ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

KINDERSPACE

Architecture for Children's Development

COMPETITION CONDITIONS

Contents

Buildner Architecture Competition Organisers has prepared this document for the purpose of arranging the **Kinderspace: Architecture for Children's Development** architecture competition.

The concept and planning for this competition have been developed solely by Buildner architecture competition organisers.

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Architecture Competitions

Igniting architectural innovation

BUILDNER is the global leader in organizing architecture competitions, we invite you to embark on a transformative journey of design excellence.

With our unwavering commitment to pushing boundaries and inspiring creativity, **BUILDNER** provides a platform for talented architects and designers to showcase their visionary ideas and shape the future of the built environment.

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10+

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Introduction

Buildner is excited to launch the “Kinderspace: Architecture for Children’s Development” competition, a pioneering initiative in the realm of educational architecture. This competition invites architects, designers, and visionaries to craft innovative kindergarten environments that nurture the growth and development of young children. Recognizing the profound impact that physical spaces have on early learning and socialization, this competition seeks to reimagine how architectural design can create stimulating, safe, and inclusive spaces that foster curiosity, creativity, and a sense of community among our youngest learners.

Mountain landscape. Landscape Idriss I Dam, Morocco © gg-foto

The unique needs of young children in educational spaces

Young children, particularly those attending kindergarten, are at a critical stage of development where the environment plays a pivotal role in shaping their cognitive, emotional, and social growth. At this age, children are developing crucial skills that will serve as the foundation for their lifelong learning and interactions. However, many educational spaces do not fully cater to the needs of these young learners, often due to outdated designs that do not stimulate or engage in the ways that modern educational theories suggest.

Physical spaces for young children need to be more than just safe and functional; they must be inspiring, inclusive, and conducive to exploration and learning. Traditional kindergarten environments often limit children's natural curiosity and their ability to interact meaningfully with their surroundings and peers. This can impact their engagement, motivation to learn, and overall development.

The playground in the courtyard of a new kindergarten with new residential buildings in the background © Alexey Slyusarenko

Furthermore, the design of kindergartens can sometimes neglect considerations of inclusivity and accessibility, making it challenging for all children to participate fully in educational activities. This includes children with diverse learning needs and those with physical disabilities, who may find it difficult to navigate and interact within conventional educational settings.

Modern urban development and the layout of communities can also contribute to these challenges, as educational facilities may be isolated from the vibrant community interactions that enrich children's social experiences and learning opportunities.

The "Kinderspace: Architecture for Children's Development" competition seeks to address these issues by inviting innovative designs that not only meet the fundamental needs of safety and functionality but also creatively integrate elements that promote social interaction, engagement with learning materials, and connection with nature. By rethinking the architecture of kindergarten spaces, we can provide environments that foster a sense of community and belonging, encourage active participation, and support the diverse needs of all children.

This competition offers architects and designers the opportunity to lead the way in redefining educational spaces that will nurture the next generation of learners, helping them to develop the skills and confidence they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Through thoughtful design and strategic use of space, participants can create kindergartens that are not only learning environments but also community hubs that support the growth and development of every child.

The competition

KINDERSPACE

The Kinderspace: Architecture for Children's Development competition is an innovative architectural ideas contest that seeks to redefine kindergarten environments to better support the multifaceted needs of young children. This competition invites architects, designers, and visionaries to devise kindergarten spaces that go beyond basic functionality, creating environments that are integral to early childhood development.

Participants are encouraged to select a site within their locality that could benefit from a new or revitalized kindergarten facility. The chosen site should consider factors such as safety, accessibility, connection to nature, and the potential to become a cornerstone for community interaction. The goal is to design a space that not only serves educational purposes but also acts as a nurturing ground for young minds, promoting their cognitive, emotional, and social development.

The design proposals should embody flexibility and adaptability, accommodating a range of activities and learning styles. Incorporation of natural elements, interactive and sensory spaces, and areas that foster both structured and unstructured play is highly encouraged. These elements should facilitate active engagement, encourage curiosity, and support the health and well-being of the children.

Moreover, submissions should emphasize sustainability and ecological responsibility, showcasing how child-friendly spaces can be crafted with minimal environmental impact. The use of sustainable materials, energy-efficient designs, and integration of green spaces are key considerations, aiming to create not only a safe and stimulating learning environment but also a model of sustainable development in early childhood education settings.

In this competition, the jury will be looking for designs that challenge traditional concepts of kindergarten spaces. Participants are urged to explore innovative ideas and creative solutions that enhance the educational experience and foster a sense of community and belonging. Designs should be sensitive to the needs of diverse learners, including those with disabilities, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all children.

Submissions will be evaluated based on their innovative approach to educational architecture, their effectiveness in fostering child development, adaptability to various learning activities, sustainability, and the overall aesthetic and functionality of the design. The Kinderspace: Architecture for Children's Development competition offers a unique platform for architects and designers to impact the foundational stages of education, potentially shaping the future of how educational spaces are conceived and built.

Building programme

The Kinderspace: Architecture for Children's Development competition seeks to inspire the design of a kindergarten that supports the learning and growth of children aged 3 to 6 years. The facility should cater to approximately 100 children, with a thoughtful allocation for different age groups to ensure that the space meets their specific developmental needs.

Capacity and age proportions

Total capacity:

Age 3-4: 40 children (4 groups of 10 children)

Age 4-5: 30 children (3 groups of 10 children)

Age 5-6: 30 children (3 groups of 10 children)

Total floor area

Indoor space	Approximately 1,500 m²
Outdoor play area	Approximately 800 m²

Educational and play spaces

Classrooms	Each age group should have dedicated classrooms designed to be flexible, allowing for various layouts and activity setups. Classrooms should be equipped with child-sized furniture, storage for educational materials, and areas for arts and crafts, reading, and interactive learning.
Activity rooms	These rooms are for specialized activities such as music, art, and sensory experiences. They should be equipped with appropriate materials and storage to facilitate creative and educational activities that differ from the usual classroom environment.
Multipurpose hall	A large space for assemblies, performances, and indoor sports and games. This area should be versatile, with equipment for various physical activities and gatherings.

Outdoor spaces

Playgrounds	Segmented by age group with age-appropriate play structures, such as slides, swings, and climbing frames, ensuring safety standards are met.
Nature play areas	Spaces that encourage interaction with natural elements like water, sand, and gardens, where children can learn about the environment and engage in creative play.
Sports courts	Small, multipurpose sports areas suitable for various physical activities, promoting physical health and teamwork.

Support and administrative areas

Reception and administration	A welcoming entrance area with a reception desk, waiting area for parents and visitors, and offices for administrative staff.
Staff room	A private area for staff breaks and informal meetings, equipped with basic amenities for comfort and relaxation.
Kitchen and dining area	A facility where meals are prepared and served, adhering to health and safety regulations. The dining area should accommodate all children in shifts or simultaneously, depending on the design.

Health and safety

First aid room	A small medical room equipped to handle minor injuries or health issues, easily accessible from all main areas.
Restrooms and changing facilities	Adequately sized child-friendly facilities located conveniently near classrooms and play areas. Facilities should be accessible for children with disabilities.

Sustainability features

Eco-friendly materials and systems	Use of sustainable, non-toxic materials in construction and finishes. Incorporation of renewable energy sources, like solar panels, and systems like rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling to minimize environmental impact.
Green spaces	Incorporation of indoor and outdoor green spaces, including vertical gardens and small patches of woodland or nature trails, to promote biodiversity and a connection with nature.

This comprehensive building programme aims to foster an environment that is not only conducive to learning and development but also integral to nurturing the young minds who will be the future caretakers of our planet. The design should reflect a balance between functionality, safety, sustainability, and aesthetic appeal, creating a space that children, staff, and parents find welcoming and stimulating.

The BUILDING PROGRAMME is flexible, open for modifications and improved development strategies.

The competition site

The competition site for the Kinderspace: Architecture for Children’s Development offers participants the flexibility to choose a real or conceptual location within their home country that best aligns with their innovative design concepts. When selecting a site, participants should carefully consider several key factors to ensure the project’s effectiveness and its positive impact on young learners.

Site selection criteria

Accessibility:

The site should be easily accessible for children and their families. This includes safe pedestrian pathways, proximity to residential areas, and availability of public transportation. Accessibility considerations should also include features for children with disabilities to ensure inclusivity.

Proximity to essential services:

The site should ideally be near essential services such as healthcare facilities, libraries, and parks.
These services can enrich the educational experience and provide additional resources for children and staff.

Community integration:

The chosen location should offer opportunities to integrate the kindergarten with the local community. This could include areas that would benefit from educational facilities or where a new kindergarten could serve as a catalyst for community revitalization. The site should foster interactions between the kindergarten and the wider community, enhancing the social fabric and providing a community hub.

Environmental considerations:

Participants are encouraged to select sites that allow for the incorporation of natural elements into the design. Locations with existing natural features like trees, gardens, or small streams provide unique opportunities for outdoor learning environments.
The environmental impact should be minimized, promoting a sustainable approach to new construction or redevelopment.

Safety and security:

The location should be in an area that ensures the safety and security of children. Considerations include selecting low traffic areas, ensuring secure boundaries, and choosing a setting that is sheltered from potential environmental hazards.

Sustainable site development

The development of the site should showcase best practices in sustainable design, including optimizing natural light, incorporating energy-efficient systems, and using locally sourced materials. Designs should demonstrate how the site can be developed to reduce the carbon footprint, manage resources wisely, and create a healthy environment for children to learn and grow.

By selecting a thoughtful and strategic location, participants can profoundly impact the functionality, sustainability, and educational effectiveness of their kindergarten designs. The chosen site provides a canvas for architectural innovation and plays a crucial role in the success of the program, aligning with the broader goals of fostering development and learning in early childhood education.

Innovative site integration

Participants are encouraged to creatively consider how the site can enhance the architectural solution. The design should respond to the specific characteristics of the site, such as topography, existing vegetation, sunlight orientation, and prevailing winds. Innovative site integration can also include designing outdoor spaces that serve educational purposes, like vegetable gardens or small wildlife habitats, teaching children about biology and sustainability.

Project proposal requirements

The Kinderspace: Architecture for Children's Development competition requires thoughtful consideration in several key areas to ensure that proposed designs meet the comprehensive needs of a modern, innovative kindergarten. Participants must integrate these elements seamlessly into their designs:

Site selection

Participants should choose a real or imaginative site within their home country that reflects the needs of a dynamic educational environment for children. The site should prioritize:

- **Accessibility:** Easy access for children, staff, and visitors, including those with disabilities.
- **Proximity to essential services:** Close to facilities such as parks, libraries, and emergency services.
- **Potential for community impact:** Ability to enhance the local area, possibly revitalizing underprivileged or underutilized spaces.

Design flexibility

Designs should be adaptable and versatile, facilitating various educational activities and learning styles. Proposals should consider:

- **Modular classrooms:** Spaces that can be reconfigured to suit different group sizes and activities.
- **Indoor-outdoor flow:** Easy transition between indoor classrooms and outdoor learning environments.
- **Inclusive design:** Environments that cater to the diverse needs of all children, including those with special educational needs.

Community integration

The kindergarten should be a hub of community activity, not just for children but also for their families and the surrounding community. Designs should include:

- **Shared spaces:** Areas such as community gardens, event spaces, and play areas that encourage interaction between the kindergarten and the local community.
- **Visibility and access:** Design elements that make the kindergarten a welcoming space for community events and activities.

Sustainability and energy efficiency

Proposals should demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and minimal environmental impact, incorporating:

- **Sustainable materials:** Use of eco-friendly, non-toxic materials in construction.
- **Energy-efficient systems:** Integration of solar panels, energy-efficient lighting, and heating systems.
- **Green spaces:** Design that includes natural landscapes, which are not only aesthetically pleasing but also contribute to the physical and psychological well-being of children.

Aesthetics and innovation

The design should inspire and stimulate young minds through:

- **Creative and inspiring architecture:** Structures that are visually appealing and stimulate the imagination of children.
- **Integration of art and play:** Incorporation of sculptural elements, interactive installations, and themed playgrounds that blend learning with play.
- **Innovative use of technology:** Smart building solutions that enhance the learning environment, such as interactive floors or walls, and advanced safety features.

The proposals will be evaluated based on how well they integrate these aspects into a coherent design that supports the developmental needs of children, fosters a sense of community, and sets new standards in sustainable and innovative architectural design for early childhood education.

Project budget requirements

While the Kinderspace: Architecture for Children's Development competition does not set a specific budget constraint, participants are encouraged to adopt a cost-effective approach in their designs. It is essential that proposals demonstrate a practical understanding of financial feasibility alongside architectural innovation.

Cost-effectiveness

Designs should prioritize economic efficiency through:

- **Material choices:** Opt for materials that offer durability and sustainability at a reasonable cost. Use of local materials can reduce expenses and support local industries.
- **Construction techniques:** Employ construction methods that are not only innovative but also cost-efficient, reducing labor and potential overhead costs.
- **Modular and scalable designs:** Propose solutions that allow for phased construction or expansion, enabling budget allocation over time and adaptability to future needs without significant reinvestment.

Rationalizing expenses

Participants should clearly outline how their designs minimize costs while maximizing functionality and aesthetic value:

- **Lifecycle costs:** Consider the total cost of ownership, including maintenance, energy use, and adaptability of the space. Designs should aim for longevity and flexibility to adapt to changing educational needs.
- **Energy efficiency:** Incorporate passive solar design, natural ventilation, and other energy-saving features to reduce long-term operational costs.
- **Multi-use spaces:** Design spaces that can serve multiple purposes or be reconfigured for various activities to maximize the utility and efficiency of the investment.

Innovative yet practical solutions

Proposals should not only push the envelope in terms of design but also demonstrate practical applicability:

- **Innovative use of technology:** Integrate cost-saving technologies that improve efficiency and reduce long-term costs, such as automated energy management systems or water recycling systems.
- **Community partnerships:** Consider potential partnerships with local businesses or organizations that could share the use and maintenance of the facility, thereby reducing costs and increasing community engagement.

Prizes

Monetary awards

Total prize fund

10,000 €

3 winning proposals, 2 special award recipients and 6 honorable mentions will be selected. Buildner will award a total of 10,000 € in prize money to competition winners as follows:

1st Prize
5,000 €

2nd Prize
2,500 €

3rd Prize
1,000 €

BUILDNER STUDENT AWARD
1,000 € Cash prize

BUILDNER SUSTAINABILITY AWARD
500 € Cash prize

+ 6 honorable mentions

Certificates

Buildner will acknowledge the outstanding performance of all winners with Certificates of Achievement.

Publicity campaign

Media

Buildner's publicity campaign offers extensive exposure to the architectural community, ensuring that the results of the competition are seen by a vast audience:

BUILDNER'S

TWO MILLION

The results are published on buildner.com, a leading website in the architecture industry, attracting over one million unique visitors annually. Additionally, the campaign extends to Buildner’s social networks, which boast over 800,000 followers combined, and through newsletter campaigns reaching over 200,000 subscribers.

BUILDNER

EXTENSIVE MEDIA NETWORK

Buildner leverages an extensive network of media industry leaders to publish the competition results. This broadens the audience further, ensuring that participants’ work is showcased across multiple platforms known for their influence and reach in the architecture and design sectors.

Publicity campaign

Interview & Movie

After participants submit their project, they have the opportunity to upload a questionnaire (in writing) and a video about themselves **on the Buildner project upload panel**, up to five days before the results announcement. The specific submission deadline is indicated in the project upload panel.

These submissions are **OPTIONAL** but highly recommended in case the project is selected amongst the winners to maximize the publicity and media attention their work will receive.

Questionnaires and videos will be published for winners and honorable mentions with the competition results on Buildner's website.

Videos will be published for all participants, including winners, on Buildner's YouTube channel.

Read more about:

The interview – architecturecompetitions.com/interview

The video submission – architecturecompetitions.com/submit-movie

Explore the movies received from Buildner Architecture Competition winners and honorable mentions here - youtube.com/@buildner

Taourirt Kasbah in Ouarzazate, Morocco © Matej Kastelic

Competition schedule

Preliminary registration deadlines

Early Bird Registration
MAY 14 – JUNE 19

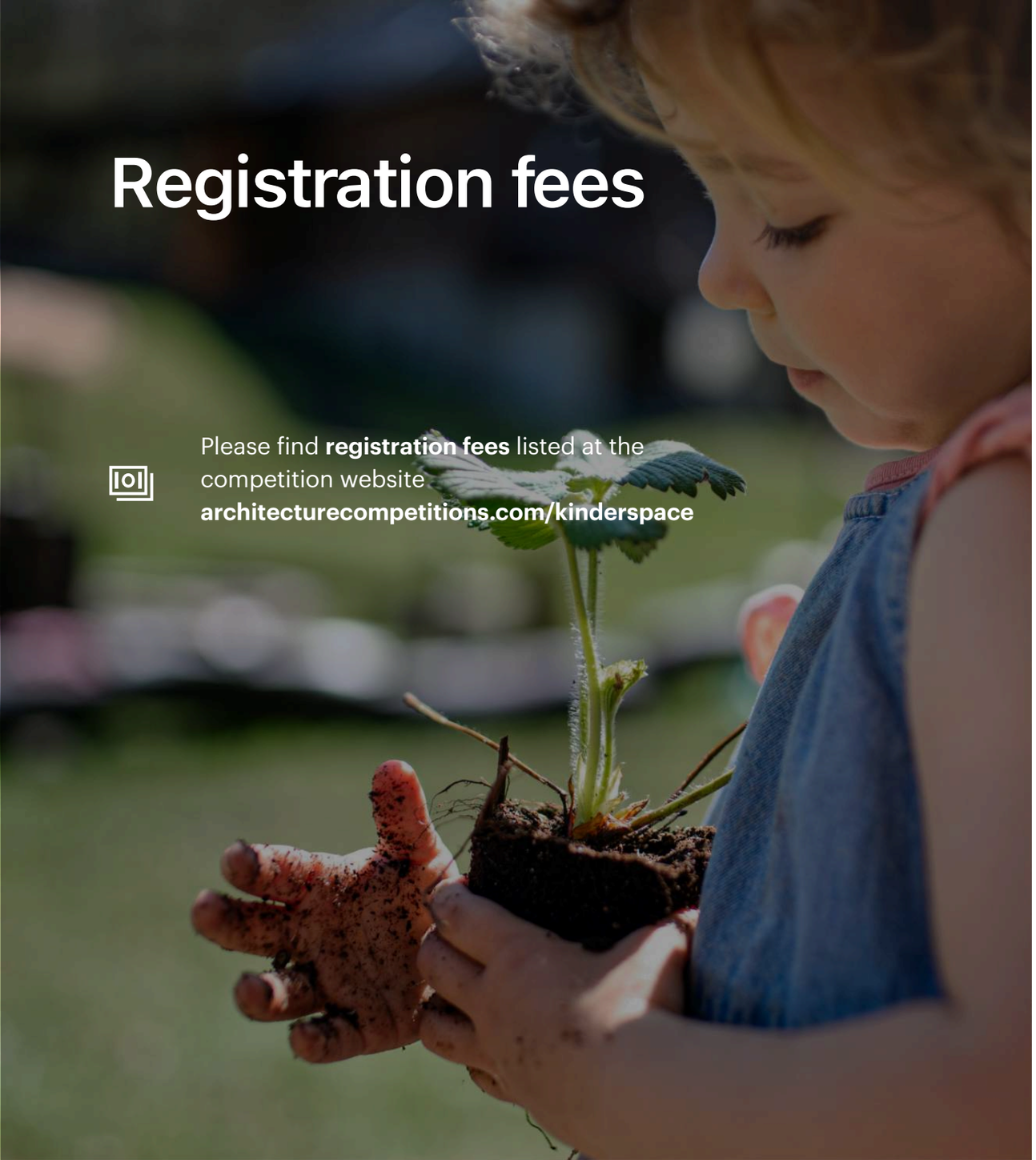
Advance Registration
JUNE 20 - SEPTEMBER 11

Last Minute Registration
SEPTEMBER 12 - NOVEMBER 13

It is still possible to participate in this competition after the preliminary deadlines, however, a higher late registration fee will be charged.

Closing date for questions & answers
NOVEMBER 18, 2024

In order to guarantee equal opportunities to all competition participants, no new questions will be answered after this deadline!



Registration fees

Please find **registration fees** listed at the competition website **architecturecompetitions.com/kinderspace**

Discounts for architecture students

Buildner Architecture Competition Organisers would like to hear from representatives of universities, schools, and colleges offering architecture/design studies.

Contact us to receive special student rates for group registration (discount applies for 3+ registrations from one university/school), as well as further information and support to get your students involved in architecture competitions.

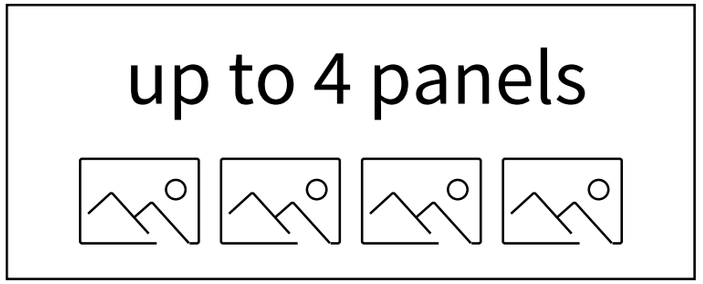
Send us a request from your university email address along with basic information about you and your university/school. Please note that only recognized university staff can apply for the reduced student rate.

Buildner Architecture University rankings

Explore the Buildner's list of the world's 1000+ most competitive architecture universities – **architecturecompetitions.com/architecture-university-rankings**

Submission requirements

- **Participants are required to upload four (4) A2 landscape-orientated presentation boards (must not exceed 10MB per board) with sketches, renderings, plans, sections, elevations, diagrams, and/or other presentation tools to explain their proposal.**

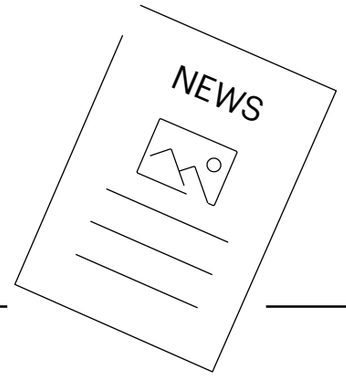


- No video files are accepted.
- All information provided in writing must be in English.
- All submissions must be uploaded via the architecturecompetitions.com upload panel. Access information and instructions on how to upload the presentation board will be issued to participants via email immediately after successful registration.
- Presentation boards must not indicate any information related to individual's/team's identity.

Participants who do not comply with the requirements will be disqualified without refund.

Participants can choose and upload **one project preview image from their presentation** that best describes their project.

- The project preview image would need to be at least 2000x1680 pixels large, orientated horizontally, no more than 10 MB in size, and in jpg/jpeg format.
- The project preview image will be used for promotional materials to showcase the project in case the project is selected as the winner.
- Please note: the competition jury will not see the selected project preview image.



Recommended submission content

For the Kinderspace: Architecture for Children's Development competition, participants are encouraged to provide comprehensive documentation that effectively communicates their design concepts and demonstrates their alignment with the competition objectives. The following elements are recommended for submission:

Site Integration visuals:
Illustrate how the proposed kindergarten design integrates with its chosen site within the community, showcasing how it complements both the natural and built environment. This may include landscape integration, interaction with existing infrastructure, and how the design enhances its immediate surroundings.

Detailed concept designs:
Highlight the quality and innovation of the design, ensuring all aspects are in line with the competition brief. This should reflect thoughtful consideration of the building's function as a developmental space for children, showcasing creative yet practical architectural solutions.

Comprehensive plans and sections:
Submit detailed plans and sections that convey the spatial organization and scale of the kindergarten. This should include multiple internal and external perspectives to demonstrate the quality of the spaces created, emphasizing areas that facilitate educational activities, social interaction, and overall accessibility.

Operational and accessibility features:
Clearly outline how the design addresses operational needs and accessibility requirements. This should cover aspects such as entry points, circulation paths, and facilities tailored to the needs of all users, including those with disabilities.

Environmental and climatic considerations:
Provide an analysis of how the design responds to the local climate and environmental conditions. This should include strategies for sustainable construction and operations, such as energy efficiency, use of sustainable materials, and integration of green spaces.

Lifecycle and material usage:
Demonstrate the feasibility of the project concerning lifecycle costs and material sustainability. Explain how the materials chosen contribute to the longevity and maintenance of the building, and how they are sourced and used responsibly.

Visualization and impact
Renderings or artist's impressions that illustrate the kindergarten in the context of its community setting. These visualizations should highlight how the design contributes to the educational landscape of the area, capturing both the functional and aesthetic value of the project.

Detailed descriptions of construction and maintenance:
Outline proposed construction methods, materials, and management plans. Describe how the building will be maintained and managed sustainably over time, considering environmental impacts, energy management, and overall sustainability.

Presentation deliverables set

- Urban plan
- Street elevations
- Primary sections
- Primary floor plans
- Details (suggested scale 1:5):
  - Envelope
  - Key materials
  - Site or landscape
- Axonometrics providing information on building systems or illustrating key architectural concepts
- Perspectives
  - Primary interior spaces
  - Primary site locations
- Diagrams
  - Circulation
  - Public versus private space
  - Lighting
  - Landscaping
  - Transportation
  - Cityscapes/urban relationships
  - Energy systems

Please note the PRESENTATION DELIVERABLES SET listed above is a suggestion only. Participants can choose to use the entire list, a selection from it, or propose a completely different set that would explain their design in the most efficient manner.

Presentation preliminary review

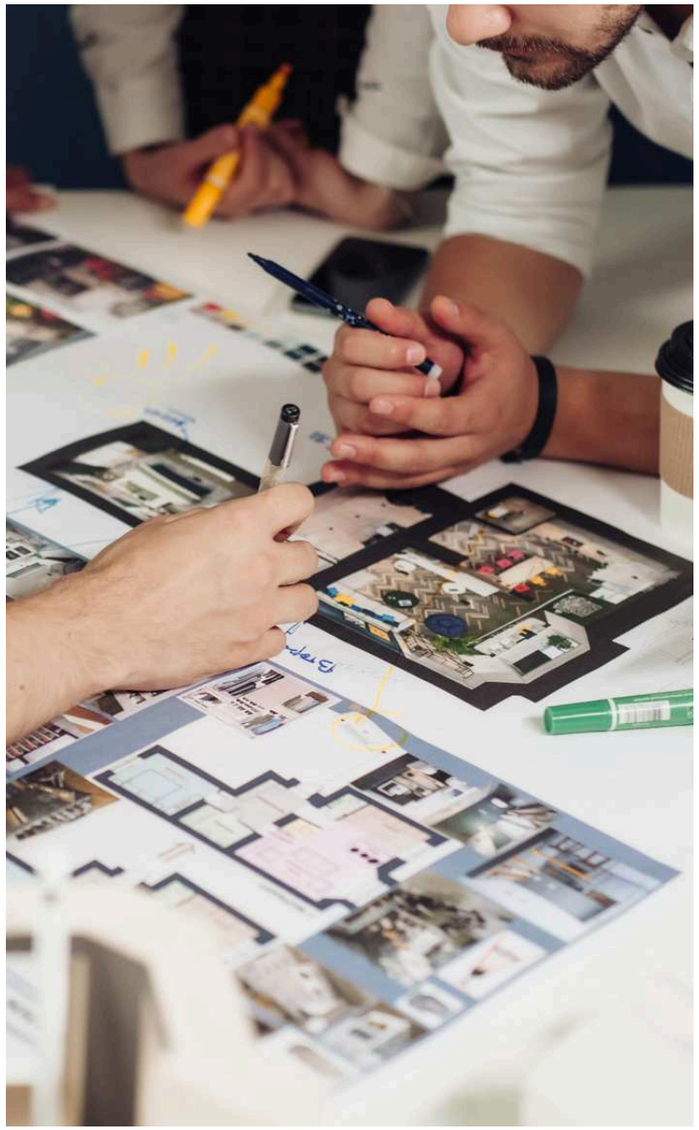
For more than ten years, Buildner has analyzed and rated thousands of architecture competition project submissions. Trust us when we say — the quality of your presentation is vital to convince a jury team of your design intent, and there are several graphic and representational factors that can make it or break it. We can help you make it right!

Buildner can review your presentation and give you valuable feedback!

Participants are welcome to submit their competition presentation draft panel/s **before submitting it/them as a final competition entry for a preliminary review.**

Within 1–3 days, our team will analyze your presentation panel/s and rate them on predefined criteria points, as well as add valuable written feedback on how you can improve your final competition submission.

Find out more here –
architecturecompetitions.com/reviews



Jury

The jury panel members list and biographies are published at
architecturecompetitions.com/kinderspace

Participants are advised to research both the working site and previous similar case studies as part of the design process. For each competition, 6–9 jury panel members are selected. Buildner reserves the right to add/remove the jury panel members at any moment.

Jury members shall under no circumstances be contacted by competition participants or their representatives. Participants who attempt to contact jury members shall be disqualified.
All competition-related communications should be carried out solely with Buildner staff.
For any questions, please contact us at contact@buildner.com

Kinderspace: Architecture for Children's Development is an ideas competition, which encourages participants to test or redefine the boundaries of architecture. The jury may choose to reward projects that show a high degree of creativity, even if they breach competition guidelines, as long as this is justified.

Buildner is committed to selecting the most qualified industry professionals to comprise its jury panels. Jury panels consist of architects, in addition to professionals from other professional backgrounds that are relevant to the competition topic, to guarantee the most objective competition results.

*You may find the invited jury list from **previous** competitions here – architecturecompetitions.com/guest-jury*

Eligibility

The competition is open to all. No professional qualifications are required. Design proposals can be developed individually or by teams (4 team members maximum).

People who have direct personal or professional relationships with jury panel members or organisers may not participate in this competition.

Media partners

A full list of media partners who have committed to present the competition winners in their publications can be found at architecturecompetitions.com/kinderspace

For potential media partners who are also interested in covering the present competition and its winners, please contact us at contact@buildner.com

Competition press kit (in English) and banners are available at architecturecompetitions.com/kinderspace/press

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