Call for entries Superscape 2024 FORM FOLLOWS ENVIRONMENT – Regenerative Architecture

Superscape

2024

Initiators:

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in cooperation with the Vienna Business Agency

Project Management:

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Context:
Architecture Award Superscape

Population growth, increasing urbanisation and social change pose new challenges for architecture and urban planning. Reflecting these processes of change, Superscape opens a creative space for unconventional ideas meant to deliver new impulses to real-life architectural output and urban development. The biennial prize seeks to encourage innovative and visionary architectural concepts with an interdisciplinary approach that explore new models of living and strategies for inhabiting an urban context in the future.

In 2024 the Superscape prize takes place for the sixth time – a joint project of the non-profit developer WBV-GPA Wohnbauvereinigung für Privatangestellte and the private developer Lenikus Immobilien.

www.superscape.at

Objectives 2024:
FORM FOLLOWS ENVIRONMENT – Regenerative Architecture

In light of the condition of our planet and of the gigantic demographic changes that will take place in the decades to come, architecture and construction industry are confronted with enormous challenges and issues that have to be addressed urgently and dealt with as fast as possible.

Sustainability will not be sufficient in the future. Growth pressure and simultaneous depletion of resources demand a completely new way of and change in thinking. Regenerative principles have to become an integral part of architecture and urban planning. Form follows environment: Architecture, understood as extension of the location, the terrain, the flora and fauna and the ecosystem, creates concepts that will turn around ecological damages and have a positive impact on the natural surroundings. The goal is to become climate-positive instead of climate-neutral.

In practice, this also means that construction has to be circular construction with sustainable materials and techniques and that the protagonists of the construction as well as of the real estate industry are required to choose innovative paths: Renovation instead of demolition; maintenance, transformation and flexible use of already existing buildings; material recycling, upcycling of building structures, retrofitting and urban mining – all of this and much more will contribute to optimising the use of stock and resources. The re-use-principle also helps revaluating and preserving technical skills and creates local jobs.

In this context, there are many central questions that have to be dealt with:

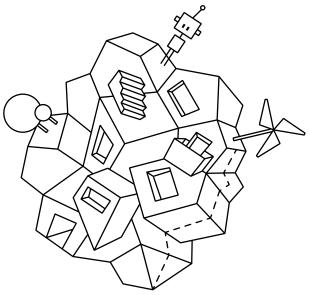
What does regenerative/resilient architecture look like in practice?

How can we use nature as medium and generator of architecture, how can we include living systems as components and imitate the restorative aspects of nature? How can we design structures that will not continue to use our limited resources but will restore them instead?

What do fundamental changes of our construction industry look like and how can we provide a constructive input on the implementation of the holistic principles of a circular creation of value?

How can we deal with natural resources in a careful and responsible way and at the same time create affordable and financeable living space for a continually growing urban population in a socially sustainable way?

How can we create resilient surroundings that can face the challenges caused by climate change?



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Architecture Award
Superscape 2024

Vienna, 04.10.2023

In this context, the thinking and planning approach of biophilic urbanism have to be explored and substantiated: How can we integrate nature (light, water, plants, weather, natural landscape, the ecosystem) systematically into the urban texture in order to create restorative places and spaces?

How can biomimicry and nature based solutions be integrated into planning considerations and how can they be implemented according to the EU Green Deals and the New European Bauhaus?

Which and in what way can biomaterial be used for the development of regenerative urban ecosystems? How can biomaterials that are obtained for example from fast growing plants or residues and waste materials from the cycles of urban living spaces become the basis for urban bio-loops and regenerative building constructions?
What are concepts for dealing with the surroundings/ the urban structure?

To what extent do aspects like choice of location (in-fill development, densification), already existing buildings (revitalizing, renovation, restoration), soil (on-site-processing e.g. excavation soil), interdependencies on location (energy communities, closing material cycles, multiple use), land consumption (optimising foundation and basement design, minimising urban sprawl), building size and structural shape (multiple use, compact construction, optimised surface-to-volume-ratio) have to be considered in this context?

Considering the urgence of the upcoming challenges, the Superscape Prize is more than ever a “call for action” that shall contribute to push innovative thinking towards urgent action. The current Superscape theme shall not only further the mind shift from sustainable to regenerative architecture as strategy for coping with the climate and biodiversity crisis and for establishing it as basis of a new architectural canon, but it is also the intention to make a practice-oriented contribution for an innovative building industry of the future for a social and sustainable society.

Motivation of the Organisers

In 2024 the Superscape prize takes place for the sixth time – a joint project of the non-profit developer WBV-GPA Wohnbau-vereinigung für Privatangestellte and the private developer Lenikus Immobilien.

Both are developing not only residential areas, but also living spaces. As such, they are keen to support social, cultural and environmental concerns as part of their corporate responsibility. Since architecture and urban planning always intervene in the social environment, it is important to contribute to a sustainable discourse in the field of tension between architecture, its actors, residents and designers. Thus, Superscape mainly focuses on establishing a long-term workshop of ideas and providing visionary concepts that deliver impulses for today's projects.

Award Process and Organisation

The organisation and implementation of the architectural competition is the responsibility of art:phalanx, agency for culture and urbanism.

Brigitte Auer
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The Award Process and Procedural Basis

The first phase of the architectural competition is an anonymous, open process. After the expert jury has nominated the shortlist (max. six projects), the individual protagonists will be invited to participate in a non-anonymous process, during which the project sketches will be elaborated further. The legal basis for the process is this call for entries and the answers to the questions asked to the organisers (FAQ), which can be viewed in an anonymised version at www.superscape.at/eng/.

The competition will be carried out in German. Submissions in English are alsoaccepted. By submitting materials, candidates acknowledge the rules of the competition. The decisions of the expert jury are final. The adjudication and the ranking of the submissions cannot be appealed against. Legal recourse is excluded.

Eligibility

Eligible candidates must have at least a degree in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning or design from a university or academy. Multi- disciplinary teams are eligible, provided they have at least one member who fulfils these criteria. Eligibility must be proven by submitting a copy of the degree certificate. If the submitted project or concept is the subject of a commercial assignment or a research project, this must be stated explicitly.

Criteria for Exclusion or Elimination

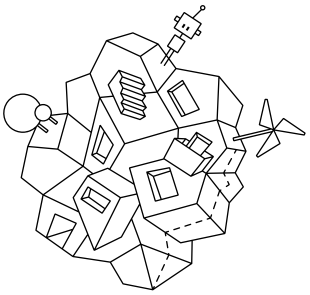
The following are excluded from participation:
Anyone involved in preparing the text of the call for entries.
The preliminary adjudicators and jury members, their close relatives, as well as their office or company partners.
A submission shall also be excluded if the candidate tries to influence a member of the expert jury in his or her decision as a jury member.

Prize Value

The architectural competition Superscape 2024 is endowed with 10.000,- euros (including the value added tax applicable at the place of residence or establishment of the winner). The participants of the shortlist will receive an expense allowance of 2.000,- euros (also including the VAT applicable at the place of residence or establishment of the participants).

Dates

End of submission Phase 1: Friday, March 15, 2024, 4 pm (CET)
First meeting of the Expert Jury: April 2024
Announcement of the shortlist and the additional prize winner: May 2024
End of submission Phase 2: August 30, 2024
Final meeting of the Expert Jury: September 2024
Public announcement of the winning project: October 2024



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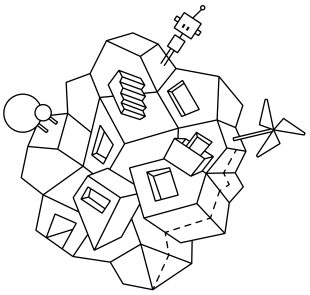

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Materials for Submission

Phase 1
Explanation of the submitted idea as a concept sketch (max. 1 DIN A4 page). The jury receives all anonymous submissions of phase 1 in advance. From these, each jury member selects projects for their personal shortlist (max. 6 projects) by the first jury meeting, which are then discussed in the jury meeting.

2. Phase: Ausarbeitung Shortlist
Elaboration of the submitted conceptual sketch in one or several freely chosen analogue or digital media, following feedback from the expert jury, and design of a poster (format: DIN A1 portrait in printable quality), allowing a unified presentation of the elaborated concepts. In addition to these materials, which must be submitted digitally, it is permissible in principle to submit further artefacts, such as models, by mail.

In a second jury meeting in September 2024, a winning project will be selected from the shortlisted projects, which will then be presented in October 2024. All materials can be submitted in German or English.

Materials to be Submitted in Phase 1

Organizational documents
in the form of a collected PDF document consisting of:

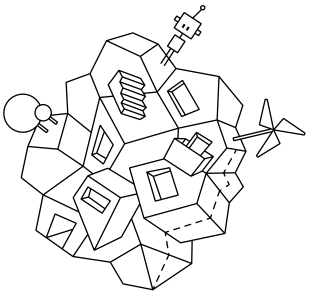
- Degree certificate in architecture, landscape architecture, spatial planning or design from a university, university of applied sciences or academy (at least one team member)
- Proof of planning or research references, if applicable
- completed and signed contact form (address, e-mail address and telephone number, names of team members) incl. signed data protection declaration

Anonymised content documents
in the form of a collected PDF document consisting of:

- max. 1 DIN A4 page concept draft in font size 12
- max. 1 DIN A4 page visual sketch of the conceptual approach

The documents are to be submitted in two different PDF documents (1.PDF: organisational documents, 2.PDF: anonymised content documents). If required, visual sketches can also be submitted in print quality. The collected submission documents are to be sent digitally and completely, labelled/named with a freely chosen project name/project number, by e-mail or via a file hosting service (Dropbox, wetransfer, ftp) to submission@superscape.at

Deadline for submission: Friday, March 15, 2024, 4 p.m., CET



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Preliminary checking and anonymisation of submitted materials

A preliminary check and anonymisation of the submitted materials will be undertaken by art:phalanx. Submissions will be checked for compliance with the eligibility requirements and formal requirements; they will then be forwarded in anonymised form to the members of the expert jury.

- consideration of environmental sustainability
- socio-cultural and social relevance
- architectural and urban planning component
- Innovative content

Expert Jury:

Anna-Vera Deinhammer (AT)
Angelika Fitz (AT)
Thomas Romm (AT)

Award documents

The award documents are available exclusively at:
www.superscape.at

Further Information

Please address all inquiries about the modalities of Superscape 2024 to submission@superscape.at.

Copyrights and Usage Rights

The copyrights of the submitted concepts remain with their authors, without limitations. In the context of documentation, media coverage and the communication campaign for Superscape, the procedural organisation reserves the right to use the project texts and graphics as well as any other submitted materials, provided that the authors are named. By submitting the entry documents including the signed entry form, the authors agree to this use. Furthermore, they agree to the use of their personal contact data (name, address, telephone number, e-mail address) for submissions in the context of Superscape, provided that their data is not passed on to third parties for this purpose. The authors can revoke this agreement by sending an email to mail@superscape.at. With regards to your data as recorded by Superscape you have the fundamental right to be informed about and correct this data and to limit and object to the processing of this data as well as to the passing on of any personal data.