ARKXSITE
architecture competitions

SITE TOWER
international architecture ideas competition

January 21, 2021 - May 08, 2021 | www.arkxsite.com

1. OVERVIEW

This international one-stage architecture ideas competition invites all architecture students, young architects and young professionals with a degree in architecture studies (≤ 40 years old) to develop and submit compelling ideas for the design of a **Site Tower** located in the beautiful scenery of **Monsaraz**, Alentejo, Portugal.

The village of Monsaraz and the great lake of Alqueva are significant landmarks located within a remarkable territory; a beautiful landscape scenery where the remains of the rural hermitage nestled amongst rolling hills with sporadic vegetation and slate stone are notable natural features within this setting.

When generating a vision for an intervention located within such a remarkable place, it is essential that each design proposal emphasises, respects and celebrates the site and existing ruin, while providing a unique and memorable experience.

2. COMPETITION

The **Site Tower** is a secluded landmark, a place to capture the history of the site and engage with the landscape and beautiful scenery of the Alqueva lake. Mediating between exterior and interior spaces from the ground to the emptiness above, it is an embodied experience of light and air through movement and places of rest; a contemplative journey through memory, time and place.

| Site Description

Climate: Summers are dry and hot while winters experience moderate temperatures. The annual average temperature is 16.4°C. The warmest month is July with the average temperature of 24.5°C and the coldest month is January with the average temperature of 9.3°C.

Latitude: 38°26'32.33"N

Longitude: 7°22'33.49"W

Altitude: 257 m

Rainfall: Total average annual precipitation is 571 mm. The driest month is July, with an average of 4 mm of precipitation and the highest rainfall is in November, with an average of 77 mm.

Relative Humidity: The annual average relative humidity is around 67%.

Winds: Predominant winds are from the north.

| **Site History**

Hermitage of 'São Lázaro', Monsaraz, Alentejo, Portugal

The village of Monsaraz, enclosed by medieval walls, rises above a rocky escarpment overlooking the Guadiana valley and the Spanish border. With existing traces of being a fortified castro during pre-history, it was successively occupied by the Romans, Visigoths and Moors.

From its geographical strategic location, Monsaraz was an important military structure to strengthen the border defense system. In the 17th century, during the Restoration War, the defensive perimeter (of Vauban type) reinforced the medieval wall from the outside. The new bastion fortification included the Chapel and Fort of 'São Bento' and several bastions on the eastern slope.

The rural hermitage, isolated on the eastern slope of Monsaraz and located along the pedestrian path towards the 'Santa Catarina' chapel, was built in the early 14th century. The hermitage of 'São Lázaro' was abandoned and left in ruins during the 17th century.

Today, Monsaraz and the great lake of Alqueva are important landmarks within the territory; the natural beauty and the memory of the place are remarkable features within the landscape.

| Program

SITE TOWER

The Site Tower is a secluded landmark, a place to capture the history of the site and engage with the landscape and beautiful scenery of the Alqueva lake. Mediating between exterior and interior spaces from the ground to the emptiness above, it is an embodied experience of light and air through movement and places of rest; a contemplative journey through memory, time and place.

Entrance *
Provide a space of transition between the natural landscape and the Site Tower.

Resting / Viewing *
Provide an intimate ascending / descending path (with spaces to rest, allowing visitors to experience moments of silence and solitude, open and / or enclosed to the natural elements.

Information space *
Area designated to provide visitors with information about the history and memory of the place; it can be a singular space or a sequence of spaces, open and / or enclosed to the natural elements.

Look-out point *
Provide an intimate place for contemplation with breath-taking panoramic views of the landscape and the beautiful scenery of the Alqueva lake, offering visitors a unique experience within the immensity of the place; it can be a singular space or a sequence of spaces, open and / or enclosed to the natural elements.

* Areas to be determined by each participant's design proposal.

Total area of the Site Tower to be determined by each participant's proposal.

Notes:
The overall design of the Site Tower must be sensitive to the surrounding context. There are no limitations in height or excavation. The 'São Lázaro' Hermitage ruin may or may not be included within the Site Tower design proposal. Because this is an ideas competition, urban planning and building regulations will not be applied to the design proposal.

| Downloads

All documentation such as cad drawings and site photos required to develop the competition proposal are available at **www.arkxsite.com**. Any additional information will not be provided during or after the registration period. All of the documentation was prepared, organised and published by the **ArkxSite** team for the sole purpose of this architecture ideas competition and may not be used for any other purposes.

3. AWARDS

The jury members will award three prizes and seven honorable mentions.

1st Prize	**2000 €** (Two thousand euros)
2nd Prize	**1000 €** (One thousand euros)
3rd Prize	**500 €** (Five hundred euros)

7 Honorable Mentions

Publication

All submissions will be published on the **ArkxSite** website. All reasonable efforts will be made to publish and promote the winners and honorable mentions in architectural magazines and blogs worldwide; however, such results will rely on agreements made between the publication entities and ArkxSite.

Notes:
• Honorable Mention citations will not include a cash prize;
• This is strictly an ideas competition, an academic exercise and will not be built. ArkxSite or any other organisations do not have authority or intention to award contracts for design services as a result of this competition. Awarded proposals should consider their award as recognition of excellent work in this competition.
• Depending on which country, award prizes might be subject to tax withholdings.

4. JURY MEMBERS

The jury members will be composed of international professional architects and will be announced on the **ArkxSite** website.

| Evaluation Process

The jury members will review and evaluate all eligible competition proposals and will select the 3 winners and 7 Honorable Mentions. The jury members will base their decision on their own expertise, the work submitted by the participants and the information available on the competition website.

For whatever reason a jury member is unable to review and evaluate during the evaluation period, the jury member may be replaced by an alternate member selected by **ArkxSite**.

Evaluation criteria will be based on:
• Originality and quality of the proposal's design vision
• Responsiveness of the proposal to the competition's objectives
• Appropriateness to the site and its context
• Quality and clarity of the presentation

5. SCHEDULE

Competition opening	January 21, 2021
FAQ questions deadline	April 02, 2021
FAQ answers posted	April 09, 2021
Early Registration period	January 21 - March 22, 2021
Regular Registration period	March 23 - April 23, 2021
Late Registration period	April 24 - May 03, 2021
Submission Deadline	May 08, 2021
Jury Evaluation	May 21 - June 04, 2021
Competition Results	July 23, 2021

Notes:

• FAQ (frequently asked questions) available on the **ArkxSite** website;

• All deadlines are established **@ 23:59 hrs** (Current local time in Portugal)

6. FAQ

Any questions related to the information found within this brief may be addressed by sending your questions to the email address: **info@arkxsite.com** or by using the contact form found on the **ArkxSite** website.

Questions will be answered and published on the FAQ page of the website on the date stated in the competition schedule. Questions related to this competition brief that are received after the FAQ deadline will not be addressed nor answered.

7. REGISTRATION

| Eligibility

The competition is open to all architecture students (undergraduate, graduate, master, PhD, etc.), young architects and young professionals with a degree in architecture studies (≤ 40 years old).

Each team may be composed of **1 up to 4 team members** and may include multidisciplinary members (landscape architects, urban designers, artists, etc) as long as a single architecture student, young architect or young professional with a degree in architecture studies is part of the team. It is not mandatory to be a registered architect.

All members of the team must be ≤ 40 years old on the date of the submission deadline.

Jury members or those involved with the preparation and organisation of this competition may not participate.

| Registration Process

All participants are required to submit the online registration form and complete a payment prior to the registration deadline established by the competition schedule in order for their competition proposal to be reviewed and evaluated. The registration process can be completed in 3 simple steps:

1. Registration form
Complete and submit the registration form located on the **ArkxSite** website
www.arkxsite.com/registration

2. Payment
Select one of the following payment options: PayPal or by Bank transfer (see Payment Methods).

3. Registration Code: Upon submitting the online registration form and completing the payment, the participant should email a copy of the transaction receipt to **submission@arkxsite.com** as proof of payment. **The email subject must include the name of the team leader**.

Once both registration form and payment are completed and received by ArkxSite, the team leader will then receive a **Registration Code** by email within **48 hours** (2 business days) confirming the registration in the competition. This **Registration Code** must be included in the **upper right hand corner** of the submitted panel.

| Fees

Early registration period	January 21 - March 22, 2021	**60€ + VAT***
Regular registration period	March 23 - April 23, 2021	**80€ + VAT***
Late registration period	April 24 - May 03, 2021	**100€ + VAT***

* A tax of 23% (VAT rate in Portugal) will be applied to the fees listed above.

Early registration fee	**60 € + 23% = 73,80 €**
Regular registration fee	**80 € + 23% = 98,40 €**
Late registration fee	**100 € + 23% = 123,00 €**

Notes:

• The registration fee refers to a single competition submission with one registration code.

• Competitors may submit as many entries as they desire; however, each submission must have a unique registration code obtained through the registration form and payment process.

• Teams can not change the team leader or team members after submitting the online registration form and completing the payment.

| Payment Methods

PayPal *

Is a secure, fast and easy method for making international online payments. PayPal accepts debit cards and all major credit cards. (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, etc.). Upon completing the payment, the participant should email a copy of the transaction receipt to **submission@arkxsite.com** as proof of payment. **The email subject must include the name of the team leader**.

Bank transfer *

An alternative payment method can be made by bank transfer to the account listed below. Upon completing the payment, the participant should email a copy of the transaction receipt to **submission@arkxsite.com** as proof of payment. **The email subject must include the name of the team leader**.
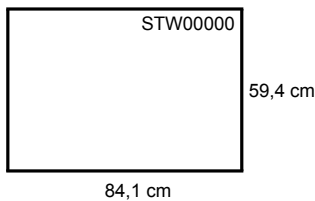
ArkxSite, Lda.
Bank: Banco BPI, S.A.
IBAN: PT50 0010 0000 5168 6920 0019 5
SWIFT/BIC: BBPIPTPL

Notes:

• Any bank fees related to the bank transfer are the sole responsibility of those who are registering for the competition;

• Keep in mind the registration period deadline established by the competition schedule prior to making the payment.

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8. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS	**SITE TOWER** Submission Deadline: **May 08, 2021** @ 23:59 hrs (Current local time in Portugal)

The competition submission will consist of a **single digital file** and should comply with the following requirements:

File Format:
- **(1) - A1 sized panel** (84,1 cm x 59,4 cm), **Landscape / Horizontal layout**
- **Registration Code must be located in the upper right-hand corner of the submitted panel**

Graphic layout:
- Graphic layout includes **text, drawings and renderings** to be determined by each team; however, the **program areas** should be clearly identified on the panel.

File type / size / name:
- **JPG** (RGB Color) with **5 Megabytes** (maximum). Recommended **300 dpi** resolution. The **JPG** file may be compressed to a **ZIP** file format.
- **File name** should only include the **Registration Code**.
  For example: **STW00000.jpg**

```
STW00000
```
59,4 cm
84,1 cm

| Online Submission

The competition panel must be submitted **only once** using the online file-transferring platform **WeTransfer.com** as a single file (JPG file may be compressed to a ZIP file format) and addressed to **submission@arkxsite.com**. Any submission made by other methods will not be downloaded.

| Submission Deadline

The competition panel should be sent prior to the deadline established on the competition schedule. Competitors are responsible for the arrival of their proposals within the corresponding deadline; therefore, time should be allowed for uploading the files via **wetransfer.com**. No proposal will be evaluated if received after the submission deadline.

| Submission Confirmation

Participants who submitted panels should receive an automatic confirmation email from WeTransfer. A second confirmation email will be sent from ArkxSite within **72 hours (3 business days) after the submission deadline**.

9. RULES

| Language

The official language of the competition is **English**.

| Anonymity

This is an international, anonymous, single-stage design competition open to all architecture students (undergraduate, graduate, master, PhD, etc.), young architects and young professionals with a degree in architecture studies (≤ 40 years old). Each team may be composed of 1 up to 4 team members and may include multidisciplinary members (landscape architects, urban designers, artists, etc) as long as a single architecture student, young architect or young professional with a degree in architecture studies is part of the team. It is not mandatory to be a registered architect. All members of the team must be ≤ 40 years old on the date of the submission deadline (refer to Eligibility). All competition submissions are to remain anonymous throughout the competition phase and will only be identified using a unique registration code assigned by ArkxSite during the registration process (refer to the submission requirements). No entry will be reviewed or evaluated that contains any mark, logo or other indication of the identity of the team members located on the competition panel. The identification of the 3 winners and 7 honorable mentions awarded competition panels will only be revealed after the jury evaluation phase and at the time the competition results are published on the ArkxSite website.

| Refunds

Under no circumstances will the early, regular and late registration fees be refunded. The registration fees can only be applied to this competition and can not be transferred to a future competition under any circumstances.

| Ownership and Copyrights

Full ownership and copyrights of all submissions in connection to this competition are retained by the author of the work; however, ArkxSite retains the rights to publish (printed or online) and promote the submitted material at their own discretion regarding formats, sizes and composition layouts. All submissions will subsequently become part of the ArkxSite's digital archive.

If any participant wishes to publish, exhibit or promote their competition submission on any website, publications or social media, after the competition results are made public, they are granted the rights to do so, as long as the title of this competition together with ArkxSite are properly referenced and credited as the competition organiser.

| **Award notification**

All awarded teams will be notified by email.

| **Disqualification**

Competition submissions will be automatically disqualified if:

- any attempt of any form of communication regarding this competition is made with the jury members or those involved with the preparation and organisation of this competition;
- any competition submission is received after the deadline as stated on the competition schedule;
- any competition submission contains any mark, logo or other indication of the identity the author/s;
- any competition submission does not abide by the online submission requirements and rules as stated in this competition brief.

| **Conditions**

- By submitting a proposal for this competition, each team member agrees and accepts the requirements, rules and conditions as listed in this competition brief, as well as final decision of the jury;
- ArkxSite reserves the right to cancel or suspend or alter the competition brief and schedule at any time during the competition, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of its control. Any such changes will be made public on the website;
- This is strictly an ideas competition, an academic exercise and will not be built. ArkxSite or any other organisations do not have authority or intention to award contracts for design services as a result of this competition. Awarded proposals should consider their award as recognition of excellent work in this competition;
- Awarded competition participants may be asked for proof of their eligibility;
- Urban planning and building regulations will not be applied to the design proposal. The competition is organized by ArkxSite as an academic exercise to promote debate and reflection, encouraging new perspectives and innovative strategies of intervention within the territory;
- The jury members reserve the right to award any competition submission that reinterprets the parameters of the competition's objectives, when it is justified by the originality and quality of the proposal's design;
- Participants shall have no claim nor legal action against ArkxSite in respect to this competition or any alteration made to this competition brief or the documentation such as cad drawings, site photos and site videos that were provided to develop the competition proposal.

10. CONTACT

For general questions please contact us at the email address: **info@arkxsite.com** or fill out the contact form on the website. Any question related to this competition brief should be emailed prior to the FAQ deadline. (see competition schedule). Any questions regarding the registration process and/or payment methods can be made until the Registration Deadline.

If interested, you may also sign up to our newsletter mailing list via email for the latest news and updates of all future competitions, sign up at the bottom of the website.

On behalf of the **ArkxSite** team, we welcome you and wish all the participants the very best of luck in the competition.

The **ArkxSite** Team
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