

ARCHIDEX® Presents

ARCHITALENT

8TH ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS
DESIGN COMPETITION, MALAYSIA

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FINAL PRESENTATION

01 | **MITEC**
AUG 2026 | PAM PAVILION

**Students Today,
Architects Tomorrow**



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**COMPETITION BRIEF, RULES & CONDITIONS
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The main goal of this international competition, organized by ARCHIDEX and Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM), is to solicit new, innovative architectural and urbanistic ideas that address current issues and challenges. The competition aims to generate thoughtful and provocative concepts that truly benefit mankind. The design challenge is to define architecture by proposing a design solution ranging from the urban to the architectural scale. Beyond being a simple design competition, ARCHITALENT will continue to encourage creativity, audacity and the capacity to envision the future of the built environment.

For the fifth time, ARCHIDEX is hosting ARCHITALENT 2026 as an ARCASIA level architecture competition, featuring works from architecture students representing the 24 member institutes of the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA).

1. IAB Institute of Architects Bangladesh (Zone A)
2. BIA Bhutan Institute of Architects (Zone A)
3. IAP Institute of Architects, Pakistan (Zone A)
4. IIA The Indian Institute of Architects (Zone A)
5. SLIA Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (Zone A)
6. SONA Society of Nepalese Architects (Zone A)
7. AAM Architects Association Maldives (Zone A)
8. AAK Architects Association Khmer (Zone B)
9. IAI Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia (Zone B)
10. ALACE Association of Laos Architects and Civil Engineers (Zone B)
11. AMA Association of Myanmar Architects (Zone B)
12. ASA The Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage (Zone B)
13. VAA Vietnam Association of Architects (Zone B)
14. PAM Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (Zone B)
15. PUJA (B) Pertubuhan Ukur Jurutera dan Arsitek, Brunei (Zone B)
16. SIA Singapore Institute of Architects (Zone B)
17. UAP United Architects of the Philippines (Zone B)
18. AAM Architects Association of Macau (Zone C)
19. ASC Architectural Society of China (Zone C)
20. HKIA The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (Zone C)
21. JIA The Japan Institute of Architects (Zone C)
22. KAU Architects Union of Korea (Zone C)
23. KIRA Korea Institute of Registered Architects (Zone C)
24. UMA Union of Mongolian Architects (Zone C)

2.0 THEME

META_SPACE

ARCHITALENT 2026 invites emerging future architects to explore the evolving landscape of META_SPACE, building upon the groundwork laid by RE:PLACE (2025).

This competition challenges participants to navigate the interplay between physical and virtual environments, envisioning architectural solutions that seamlessly integrate both realms. Proposals must address the functional needs of the built environment while also exploring immersive, digital and hybrid spatial experiences enabled by emerging technologies.

This theme emphasizes:

- “Rethinking” – Challenging conventional definitions of space, presence and interaction.
- “Local Intelligence” – Integrating cultural identity, climate responsiveness and contextual relevance within both physical and digital layers.
- “Augmented Futures” – Envisioning forward looking, tech-integrated environments that enhance human experience and sustainability.

Overview

“META_SPACE” invites architectural students to envision hybrid spatial interventions that transcend the boundaries between the physical city and the digital realm.

This is not only about designing physical spaces but about expanding spatial experience through digital augmentation, virtual environments, and interactive systems that redefine how people connect, engage and inhabit place. In an era shaped by rapid technological advancement, digital immersion and shifting patterns of human interaction, this competition asks:

How can architecture bridge the physical and virtual worlds to create meaningful, inclusive and future ready environments?

Participants are challenged to propose urban and architectural interventions such as plazas, pavilions, streetscapes, infrastructures or hybrid programs that:

- Integrate physical and virtual experiences
- Enhance user interaction through digital layers (AR/VR, data and interfaces)
- Reimagine how people perceive, occupy, and connect within space

Projects should be grounded in contextual understanding, while simultaneously expanding into speculative and digital possibilities.

Key Ideas Behind “META_SPACE”

- Hybrid Reality: Design spaces that operate across both physical and virtual dimensions, creating seamless and meaningful user experiences.
- Digital Augmentation: Leverage emerging technologies such as AR, VR, AI and responsive systems to enrich spatial perception, interaction and engagement.
- Human-Centered Technology: Ensure that technology enhances not replaces human connection, inclusivity and wellbeing.
- Urban Intervention as Interface: Propose interventions that act as interfaces between people, place and digital systems, transforming how environments are experienced.

Each proposal should aim to redefine the relationship between people, space and technology by creating immersive and interactive experiences that seamlessly integrate digital and physical environments. It should foster social connection and participation while remaining adaptable, scalable and applicable to future urban contexts.

ARCHITALENT 2026 serves as a platform for future architects to explore the transformative potential of META_SPACE. It encourages participants to challenge traditional notions of architecture, place-making and interaction envisioning a future where the physical and digital worlds converge to enhance the quality of life for all.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY

- i. The competition is open to full-time, current students from ARCASIA Member Institutes, including Malaysia, who are pursuing architecture programmes (please refer to: <https://arcasia.org/country-zone/>).
- ii. Participation is strictly open to **INDIVIDUAL** and **1 ENTRY** only.
- iii. The official language of the competition is **ENGLISH**.
- iv. Participants are **NOT ALLOWED** to submit more than one project/design and all submissions must be original works that have not been entered into any other competition prior to ARCHITALENT.
- v. There is **NO PARTICIPATION FEE**; entry to the competition is completely free.
- vi. **CERTIFICATES** of participation, achievement and appreciation will be awarded to participants and lecturers after the event.
- vii. Malaysian participants are required to register as **PAM STUDENT MEMBERS** (compulsory) via the following link: <https://www.eipam.info/>. For assistance, please contact +603 2202 2866 or email membership@pam.org.my.
- viii. International participants must be currently enrolled in an ARCASIA Member Institute and may be required to provide **PROOF OF STUDENT STATUS** or endorsement from their respective institution upon request by the organizer.

4.0 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

PHASE 1 (Call For Entry)

All submissions must comply with the following requirements:

- **A maximum of two (2) A0-sized (portrait) posters in high-resolution Portable Document Format (PDF), with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. Each file must not exceed 10MB.**
- **One (1) A4 page of project description in high-resolution PDF format (Font: Arial, Size: 11).**

The name of the student, institution or any form of identification **MUST NOT APPEAR** on the boards or any submission materials. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in disqualification.

All enquiries regarding the competition should be directed to architalent.pam@gmail.com

or via telephone at +603 2202 2866 / +6013 685 5538 (Muhammad Ridzwan).

All submissions (poster boards and project description) must be made online via the link provided or by scanning the QR code below:

[CLICK HERE FOR SUBMISSION FORM](#)



The closing date for submission is 30 May 2026, no later than 6:00 PM (Malaysia Time).

PHASE 2 (Presentation by 10 Finalists)
1 August 2026, PAM Pavilion, MITEC, Kuala Lumpur

A total of 10 shortlisted finalists (7 Malaysia & 3 International) will be announced and notified via email on 10 June 2026. Participants are advised to ensure that their email address and contact number are accurate and clearly stated to avoid any miscommunication or missed notifications.

Finalists are required to present their proposals **IN FRONT OF THE PANEL OF JUDGES (FACE TO FACE)** on 1 August 2026, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM (Malaysia Time) at the PAM Pavilion, Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC), Kuala Lumpur. Each finalist will be allocated 5 minutes for their presentation. The presentation format will be notified at a later date.

Supporters, friends, lecturers and members of the public are strongly encouraged to attend and show their support. No entrance fee is required.

5.0 AWARDS

1 x champion

USD1,000 Cash Prize with a Certificate of Award and Medal

1 x 1st runner-up

USD800 Cash Prize with a Certificate of Award and Medal

1 x 2nd runner-up

USD500 Cash Prize with a Certificate of Award and Medal

2 x Special Prize for Best Presenter

USD200 Cash Prize with a Certificate of Award Certificate of Participation for all participants.

6.0 JUDGING CRITERIA

Submissions will be evaluated based on the design solution's response to the following considerations, as well as the quality of integration among them:

* Creative Idea	20%
* Innovative Design Approach	20%
* Sustainability	20%
* Presentation	40%

* This competition places strong emphasis on students' ability to communicate their ideas effectively, both verbally and graphically, as finalists will be required to deliver a live presentation on stage.

7.0 TIMELINE OF COMPETITION

5 May 2026 : Registration Opens

30 May 2026 : Submission Deadline (by 6:00 PM, Malaysia Time)*

1 - 9 June 2026 : First Round Judging*

10 June 2026 : Announcement of 10 Finalists (3 International, 7 Local)*

1 August 2026 : Announcement of 10 Finalists (3 International, 7 Local, 10.00 AM)*

1 August 2026 : Awards presentation ceremony at the PAM Pavilion, MITEC, KL (2.00 PM)*

*all dates are subject to change

8.0 COPYRIGHT

All entries shall become the property of the Organizers. The Organizers reserve the right to reproduce any of the submitted materials in their publications, on their websites or in any other form.

The Competition Organizers also reserve the right to keep, display and publish any of the submitted materials with proper attribution. The applicants shall retain ownership of their designs.

9.0 DISQUALIFICATION

Failure by participants to comply with the rules and conditions of this competition may lead to immediate disqualification. Any entry submitted after the deadline may be disqualified.

The Jury shall have sole and absolute discretion in deciding whether to accept or disqualify any entry on any grounds whatsoever. The Jury's decision on such matters shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.

10.0 INQUIRY AND CONTACT

For inquiries, please contact the PAM secretariat:

Tel: +603 2202 2866 / +6013 685 5538 (Muhammad Ridzwan)

Email: architalent.pam@gmail.com / ridzwan@pam.org.my

Website: www.pam.org.my

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