

**Laka Competition '16:  
Architecture that Reacts**

Guidelines / Timeline / Prizes  
As at: April 1st, 2016

Can architecture react to social needs?



**Laka Competition 2016: Architecture that Reacts**  
Competition Brief

# Architecture that Reacts

## Competition Brief

### 1. About Laka Competition

Laka Architektura is a public arts initiative that gathers architects, artists, designers, engineers and scientists in order to start an international panel for sharing innovative ideas about the future of society. We share a vision of architecture that can play an important role in social revitalization, and can provide a positive impact on global issues by helping to develop more sustainable societies.

#### Laka Competition '16—Architecture that Reacts

Laka Architektura invites designers from around the world to submit their ideas of architecture that reacts. That means architecture which is able to respond and adjust dynamically to the current needs and circumstances. These circumstances are often unpredictable, but their consequences can be crucial. The architecture that reacts is the architecture that lives as a living organism, since it responds to the external stimuli and it develops because of it—to react is to live.

### 2. International Jury

#### Qun Dang (Architect, Principal Partner at MAD Architects)

Visiting professor in Pratt Institute and assistant professor in Iowa State University. Practitioner and executor of MAD design philosophy “Shanshui City” – a vision for the city of the future based in the spiritual and emotional needs of residents. Qun Dang is closely involved in each process of MAD’s series of projects, including Absolute Towers, Ordos Museum, China Wood Sculpture Museum, Fake Hills, Chaoyang Park Plaza, Nanjing Zendai Himalayas Centre, Harbin Cultural Island, and Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, etc.  
<http://www.i-mad.com>

#### —Can architecture react to social needs?

The subject of the competition is a conceptual project of architecture that is socially engaged and is capable of reacting to unpredictable conditions and environmental, natural and social risks. Architectural study should focus on architecture as a key field heading towards social revitalisation and increased safety and freedom of its users. Proposed solutions should involve a thorough analysis of the problem, for example, starting from outlining global factors and indicating key directions for modern architectural solutions. Accuracy of this analysis and potential of proposed solutions are going to be the main components of projects’ assessment.

#### Nathalie de Vries (Architect, Urban Planner, Co-founder of MVRDV)

Professor Nathalie de Vries Ir. FRIBA (Appingedam, The Netherlands, 1965), is an architect and urban planner, and one of the three founding directors of MVRDV. Nathalie has taught at many esteemed academic institutions, including Harvard's Graduate School of Design, and currently holds a chair in architecture at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. In addition to her professional and academic work, Nathalie is the Chair of the Royal Insitute of Dutch Architects (BNA).  
<http://www.mvrdv.nl>

**Tobias Wallisser (Architect, Co-Founder of LAVA Laboratory For Visionary Architecture)**

Professor of Innovative Construction and Spatial Concepts and Vice-President at the State Academy of Fine Arts in Stuttgart. Tobias worked on the award-winning Mercedes-Benz Museum, Germany whilst an associate at Un Studio. Together with Chris Bosse and Alexander Rieck he founded LAVA in 2007 as an international network using the latest research and technology to build efficient, sustainable and beautiful structures. Under construction now a university campus in Saudi Arabia, a new youth hostel in Germany, laboratories in the Middle East, plus high-rise towers in China. Previous work includes the renovation of a 1930s youth hostel in Germany; plans for the Michael Schumacher Tower; and the German government's bid for the Green Climate Fund headquarters. Tobias lectures at universities throughout Europe and has won many awards.

<http://www.l-a-v-a.net>

**Julien De Smedt (Architect, Founder of JDS Architects)**

Prior to founding JDS Architects, Julien worked with OMA/Rem Koolhaas, Rotterdam and co-founded and directed with Bjarke Ingels the architecture firm PLOT in Copenhagen. He has given lectures and been exhibited in numerous locations around the world. His academic contributions include visiting professorships in Rice and Lexington University. Among other awards and recognitions, Julien received the Henning Larsen Prize in 2003 and an Eckersberg medal in 2005. JDS Architects released 2 monographs entitled PIXL to XL and Agenda which are distributed worldwide.

<http://jdsa.eu>

**Arturo Vittori (Architect, Co-founder of Warka Water NGO, Director of Architecture and Vision)**

He collaborated with Santiago Calatrava, Jean Nouvel and Francis Design on a variety of architectural projects and with Future Systems and Anish Kapoor on the subway station in Naples. Arturo worked on aircraft, yacht and ship design in Toulouse and London, including designs for the interior of the first Airbus A380. His projects have

been exhibited internationally as in Centre Pompidou, Paris and are included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York and the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago. Arturo teaches Industrial Design and Architecture at universities in Italy, Switzerland and the United States.

<http://www.warkawater.org>

<http://www.architectureandvision.com>

**Ana María Gutiérrez (Architect, Co-founder of Fundación Organismo, Ashoka Fellow)**

Director of Bio Architecture and Alternative Technologies Dept. at Organismo, Ashoka Fellow ([www.ashoka.org](http://www.ashoka.org)). Through her foundation, Ana Maria teaches, investigates and improves construction techniques and alternative technologies that support traditional knowledge, are adapted to the territory and economically accessible. The foundation is equipping rural communities in Colombia to improve their own living conditions. Organismo develops more than 30 workshops a year aiming to empower community leaders who can be multipliers of these techniques and technologies.

<http://www.organizmo.org>

**Peter Kuczia (IARP and BAK Architect, author of CO2 Saver House)**

Educator and expert in ecological constructions with more than 20 years of experience. 2008 PhD dissertation on Solar Architecture in Germany. Author of "Educating Buildings – Learning Sustainability through Displayed Design". He has been awarded international prizes e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> prize of Polish GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL for ZERO-ENERGY Research and Educational Complex Wroclaw University of Technology; National nomination – MIES VAN DER ROHE AWARD for European Architecture and many others. His work which covers a wide range of building types has been exhibited and published around the world.

<http://www.kuczia.com>

### 3. Judging Criteria

As organisers we avoid applying too many design constraints on participants. Participants are free to decide about the location of the project, its scale, size and the program.

Listed below are 3 highlighted issues that the jury will pay attention to during judging:

- 1) a properly indicated architectural, social or environmental issue to solve
- 2) an accurate analysis of the selected issue
- 3) a properly chosen architectural solution that “reacts” and solves the indicated issue

### 4. Awards

5000 USD\* will be distributed among winners:

**1st PRIZE:** 2500 USD

**2nd PRIZE:** 1500 USD

**3rd PRIZE:** 1000 USD

In addition:

**10 honourable mentions will be selected.**

Listed below are some issues that explain the concept of “Architecture that Reacts”:

an ability to response for social, economic, environmental changes | a level of social and environmental engagement of the design | a relation with a specific social, natural and built context | a level of flexibility and adaptability of the design | an innovative use of technology and sustainable systems | a level of self-sufficiency of the design.

Winners and laureates special mentions will be published in several international online magazines, and at the Laka Competitions website. The best proposals will be selected by the international panel of judges.

*\*Organizer pays 10% tax on financial awards in country of its business activity.*

### 5. Acceleration Program

Acceleration Program is an international network of Partners, whose role is to offer opportunities of investigation and implementation for the best designs submitted to Laka Competition by providing professional consulting, mentorship, international press coverage and support of sponsors and funders. Selected designs will be considered to receive support of Acceleration Partners through a process of qualification which will be separate from the process of awarding the main prizes. Laka is honoured to be partner to following companies and organizations within the Laka Acceleration Program:

#### Technology Exchange Lab

TEL is dedicated to bringing communities out of poverty by driving the adoption of innovative, cost-effective and sustainable solutions that improve lives at the bottom of the pyramid. TEL hosts a crowdsourced database of over 600 innovations in order to connect practical solutions to the people who need them most. Through their Project Accelerator service, TEL helps NGOs and communities leverage appropriate technology solutions to maximize the impact of last-mile development.

<http://www.techxlab.org>

### **The Buckminster Fuller Institute**

Each year, The Buckminster Fuller Institute invites scientists, entrepreneurs, planners, designers, architects, activists, artists, and students from all over the world to submit their innovative solutions to some of humanity's most pressing problems. A \$100,000 prize is awarded to support the development and implementation of one outstanding strategy. Through their Catalyst Program, BFI supports additional opportunities as funding, pro-bono legal services, fast-tracked access to accelerator programs, mentorship opportunities, and international press coverage.

<http://bfi.org>

### **Fundación Organizmo**

Fundación Organizmo Design Build Center of Sustainable Habitats is focused on community empowerment through local knowledge and resources. Organizmo develops educational models around green building techniques and alternative technologies; promoting participatory development and creating cyclical behaviour consistent with the environment. Organizmo develops more than 30 workshops a year aiming to empower community leaders who can be multipliers of these techniques and technologies having an impact in rural areas.

<http://www.organizmo.org>

## **6. Join Competition**

**We invite architects, students, engineers, biologists, sociologists, designers, thinkers and organizations to submit their ideas.** No professional qualifications are necessary. Interdisciplinary teams are also encouraged to join.

#### **Schedule:**

Registration opens in April, 2016

**Early Registration: 50 USD until June 1, 2016**

Regular Registration: 75 USD until October 1, 2016

Late Registration: 100 USD until November 1, 2016

**Project submission deadline: November 1, 2016**

Jury deliberation: November, 2016

**Winners' announcement: December 1, 2016**

UTC time zone for all dates

Participants may submit multiple projects, but must register each entry.

There is no limit as to the number of participants per team. Individual entries are allowed.

**After your registration has been approved, we will send you a unique number for your team (within 48 hours) and further information concerning the way your project should be submitted. If you didn't received confirmation within this period, please contact us at [hello@lakareacts.com](mailto:hello@lakareacts.com)**

The registration number will be necessary to submit your proposal.

## **7. Submission Requirements:**

- Participants must submit their proposal not later than **November 01, 2016 (23:59 UTC) at [competition@lakareacts.com](mailto:competition@lakareacts.com)**
- This is a digital competition and the boards must be prepared in digital format. Hardcopies will not be accepted.
- The project submission must contain the following files:

**1. One board 24"(h) X 48"(w) in horizontal format with 150 dpi, saved as JPG file in RGB mode.**

Board should include all the information that entrants consider necessary to explain their proposal. In the upper right corner the registration number must be included. This is an anonymous competition and the registration number must be the only form of identification. JPG file must be named according to the registration number (e.g. 0227.jpg)

2. A DOC file with the projects statement (up to 500 words). The DOC file must be named according to the registration number (e.g. 0227-statement.doc).

3. A DOC file with the entrants' personal information: name, profession, address, email. In a case of team, a team representative must be indicated. The DOC file must be named according to the registration number (ex. 0227-team.doc).

All three files must be placed in a folder named according to your registration number and archived to a ZIP file (e.g. 0227.zip)

## 8. Rules and Regulations:

Participants can submit their inquiries concerning regulations of the competition to the [hello@lakareacts.com](mailto:hello@lakareacts.com)

- All projects must be submitted in English
- This is an anonymous competition. The registration number is the only form of identification.

- The registration fee is non-refundable
- Contacting the Jury is prohibited
- Entrants will be disqualified if any of the rules and regulations are not followed
- Laka Competition reserves the right to modify the competition schedule
- All participants must accept the Rules and Regulations

## 9. Contact us:

If you have questions about the competition do not hesitate to e-mail us at: [hello@lakareacts.com](mailto:hello@lakareacts.com)

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<https://facebook.com/Laka.reacts>

<https://twitter.com/lakareacts>

<https://linkedin.com/company/laka-architektura>