

Open Call for Critical Discourses contest 2016

Objective:

Arhitext design Foundation, editor of «Arhitext» magazine (www.arhitext.com), launches this essay contest in order to promote and encourage the critical discourse on architecture in Central and Eastern Europe*.

Theme:

The contest gives the participants the opportunity to approach critically the contemporary architectural phenomenon in Central and Eastern Europe. By means of essays, the persons concerned are able to set out, detail and argue their own vision on the architecture of one country, of more countries or of the entire region of Central and Eastern Europe and/or to make a critical presentation of significant projects built in the 21st century.

Why this contest:

By means of this kind of essay contest we can stimulate and promote architecture critique in the region, we can let young voices, as well as well-known critics, be heard and known, we can outline an overall picture of the multitude of discourses in the area.

The essay contest, a component of the 2016 East Centric Architecture Triennale, tries to stimulate and promote the critical discourse on architecture as a fundamental necessity, of quality architecture, as well as of communication and dialogue with the general public. These also represent the structuring elements of the entire Triennale. Thus, the event gives professionals and students, the critics, the theorists, the philosophers, the sociologists etc., and all those concerned with the field of architecture, the opportunity to state how they perceive contemporary architecture of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. This contest aims to discover ideas and opinion makers, to outline original and challenging concepts, and also to promote examples of quality architecture in this area.

The nominated essays will be presented by their authors at the Triennale, thus enabling them to expose and uphold their ideas at the first architecture Triennale in Central and Eastern Europe and to interact with culture professionals, architects, architecture critics etc. who have come to attend the event.

Who is eligible for participation?

- The participants can be students, architecture or art critics, teachers, philosophers, theorists, sociologists or architects, urban planners, designers with a propensity for theory etc., who are able to draft a critical essay on the architecture of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe* (one country, more countries or the entire region). There are no restrictions related to age, professional training or nationality.

- Only original works shall be accepted. All the copyright (over text and images) shall be managed by the author of the essay, as the organizers shall not be liable for it. By registering for the contest, the author certifies his or her ownership of the copyright and assigns to Arhitext design Foundation the right of publication of the texts and photographs, irrespective of whether or not he/she is nominated. Arhitext design Foundation may publish the materials only in the pages of its (print or online) publications.
- The participants must be available to attend the East Centric 2016 Architecture Triennale on 1st and 2nd October 2016 to be able to present their essays, in case they are nominated (the nominees will be notified to all participants in June). The nominees who are not present at essay presentation before the jury, at the Triennale, will receive a diploma, but will lose the right to receive the money award and will bear the transportation expenses for the books offered as a bonus for being nominated.

Why participate:

- The nominated essays will be published in the regional Arhitext magazine and/or in the critical reader of the *Drifting Triennale*, on the www.arhitext.com website and/or the regional architecture platform www.east-centricarch.eu, thus being brought to the knowledge of the general public.
- The authors of the nominated essays will benefit from promotion at regional level, at the East Centric Architecture Triennale, on the promotional materials thereof, in Arhitext magazine, in the partner magazines and websites of the Triennale.
- The authors of the nominated essays will have the opportunity to interact with architects and architecture critics attending the first Architecture Triennale in Central and Eastern Europe.
- The public expected to come to the Triennale is international, because the event is promoted in the entire Central and Eastern Europe at least, through partner magazines and websites.

How can you register:

Stage I:

- If you meet the requirements to participate in this essay contest and are interested in participating, please send the registration form via e-mail, at address: ecatriennale@gmail.com, **until 2nd March, 11:59 pm, GMT+2 at the latest.**
- Arhitext design Foundation will send you a confirmation e-mail within maximum 2 business days. If you do not receive the confirmation e-mail, please re-send the form.

Stage II:

- All those who registered for the first stage can send the essay (accompanied or not by images, as the case may be) by **20th April 2016, 11:59 pm, GMT+2.**
- All materials shall be submitted in digital format. For materials exceeding 10 Mb, please use www.yousendit.com, www.wetransfer.com or any other transfer website (or FTP) and include the link to the transfer archive (or the FTP address with a user name and password) in the e-mail whereby you send the essay.
- A person can participate with more essays as long as such essays meet the submission requirements, and the person registered in the first stage with all the essays he/she wishes to send

and transmits all complete essays in separate folders, named adequately, so as to avoid any confusion upon the opening of the material.

- All written materials must be submitted in the English language, as there is an international jury.
- Arhitext design Foundation will send you a confirmation e-mail within maximum 2 business days. If you do not receive the confirmation e-mail, please re-send the materials.

The nominees chosen by the jury will be announced by email on 1st June 2016.

Stage III:

- In the IIIrd stage of the contest, the nominees must be present at the East Centric 2016 Architecture Triennale on 1st and 2nd October 2016, to present their essays.
- The essays shall be presented at the Triennale in the English language, irrespective of the author's country of origin, as there is an international jury.
- The nominees who are not present at essay presentation before the jury, at the Triennale, will lose the right to receive the money award if they are declared winners and will bear the transportation expenses for the books offered in the nominations stage.

Materials required to register in the contest – mandatory:

- Registration form submitted in the Ist stage.
- Transmission, in the IInd stage, of maximum 5 Word pages (without images and references) having a maximum of 20,000 characters with spaces (Font 12, Times New Roman). The first page shall contain the name of the author, the title and a summary. The summary shall have maximum 2,000 characters with spaces.
- It is mandatory to send the texts in .doc or .docx format.
- You must draft the essay in accordance with the European system of citation (that is using footnotes).
- In the IInd stage please also attach a brief, but relevant CV of maximum 3 pages.
- If you have any illustrations accompanying your text, such shall meet the following requirements:
 1. All photographs must be in .JPG format, TIFF format, 350 dpi format, at least 1 MB per photograph.
 2. All technical details (drawings, sketches, plans etc.) shall be sent in vectorial format, .pdf or .eps.
 3. All photographs shall state the owners of the copyright; all copyright shall be managed and obtained by the specialist who submits the text. The transmission of the material implies your agreement to the publication of the text accompanied by pictures on the platform www.east-centricarch.eu, on www.arhitext.com and in the Arhitext magazine and/or in other publications of the Arhitext design foundation.
- All written materials shall be submitted in the English language, as there is an international jury.

Deadlines:

- Questions and answers: 22 January 2016 – 11 February 2016
- Stage I: Registration stage: 22 January 2016 – 2nd March 2016

- Stage II: Transmission of essays for the contest: 20th April 2016
- Announcement concerning the essays nominated by the jury: 1st June 2016
- Stage III: Presentation of nominated essays before the jury, at the Triennale: 1st and 2nd October 2016
- Award ceremony: 2nd October 2016

The jury of the contest consists of:

President of the jury: Alberto Pérez-Gómez

Jury members:

Luigi Pintacuda – Italy

Marko Sančanin – Croatia

Arpad Zachí – Romania

Ana Maria Zahariade – Romania

Assessment criteria:

- Adequacy of language to the theme approached
- Coherence and clarity of discourse
- Quality of arguments and degree of originality
- Topical nature and relevance of the approached theme
- Overall deliverance quality

Prizes:

The budget assigned for awarding the 5 nominees is **2500 euros**.

The winner of the contest will receive a supplementary prize consisting of **1000 euros**.

* Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Republic of Moldavia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine

About Arhitext design Foundation: Arhitext design has represented, for more than 25 years, a tool for the constant screening of the Romanian cultural space and for the harmonization with the international cultural trends in the fields of architecture, art and design. Supported in its endeavors by (Romanian and foreign) architects and established theorists of these fields, Arhitext Design foundation has managed to valorize the concept of sustainable development through its projects, to encourage the critical spirit and thus to outline new tendencies and to identify present and future values. Some of the most important aspects considered by the Foundation in its endeavors are inter-disciplinarity and the exchange of ideas between various related fields. The objectives the Foundation set out to achieve 25 years ago were reached one by one, Arhitext design becoming a platform for the exchange of ideas, for the observation of critical and theoretical stances which concurrently form and shape a cultural context we continually need.