaries, which are seen as built-up inhabited settings. In many cases such independently formed, peripheral settlements are still aligned to the city center. The constant process of urban expansion often leads to the intersection of a new urban plan and the above-mentioned self-contained contours where new residential buildings replace barracks. Goal of our research is to define and document the fleeting distinct living forms that will inevitably be overlapped.

### **Who can apply**

All interested architects, artists, writers, scholars, urbanists, creative individuals regardless of location, age or past experience are invited to submit a proposal. The application process is free of charge.

## **Submission process**

We accept proposals in five different categories:

1. Physical projects (works/research in any physical format)
2. Digital projects (works/research in any digital media format)
3. Educational activity / Workshop
4. Contribution to publication
5. Urban Residency

Applications must be submitted in English or Georgian languages. The international jury will evaluate all received proposals anonymously based on the quality of the idea and its direct reference to the main concept of TAB 2022. All suggested projects must have a clear relation to the theme of the Biennial “What's Next?”

Tbilisi Architecture Biennial suggests the following locations in Tbilisi, Georgia, as points of reference for the submitted proposals and concepts ([see drive folder](#)). Nevertheless, the applicants are free to offer the locations of their choice as well.

## **Detailed description of terms of application**

### **1. Physical Project**

Applicants are free to suggest any format of their own preference. The produced works have to be realized physically in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Requested documents:

1. Short description of the project idea (max. 500 words)
2. Sketch/photo/render of the work and its technical description including information on dimensions, color, orientation, working material, physical location etc. (pdf or jpeg format)
3. Portfolio (optional) and CV of the applicant
4. Budget of the project.

3 selected participants will be awarded a maximum amount of 3,200 Euros for covering production costs and honorariums. If necessary the Biennial can also cover the travel and accommodation costs. The awarded amount includes all applicable taxes including the bank tax for money transfer (app. 15 Euros for foreign transfers). In case the budget exceeds the amount designated by the Biennial, the applicants are welcome to provide additional funding from the other sources.

## **2. Digital Project**

Applicants are free to suggest any format of their own preference, which can be realized in a digital media. It is mandatory that the images of work should have the capacity of being linked to and presented through the website of the Biennial.

Requested documents:

1. Short description of the project idea (max. 500 words)
2. Sketch/photo/render of the work and its technical description including information on dimensions, color, orientation, working material etc. (pdf or jpeg format).
3. Portfolio (optional) and CV of the applicant
4. Budget of the project.

3 selected participants will be awarded a maximum amount of 1200 Euros each for covering production and online platform costs as well as artistic fees. The awarded amount includes all applicable taxes including the bank tax for money transfer (app. 15 Euros for foreign transfers). In case the budget exceeds the amount designated by the Biennial, the applicants are welcome to provide additional funding from the other sources.

## **3. Educational Activity/Workshop**

There will be two workshops offered in the frames of TAB 2022. Their duration, context and details of implementation should be defined by the applicant considering all possible challenges that might arise during the process (ongoing pandemic, armed conflicts etc.)

Those interested in facilitation of the workshops are welcome to submit the following documents:

1. CV and portfolio of the applicant
2. Description of the concept including topic and components of the workshop (max. 500 words).
3. Detailed budget

2 selected workshops will be awarded a maximum amount of 3,500 Euros each for implementation of the workshops. The awarded amount includes all applicable taxes including the bank tax for money transfer (app. 15 Euro for foreign transfers). In case the budget exceeds the amount designated by the Biennial, the applicants are welcome to provide additional funding from the other sources.

Note: This open call is for selection of facilitators and themes of the workshops only. Separate open call for selection of participants will be announced at a later date.

#### **4. Contributions to publication**

Tbilisi Architecture Biennial plans to build on its previous experience and encourages inclusion of articles/texts of even more diverse groups in its publication. Papers will be selected through the open call which will allow researchers, young professionals, scholars, urbanists, artists and other interested stakeholders from a wide range of disciplines to submit abstracts that focus on the main topic of the Biennial What's Next?.

Applicants should submit abstracts of up to 500 words, a motivation letter (max. 300 words) and a short bio of the author (200 words). All submissions will be subject to review by an invited jury. Language of submission is English, format: pdf file.

6 selected candidates will be awarded a lump sum of 500 Euros. This sum includes all applicable taxes including bank tax for money transfers (app. 15 Euro for foreign transfers). All selected papers will be included in the publication of the Tbilisi Architecture Biennial 2022. Submitted papers/texts should not already have been published earlier in any academic or relative publications.

#### **5. Urban Residency**

The residency is open to anyone from one of the countries of Eastern Europe or USA. As English will be the main working language of the program, a basic command of the language is necessary. Applicants are free to suggest a research project related to the theme of TAB 2022. Duration of the residency, which takes place in Georgia (Tbilisi or any other city and/or village), should not be less than one month and the participants will be required to organize at least one talk or presentation of their work in cooperation with the residency-team.

The earliest date of start of the residency can be July 1, 2022 and the results of the residency should be presented in any format of author's own preference during the TAB 2022 in October.

Requested documents:

1. Short description of the research idea (max. 500 words)
2. Motivation letter (max. 300 words)
3. Portfolio (optional) and CV of the applicant

1 selected participant will be awarded a maximum amount of 1,800 Euros to cover the travel (300 Euro), accommodation (600 Euro), artist's fee (900 Euro). The artist's fee includes all local taxes that will be subject to being paid to the local authorities (up to 28%). During their stay the residents will also receive technical support from the TAB team.

The residency will be funded by the Trust for Mutual Understanding New York and implemented in cooperation with a Georgian non-for-profit organization Platform for Changes.

## **Selection process**

Proposals will be evaluated by an international interdisciplinary jury, which will consist of the representatives of the partner organizations of the Tbilisi Architecture Biennial: Pavilion of Culture (Ukraine), Dekabristen e.V. (Germany), Transmedia Akademie Hellerau e.V. (Germany), Mies van Der Rohe Foundation (Spain), Kotor Apps (Montenegro), Barleti Universiteti (Albania), Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa (Portugal) and invited experts. The applications will be kept anonymous and randomized to make sure each submission receives the same fair consideration.

The selection process will be held in two steps. During the first step the jury will review all applications to select a short-list of the best proposals. Representatives of the shortlisted projects will then be invited to interviews. The dates of the interviews will be agreed on with the shortlisted participants only. The jury will evaluate the projects based on the relevance of the concept with the main topic of the Biennial, their impact, feasibility, urgency and conformity with the suggested terms of application and budget. The jury reserves the right not to reveal a winner if none of submitted applications fulfill requirements of the contest.

## **Results**

Final decision on the outcomes of the open call will be announced on July 3 (category: Residency) and July 24, 2022 (all other categories).

## **Copyright**

Project participants will retain all rights to their ideas and designs. The Biennial retains the right to create printed and digital materials including the installations created by artists, crediting the artists. Original applications and supporting materials (description, budget, sketches/photos/renders) will be kept in the archive of the Tbilisi Architecture Biennial and not be transferred to the third parties.