

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

KEMERI NATIONAL PARK OBSERVATION TOWER

COMPETITION CONDITIONS

PARTNERS:



Nature
Conservation Agency
Republic of Latvia



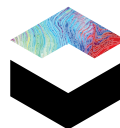
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Bee Breeders Architecture Competition Organisers,
in partnership with
Latvia Nature Conservation Agency,
have prepared this document for the
KEMERI NATIONAL PARK OBSERVATION TOWER
architecture competition.

Full Competition Terms & Conditions:
[KEMERITOWER.beebreeders.com/terms](https://kemeritower.beebreeders.com/terms)

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architecture competition organisers
hello@beebreeders.com
beebreeders.com



INTRODUCTION

For the Kemer National Park Observation Tower competition, participants are tasked with designing a new tower that will allow visitors to view and experience the Kemer Bog in a new way. Its main purpose should be to provide a new viewpoint to visitors, especially those with disabilities that are less able to enjoy the national park up close. As such the observation tower must have disabled access included throughout the entirety of its functioning.

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.

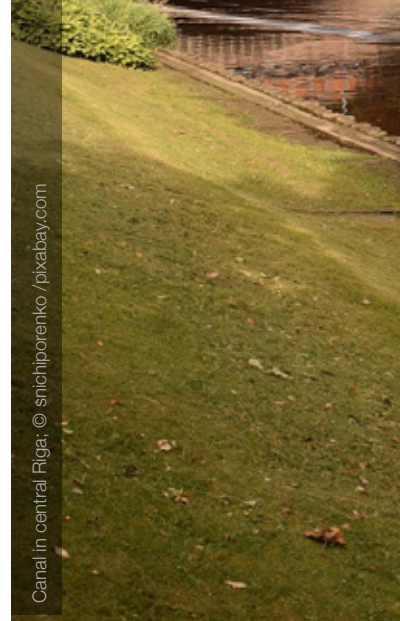
Latvia lies in Northern Europe, on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea and northwestern part of the East European craton, with a mixed and diverse cultural history birthed from having at one point been invaded by almost every regional power. It has a temperate humid continental climate, with coastal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



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.





Countryside house in winter; © Sharon Ang

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 them 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.

When Latvia was conquered by German knights in the 13th century, German architectural styles began to displace the Latvian vernacular architecture from towns and cities. As such, larger buildings and more ornate structures like churches would not have typically been built in the vernacular style, although some do exist in certain villages.

Few vernacular buildings survived to modern times, given how prone they are to fires and demolition, with most relocated into folk museums.



Vernacular architecture countryside house; © inkflo /pixabay.com

KEMERI NATIONAL PARK

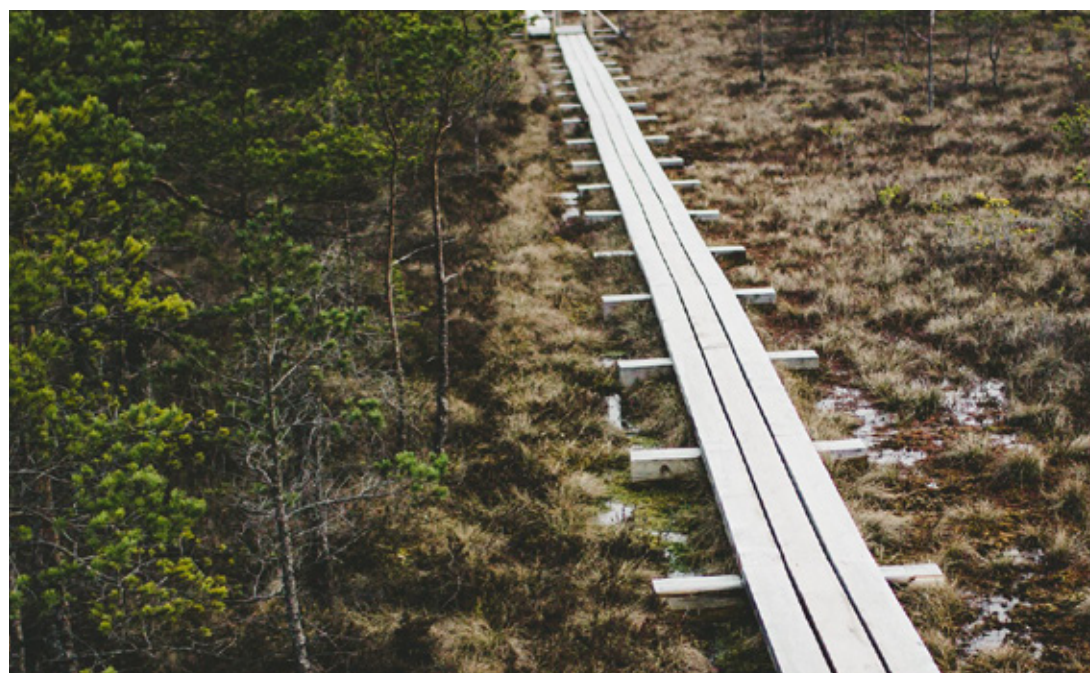
Kemer National Park remains something of a hidden treasure, with few tourists rarely venturing out that far. As the third-largest national park in one of Europe's greenest country, Kemer is a stunning and eclectic mix of forests, lakes, swamps and ancient raised bogs.

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, as well as moose, deer, elk, foxes, wolves, and wild cattle and horses. These were all 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.



Kemeru national parks plants; © Daiga Ellaby <https://www.momenti.lv/>





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

THE COMPETITION SITE

The competition site is located along the Great Kemer Bog Boardwalk. The boardwalk has two trails, one roughly 1.4 km long, and a longer 3.4 km trail. For this competition participants are asked to focus on the small trail (short boardwalk).

Due to the sensitive nature of the environment surrounding the competition site, the construction should be especially considerate and not require any heavy machinery or large-scale excavation to take place.

When planning their project designs, participants should also consider the high soil humidity, which makes walking on it directly all but impossible, and therefore will need to be accommodated by a series of footbridges.



SITE COORDINATES:
@ 56.908272,23.4559185

SITE CAD PLAN, PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO ARE
AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT
KEMERITOWER.BEEBREEDERS.COM

SITE OPTION B*

*recommended position for
the new observation tower*



SHORT BOARDWALK

SITE OPTION A*

*recommended position for
the new observation tower*



LONG BOARDWALK



EXISTING OBSERVATION TOWER

*** Participants may choose an alternative position, as long as
the tower is located at some point along the short boardwalk**

SHORT BOARDWALK - EXIT



SITE OPTION B
*recommended position for
the new observation tower*



SHORT BOARDWALK - ENTRANCE



SITE OPTION A
*recommended position for
the new observation tower*



SITE PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT
KEMERITOWER.BEEBREEDERS.COM

THE COMPETITION

KEMERI NATURE PARK OBSERVATION TOWER

For the Kemer Nature Park Observation Tower competition, participants are asked to submit designs that are in keeping with the nature park and are sensitive to its environment. However, the final project should also have the potential to become a recognised landmark in its own right.

There is no maximum height defined for the tower, however it will need to fit into a budget category below US \$50K. The tower should also be highly durable, vandalism-proof, easily-repairable, and should operate effectively in this highly humid region.










The main feature that designs should focus on is accessibility, meaning that disability and wheelchair access are paramount (the Latvia building accessibility guidelines are available for download on the competition website). This will require some creative thinking as lifts are not an option as there will be no electricity on-site. The tower's purpose is to offer incredible views of the magnificent landscape for all visitors, not just those that are more physically able than others.

Project designs will also need to include design concepts for an upgraded footbridge system that will replace the current footbridge as it is not suitable for people with disabilities. The new footbridges need to take into consideration the unstable soil as well as the delicate environment surrounding the construction site.







PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

OBSERVATION TOWER

-  Minimum visitor capacity: 10 people + 2 wheelchairs;
-  Cost-effective, environmentally responsible and energy efficient construction for remote areas with no road access;
-  Potential to become a recognised landmark;
-  Fit into a budget category below US \$50K;
-  Highly durable, vandalism-proof, easily-repairable, and should operate effectively in highly humid environment;
-  Disability and wheelchair access are paramount (*the Latvia building accessibility guidelines are available for download at the competition website*);
-  No lifts allowed (*no electricity on the site*);
-  No maximum tower height defined;
-  Low maintenance in terms of effort and costs

FOOTBRIDGE

-  Cost-effective, environmentally responsible and energy efficient construction for remote areas with no road access;
-  Modular system that can be replicated and adapted to different footbridge lengths;
-  Highly durable, vandalism-proof, easily-repairable, and should operate effectively in highly humid environment;
-  Disability and wheelchair access are paramount (*the Latvia building accessibility guidelines are available for download at the competition website*);

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

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	STUDENT AWARD US \$500
2nd Prize US \$1,500	THE ACCESSIBLE TOWER AWARD US \$500
3rd Prize US \$500	+ 6 HONOURABLE MENTIONS

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



Nature
Conservation Agency
Republic of Latvia

As the Latvia Nature Conservation Agency has expressed an interest in the construction of this tower, 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 KEMERITOWER.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
31 OCTOBER - 12 JANUARY

Advance Registration
13 JANUARY - 02 MARCH

Last Minute Registration
03 MARCH - 27 APRIL

Closing date for registration
27 APRIL, 2018

Closing date for submission
31 MAY, 2018 (11:59pm GMT+0)

Announcement of the winners
15 JUNE, 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.

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
 - Structure
- Axonometrics providing information on building systems or illustrating key architectural concepts;
- Diagrams:
 - Circulation
 - Landscaping
 - Construction
- Perspectives:
 - Primary interior spaces

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.

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.

JURY & EVALUATION PROCESS

Competition jury consists of two jury panels:

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

Full jury panel members list is published at *KEMERI TOWER.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.

“KEMERI NATIONAL PARK OBSERVATION TOWER” 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.

Green 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.

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.

MEDIA PARTNERS

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

COMPETITION DOCUMENTATION

Following information is available for download on KEMERITOWER.beebreeders.com:

- *Full competition brief*
- Context photographs
- Building accessibility guidelines

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.