

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

GREAT KEMERI BOG VISITOR CENTER

COMPETITION CONDITIONS

PARTNERS:



Nature
Conservation Agency
Republic of Latvia

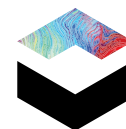
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Bee Breeders Architecture Competition Organisers,
in partnership with
Latvia Nature Conservation Agency,
have prepared this document for the
GREAT KEMERI BOG VISITOR CENTER
architecture competition.

Full Competition Terms & Conditions:
KEMERIVISITORCENTER.beebreeders.com/terms

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architecture competition organisers
hello@beebreeders.com
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INTRODUCTION

The Kemer National Park is the third-largest national park in Latvia, and covers over 380 km². The park is home to countless species of birds and wildlife, with a varied landscape that makes it a popular visitor attraction. Just 10% of the park is occupied by lakes, rivers and sulphur springs, while over half of it is forest.

Nearly a quarter of the park, however, is made up of bogs, and this is what most of the park's visitors come to experience. The Kemer Bog boardwalk offers guests a chance to explore the vast network of wooden boardwalks and nature paths that traverse the park. Visitors can see nature up close and venture into a world seemingly untouched by man.

The Great Kemer Bog Visitor Center architecture competition is the second in a series run in conjunction with the Latvia Nature Conservation Agency. The participants are invited to submit designs for an iconic entranceway to Latvia's beautiful Keremi National Park, with winning projects being put forward for consideration for construction.

LATVIA

Latvia has been described as a vast, unspoilt parkland that is a tapestry of sea, lakes, and woods. With only one major cosmopolitan city, the capital city Riga, Latvia is a small country that provides its visitors and inhabitants with a vast amount of personal space. As one of the greenest countries in the world, most of Latvia is composed of fertile lowland plains and moderate hills. The countryside is a mixture of vast forests, fields, farmsteads and pastures, with hundreds of kilometres of undeveloped seashore, lined with pine forests, dunes, and continuous white sand beaches.

Latvia lies in Northern Europe, on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea and northwestern part of the East European craton, with a mixed and diverse cultural history birthed from having at one point been invaded by almost every regional power. It has a temperate humid continental climate, with coastal regions possessing more of a maritime climate with cooler summers and milder winters.



River in Latvia; © Jūlija Millere <https://www.momenti.lv/>





Autumn in Latvia; © Anita Austvika <https://www.momenti.lv/>

TOURISM IN LATVIA

Latvia has yet to be properly discovered by the large tourist crowds, with the capital city of Riga still being the country's main tourism hub. The dynamic capital is a unique city that boasts beautiful Art Nouveau architecture, traditional cobblestone lanes, the historic old quarter, and steeples as far as the eye can see.

However, the country's biggest resource is its breathtaking natural regions. Latvia provides endless opportunities for both locals and visitors alike to enjoy the pristine natural beauty of this sparsely-populated country; providing an ideal setting for hiking, cycling and nature-watching in a variety of natural settings that includes white-sand beaches amid pine-covered dunes.



Oldtown in Riga, Latvia; © Jūlija Millere <https://www.momenti.lv/>



Deer in Latvia's forest; © Anita Austvika <https://www.momenti.lv/>

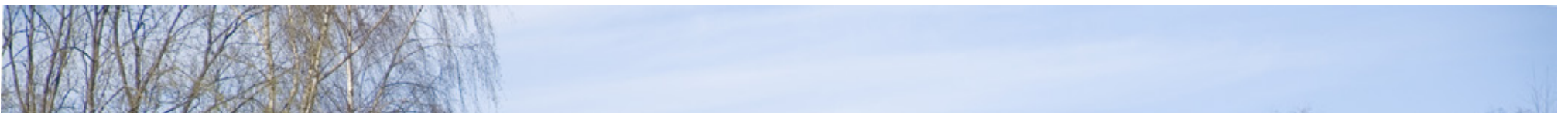


Architecture details in Latvia; © Jūlija Millere <https://www.momenti.lv/>

TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN LATVIAN COUNTRYSIDE

Traditional Latvian architecture in the countryside and villages outside of the country's main cities has long been constructed out of wood. For centuries, Latvian villagers constructed their homes from timber that could be collected from nearby forests, and covered with thatch roofing. While the homes were small and modest, they still had some architectural details that made them unique, such as the iconic forms of the gabled roofs.

Because Latvia was conquered by German knights as early as 13th century, architectural styles imported from Germany displaced the Latvian vernacular architecture from towns and cities. Therefore you would see few churches or other larger buildings built in the vernacular style, although some exist in villages. Few vernacular buildings survived to modern times, given how prone they are to fires and demolition, with most relocated into folk museums.





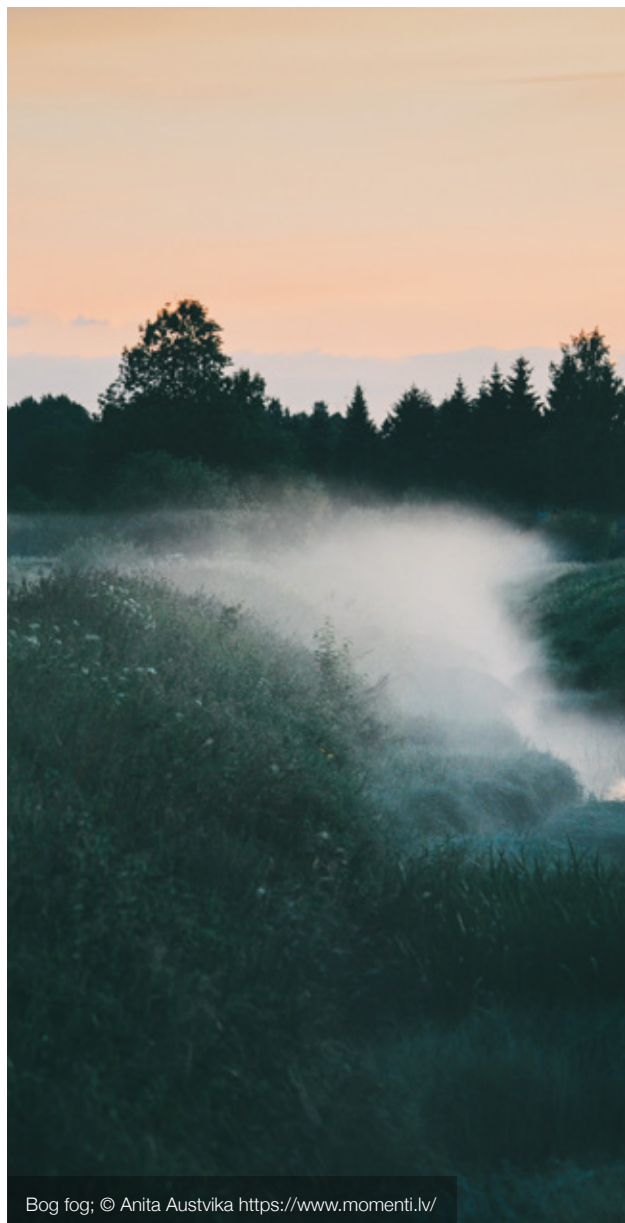
Traditional country house on the lake shore in Latvia; © Alexander Lebedev, <http://shutterstock.com/>

KEMERI NATIONAL PARK

Kemer National Park remains something of a hidden treasure, with few tourists rarely venturing out that far. As the third-largest national park in one of Europe's greenest country, Kemer is a stunning and eclectic mix of forests, lakes, swamps and ancient raised bogs.

Situated just a 1-hour train ride from Latvia's capital, Riga, the park is home to a wide range of fauna including rare birds like the black stork, not to mention moose, deer, elk, foxes, wolves and wild cattle and horses that were reintroduced into this unique ecosystem with some help from the World Wildlife Fund.

The park is criss-crossed with a large network of wooden boardwalks and nature paths that allow visitors to explore the natural wonders up close. The most popular trail being the 3 km Raised Bog Trail, which affords nature lovers a view of the picturesque landscape of stunted trees, red sphagnum moss and dark pools of water at this raised bog.





Wooden footbridge; © Mihails Voloscuks <https://www.momenti.lv/>

An aerial photograph of a bog landscape. The terrain is a mosaic of deep blue water pools of various sizes and irregular shapes, surrounded by dense vegetation in shades of orange, brown, and yellow. A narrow, light-colored path or boardwalk winds through the upper right portion of the image. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed wetland environment.

THE COMPETITION

GREAT KEMERI BOG

VISITOR CENTER

The competition participants are tasked to design an entry point to the nature park. The entry point will need to feature an **information centre (small exhibition room)** with a **cafe**, a **terrace** and a **ticket booth**. The ticket booth can be a part of the building or a separate structure, however the park visitors would need to be able to buy the tickets from the counter window without having to enter the building.

In addition, a **camping site** is required for those camping in the area, a **playground for children**, as well as a **car park**. To improve the camping experience, access to **shower and toilet facilities** is recommended. There will also need to be an **outdoor surface** that can be used as a kitchen counter during the summer.

All structural elements must be made from durable materials, and should be able to be easily changed in case they are damaged, as one of the problems in the area is vandalism. The building is going to be open all year round therefore weather resistant design strategies are expected.

As the Latvia Nature Conservation Agency has expressed an interest in the construction of this centre, designs will need to be both in keeping with the look and purpose of the national park, while having the potential to become an iconic landmark in its own right.

COMPETITION PROGRAMME

Visitors area

- information centre
(small exhibition room)
space to present permanent exposition
- cafe
tables to host up to 20 visitors
- terrace
can be used as cafe extension in summer
- camping site
space for up to 5 tents
- wc, shower
- outdoors kitchen counter,
seating and table/s
- childrens' playground

Staff area

- ticket sales area with the counter
window
- small kitchen for the cafe
- small storage area
- wc, shower
can be shared with the visitors

Car park

- 100 cars
- 4 buses

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

PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS



Able to provide comfortable environment to building occupants in all weather conditions



Cost-effective construction for remote areas with limited road access



Environmentally responsible and energy efficient.



Low maintenance in terms of effort and costs



Vandalism proof

The project qualities listed above are minimum requirements; the competition brief is open to adaptation and improved development strategies.

THE COMPETITION SITE

The competition site is located at the entrance point to the Great Kemer Bog Boardwalk. The site is currently used as a car park and gathering point by those visiting the Boardwalk.



SITE COORDINATES:

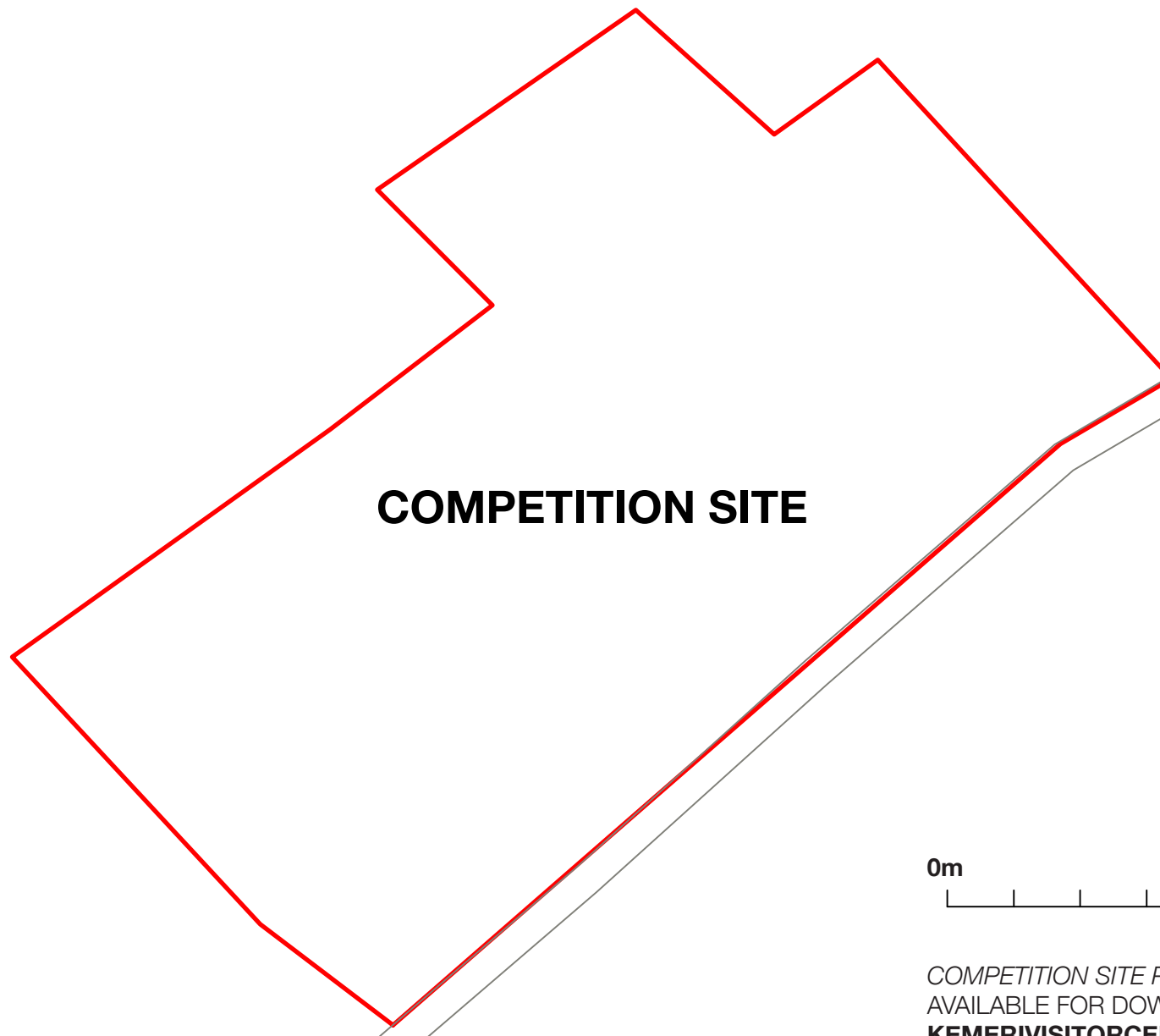
@56.9167881,23.4640919

SITE CAD PLAN AND PHOTOGRAPHS ARE AVAILABLE
FOR DOWNLOAD AT

KEMERIVISITORCENTER.BEEBREEDERS.COM

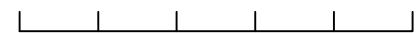


COMPETITION SITE



COMPETITION SITE

0m



50m



COMPETITION SITE PLAN. SITE CAD PLAN IS
AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT
KEMERIVISITORCENTER.BEEBREEDERS.COM



COMPETITION SITE;
SITE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT
KEMERIVISITORCENTER.BEEBREEDERS.COM

PRIZES

3 winning proposals, 2 special award recipients and 6 honourable mentions will be selected. Bee Breeders will award a total of US \$6,000 in prize money to competition winners as follows:

 Prize money  US \$6,000	
1st Prize US \$3,000	BB Student Award US \$500
2nd Prize US \$1,500	BB Green Award US \$500
3rd Prize US \$500	+ 6 HONOURABLE MENTIONS

More information about the special awards at KEMERIVISITORCENTER.beebreeders.com



As the Latvia Nature Conservation Agency has expressed an interest in the construction of this building, designs will need to be both in keeping with the look and purpose of the national park, while having the potential to become an iconic landmark in its own right.

PUBLICATIONS:

The winners will get international art and design media coverage and will be featured on the Bee Breeders website.

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

CERTIFICATE:

Bee Breeders will acknowledge the outstanding performance of all winners and honourable mentions with Certificates of Achievement.



COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Early Bird Registration
MAY 3 - JUNE 8

Advance Registration
JUNE 9 - JULY 20

Last Minute Registration
JULY 21 - OCTOBER 12

Closing date for registration
OCTOBER 12, 2018

Closing date for submission
NOVEMBER 8, 2018 (11:59pm GMT)

Announcement of the winners
DECEMBER 5, 2018

REGISTRATION FEES

	Architects, designers, enthusiasts and companies	Students*
Early Bird Registration	US \$90	US \$70
Advance Registration	US \$120	US \$100
Last Minute Registration	US \$140	US \$120

* See requirements here:
beebreeders.com/competition-registration-types

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Participants are required to upload four (4) A2 landscape-orientated presentation boards (must not exceed 5mb per jpg) 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 beebreeders.com upload panel. Access information and instructions on how to upload the presentation panel 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.

RECOMMENDED SUBMISSION CONTENT

- Visualisations and artist impressions to illustrate how the proposal fits in with the quality, value, and significance of the Kemer National Park.
- Concept designs, which highlight that all aspects of the design are of the highest quality and keep with the design brief and the proposed site.
- The main points of proposed plans and sections and multiple perspectives demonstrate the architectural quality of the structure, as well as operational needs and accessibility requirements.
- Demonstration of project feasibility in regards to environment, climate conditions, lifecycle, and responsible use of materials.
- Demonstration of project construction, materials, functions, management and maintenance; approach to environment and sustainability.

PRESENTATION DELIVERABLES SET

- Elevations; (suggested scale 1:50)
- Primary sections; (suggested scale 1:50)
- Primary floor plans; (suggested scale 1:50)
- Enlarged sections and elevations highlighting key spaces or relationships; (suggested scale 1:10)
- Details: (suggested scale 1:5)
 - Envelope
 - Key materials
 - Site or landscape
- Axonometrics providing information on building systems or illustrating key architectural concepts;
- Diagrams:
 - Circulation
 - Public versus private space
 - Lighting
 - Landscaping
 - Transportation
 - Energy systems
- Perspectives:
 - Primary interior spaces
 - Primary site locations

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.

JURY & EVALUATION PROCESS

Competition jury consists of two jury panels:

- **Core jury panel**
- **Consultative jury panel**

Full jury panel members list is published at *KEMERIVISITORCENTER.beebreeders.com*.

The core and consultative jury panel will be responsible for setting the criteria that participants need to fulfill based on the site and brief and will evaluate each submission accordingly.

Participants are advised to research both the working site and previous similar case studies as part of the design process.

“GREAT KEMERI BOG VISITOR CENTER” is a competition, which encourages participants to experiment with the limits of architecture. The jury may choose to reward projects that show a high degree of creativity, even if they breach any of the rules, as long as it’s justified.

Selecting Top 3 winners:

- ① Consultative jury panel will produce a shortlist of 40 from all submitted entries.
- ② Consultative jury panel will select 9 competition finalists from the shortlist.
- ③ Core jury panel will evaluate the 9 finalists and select the top 3 winning projects and 6 honourable mentions.

Student Award:

- ① Consultative jury panel will produce a shortlist of 40 from all submitted student entries.
- ② Consultative jury panel will select 9 competition finalists from the shortlist.
- ③ Core jury panel will evaluate the 9 finalists and select the winning project.

SA Special Award:

- ① Consultative jury panel will produce a shortlist of 40 from all submitted entries.
- ② Consultative jury panel will select 9 competition finalists from the shortlist.
- ③ Core jury panel will evaluate the 9 finalists and select the winning project.

COMPETITION DOCUMENTATION

The following information is available for download at KEMERIVISITORCENTER.beebreeders.com:

- Full competition brief
- Site and context photographs
- CAD and PDF site plan and sections

All information can be downloaded as often as required; no additional information or material will be provided after registration.

The brief and all associated documentation for this competition are for the sole purpose of an academic exercise and are not legal documents.

The provided materials, or alternatives, can be used, created, or sourced at the participant's discretion.

MEDIA PARTNERS

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

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

Competition press kit (in English) and banners are available at KEMERIVISITORCENTER.beebreeders.com/press

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to all. No professional qualification is 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.

ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

Bee Breeders 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.