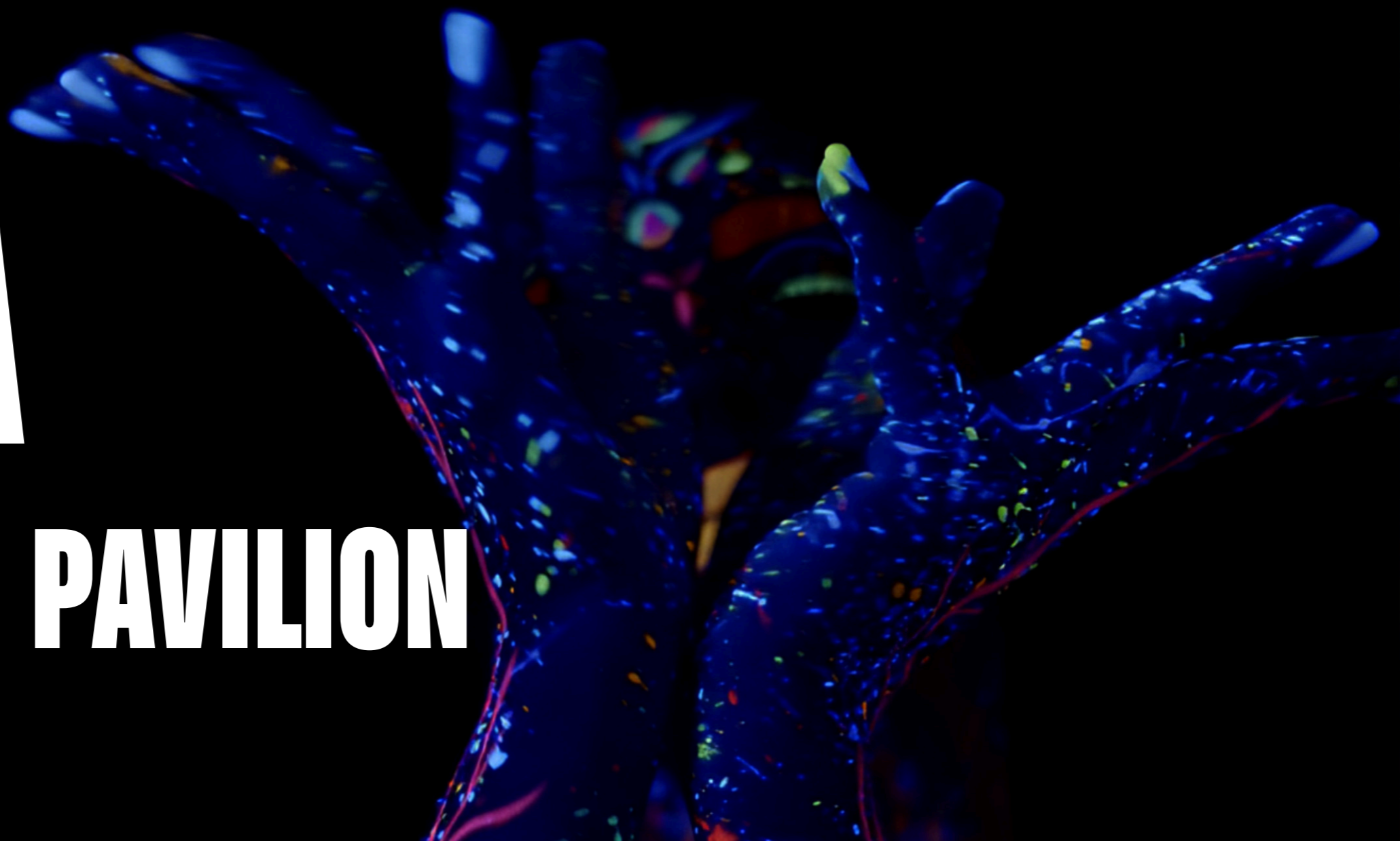ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

PEJA
CULTURE PAVILION

COMPETITION CONDITIONS

PARTNERS:

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

PEJA MUNICIPALITY

VULA E PRESIDENTIT TË REPUBLIKËS SË KOSOVËS ▪ PASDARIA

COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR CULTURE

RRUGË FEST PEJE

Contents

Igniting architectural innovation

BUILDNER is the global leader in organizing architecture competitions, we invite you to embark on a transformative journey of design excellence.

With our unwavering commitment to pushing boundaries and inspiring creativity, **BUILDNER** provides a platform for talented architects and designers to showcase their visionary ideas and shape the future of the built environment.

Join us as we unlock extraordinary possibilities and set new standards in architectural innovation.

buildner.com

10+
years of experience

100+
successfully completed competitions

300+
guest jury members

Introduction

The Peja Culture Pavilion competition invites architects and designers to reimagine a historically significant site in the heart of Peja, Kosovo. This competition seeks innovative proposals that integrate the 15th-century water fountain into a multifunctional public pavilion, revitalizing the area as a vibrant cultural and social hub. Participants are encouraged to combine contemporary design with historical preservation, creating a space that honors Peja's rich heritage while serving the community's modern needs.

Jet of fountain splashes water drops © VahanN

Kosovo

Kosovo, located in the Balkan Peninsula of Southeast Europe, is a region rich in history and cultural diversity. Having declared its independence from Serbia in 2008, Kosovo is one of the newest countries in the world. Despite its young age as an independent state, Kosovo has a long and complex history, with influences from various civilizations including the Romans, Byzantines, and Ottomans. This diverse heritage is reflected in its architecture, traditions, and cultural practices. Today, Kosovo is working diligently to build a stable, democratic society and develop its economy, focusing on modernization and integration into the European Union.

In recent years, Kosovo has made significant strides in rebuilding and developing its infrastructure, fostering economic growth, and improving living standards for its citizens. The country is known for its vibrant cultural scene, with a growing emphasis on arts, music, and education. As Kosovo continues to progress, it places a strong emphasis on preserving its historical and cultural sites, recognizing their importance in promoting national identity and unity. The country's youthful population and dynamic spirit make it a place of great potential and promise.

Aerial street view from the Cathedral of Mother Teresa in downtown Pristina, the capital of Kosovo © ColorMaker

Peja

Peja, a city nestled at the foot of the Rugova Mountains in western Kosovo, is renowned for its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. The city is one of the oldest in Kosovo, with a history that dates back to ancient times. Peja is home to numerous historical landmarks, including the Patriarchate of Peć, a medieval Serbian Orthodox monastery that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This site, along with others in the region, underscores Peja's historical significance and its role as a cultural crossroads in the Balkans.

A view of Peje city from above © SariMe

In addition to its historical sites, Peja is known for its vibrant community life and scenic landscapes. The city serves as a gateway to the Rugova Canyon, a popular destination for hiking, climbing, and outdoor recreation. The combination of cultural depth and natural beauty makes Peja a unique and attractive destination. Over the years, Peja has been focusing on revitalizing its urban spaces to enhance the quality of life for its residents and to attract visitors. The city's commitment to preserving its heritage while embracing modern development is evident in its various initiatives aimed at promoting cultural and economic growth.
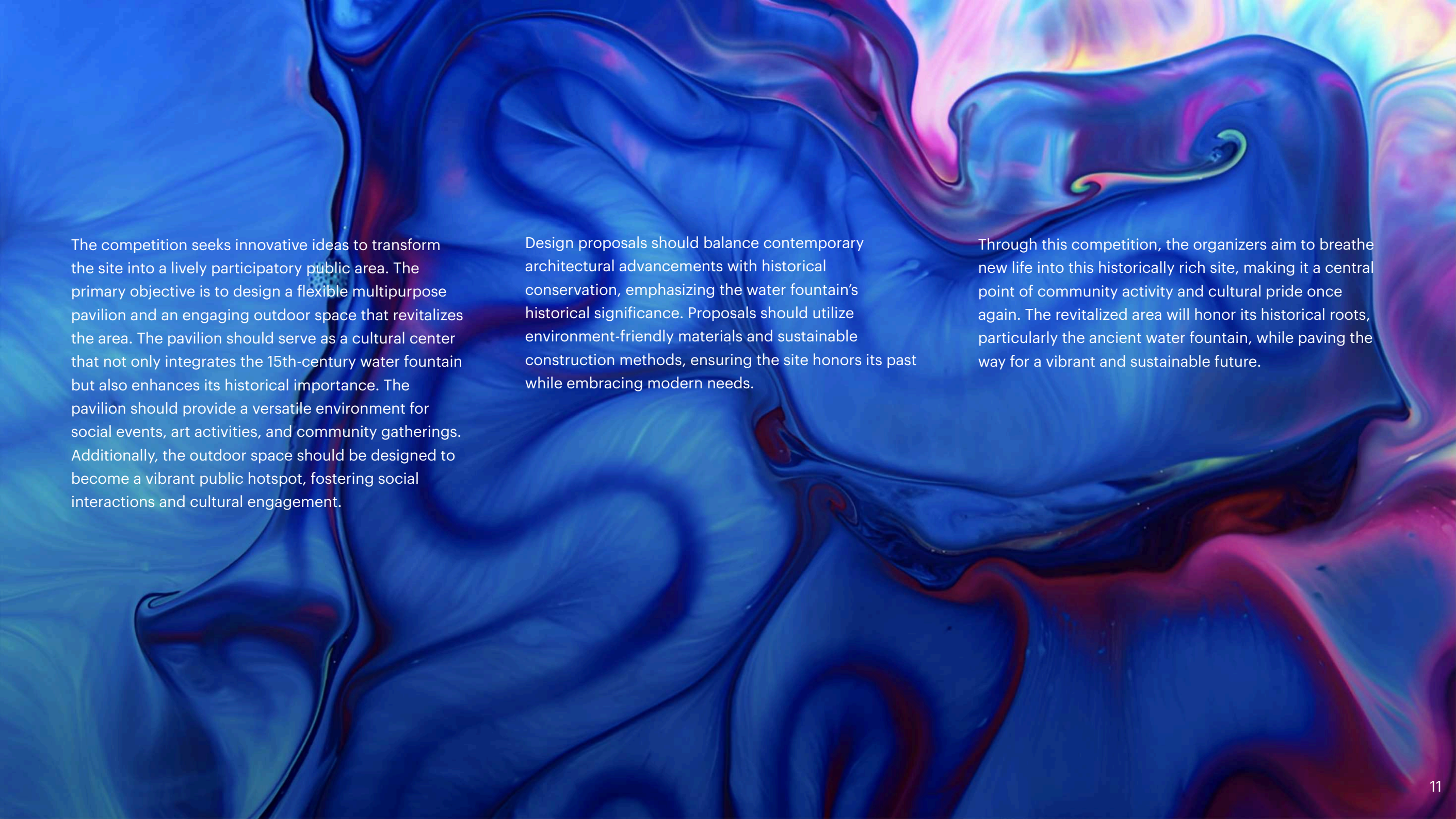
The beautiful nature of Rugova canyon in the countryside of Kosovo © Gestur Gislason

The beautiful nature of Rugova canyon in the countryside of Kosovo © Gestur Gislason

The competition
PEJA CULTURE PAVILION

The city center of Peja, Kosovo, hosts a historically significant site that has long been a focal point for community gatherings and social interactions. Rich in cultural and recreational elements, this central location, originally designed for leisure and relaxation, has been an integral part of the urban landscape. One of its most notable features is an ancient water source dating back to the 15th century, which remains under the protection of the Ministry of Culture of Kosovo. Despite its historical and cultural importance, the site has been neglected for years, falling into disrepair and disuse. This Peja Water Fountain Pavilion competition, aims to revitalize this area, transforming it into a vibrant public hotspot.

The competition is spearheaded by Collective Action for Culture (C.A.C), with the support of the Municipality of Peja, the Ministry of Culture, and the Office of the President of Kosovo. Collective Action for Culture is known for organizing Rrugë Fest, a cultural initiative that rejuvenates urban spaces through artistic expression and community involvement. With the support from these partners, the organization aims to empower artists, engage residents, and transform neglected areas into lively cultural destinations.

The focal point of the Peja Culture Pavilion competition is the ancient 15th-century water fountain, a historically significant artifact reflecting Peja's long and storied past. This water fountain, preserved over centuries, serves as a vital cultural and historical landmark. Participants are encouraged to propose new designs that integrate and celebrate this water fountain, making it a central and vital part of their overall design proposals.

The competition seeks innovative ideas to transform the site into a lively participatory public area. The primary objective is to design a flexible multipurpose pavilion and an engaging outdoor space that revitalizes the area. The pavilion should serve as a cultural center that not only integrates the 15th-century water fountain but also enhances its historical importance. The pavilion should provide a versatile environment for social events, art activities, and community gatherings. Additionally, the outdoor space should be designed to become a vibrant public hotspot, fostering social interactions and cultural engagement.

Design proposals should balance contemporary architectural advancements with historical conservation, emphasizing the water fountain's historical significance. Proposals should utilize environment-friendly materials and sustainable construction methods, ensuring the site honors its past while embracing modern needs.

Through this competition, the organizers aim to breathe new life into this historically rich site, making it a central point of community activity and cultural pride once again. The revitalized area will honor its historical roots, particularly the ancient water fountain, while paving the way for a vibrant and sustainable future.

Competition programme

The Peja Culture Pavilion competition seeks innovative design proposals that integrate the historical 15th-century water fountain into a multifunctional public space. The aim is to create a versatile and engaging environment that revitalizes the area and serves as a vibrant cultural hotspot. The design should be both aesthetically pleasing and functional, catering to various community needs and activities.

Central pavilion space

Purpose:

Serve as the main area for cultural events, exhibitions, and community gatherings.

Approximate size:

50-70 square meters.

Features:

Flexible open floor plan, high ceilings, natural lighting, integrated seating, and multimedia capabilities (e.g., sound and projection systems).

This multifunctional indoor area should be adaptable for various uses, such as art exhibitions, cultural performances, and community meetings. The design should allow for easy reconfiguration of the space to accommodate different events, ensuring flexibility and utility.

Outdoor amphitheater

Purpose:

Provide a space for performances, presentations, and public speaking events.

Features:

Tiered seating, stage area, and acoustic design considerations.

An amphitheater with tiered seating will provide an outdoor venue for live performances, lectures, and community events. It should be designed with acoustics in mind to ensure sound quality and equipped with basic stage facilities.

Historical fountain integration

Purpose:

Highlight and preserve the 15th-century water fountain as a central feature.

Features:

Protective structures, enhanced visibility, interpretive signage, and seating around the fountain.

The ancient water fountain should be prominently featured and integrated into the overall design. This area should be both a place of contemplation and a focal point that draws visitors. Protective measures should ensure its preservation while making it accessible and appreciated by the public.

Green spaces and gardens

Purpose:

Offer relaxation areas and enhance the aesthetic appeal of the site.

Features:

Native plants, walking paths, benches, and shaded areas.

These areas should offer natural beauty and tranquility, enhancing the site's appeal and providing a relaxing environment. The design should incorporate local flora and create inviting pathways and seating areas.

Artistic installation areas

Purpose:

Display public art, sculptures, and installations.

Features:

Pedestals, lighting for nighttime viewing, and interactive elements.

Dedicated spaces for art installations will add a dynamic and creative element to the site. These should be strategically placed to complement the overall design and encourage interaction from visitors.

Pathways and accessibility

Purpose:

Ensure easy and inclusive access throughout the site.

Features:

Paved walkways, ramps, signage, and lighting.

Well-designed pathways will ensure that all areas of the site are easily accessible to all visitors, including those with disabilities. Clear signage and lighting will enhance navigation and safety.

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

The competition site

Site restrictions

Situated in the heart of Peja, Kosovo, the competition site is a historically significant area centrally located in the city. This prime location, which has been a focal point for community gatherings and social interactions for centuries, is home to the ancient 15th-century water fountain, an architectural gem protected by the Ministry of Culture of Kosovo.

The site is characterized by its rich historical context, enveloped by the vibrant urban fabric of Peja. The proximity to significant cultural landmarks and the bustling city center provides a unique setting for the design. The historical water fountain, combined with the site's blend of cultural and recreational elements, offers a distinct opportunity for designers to create a multifunctional space that seamlessly integrates with the surrounding urban environment.

There are no specific site restrictions for the Peja Culture Pavilion competition; however, the position of the 15th-century water fountain must be respected. Participants are free to propose any design for the fountain as long as it is preserved and integrated into the overall design.

SITE COORDINATES:
@42.660718, 20.288706

SITE CAD AND PDF PLAN AND PHOTOGRAPHS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD ON ARCHITECTURECOMPETITIONS.COM/PEJAPAVILION
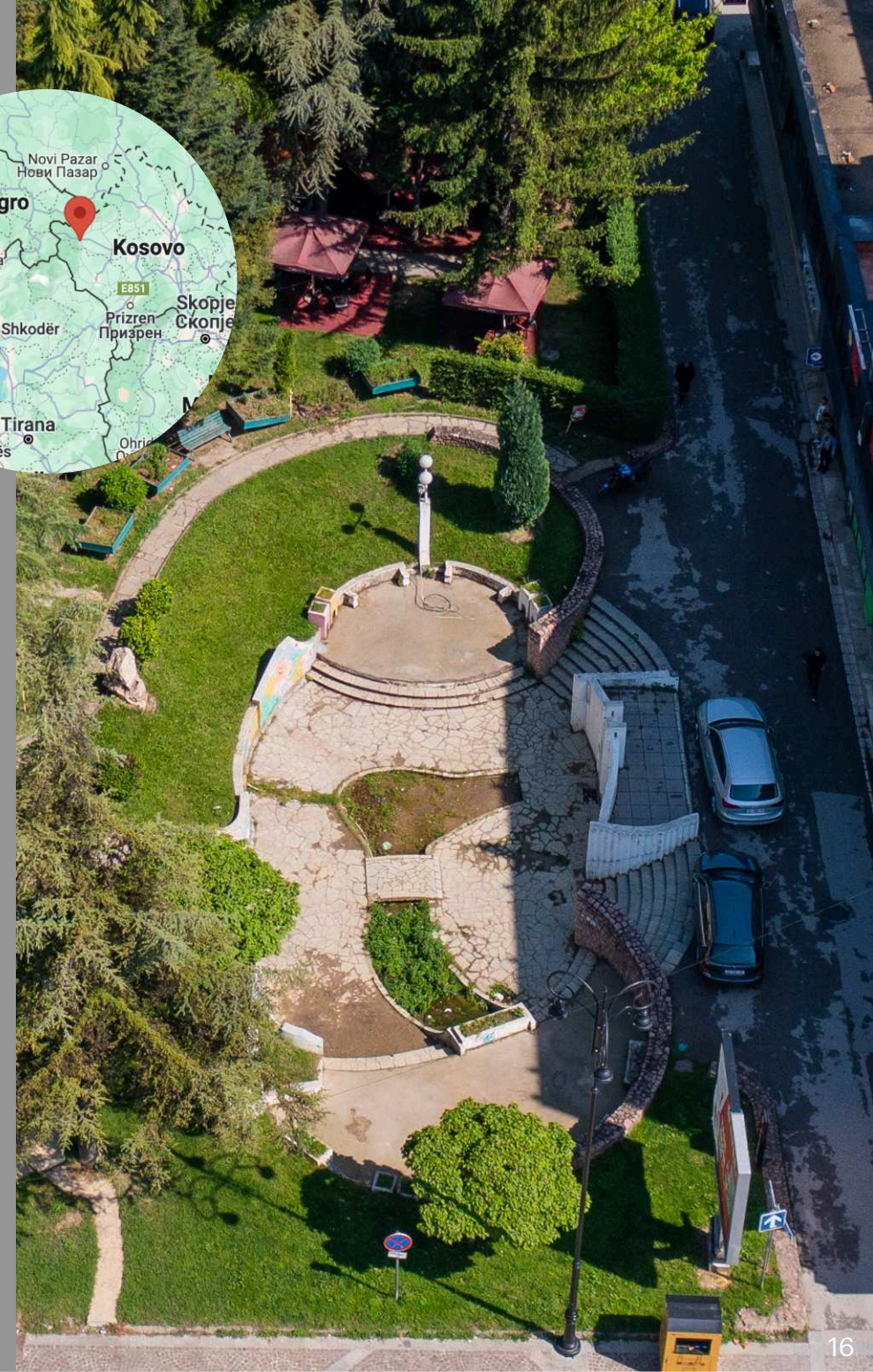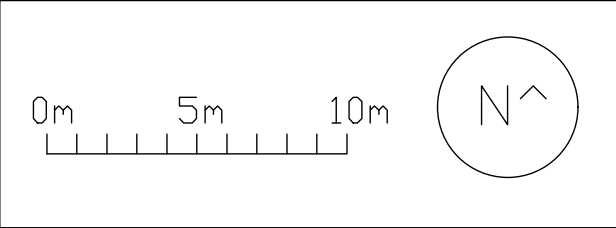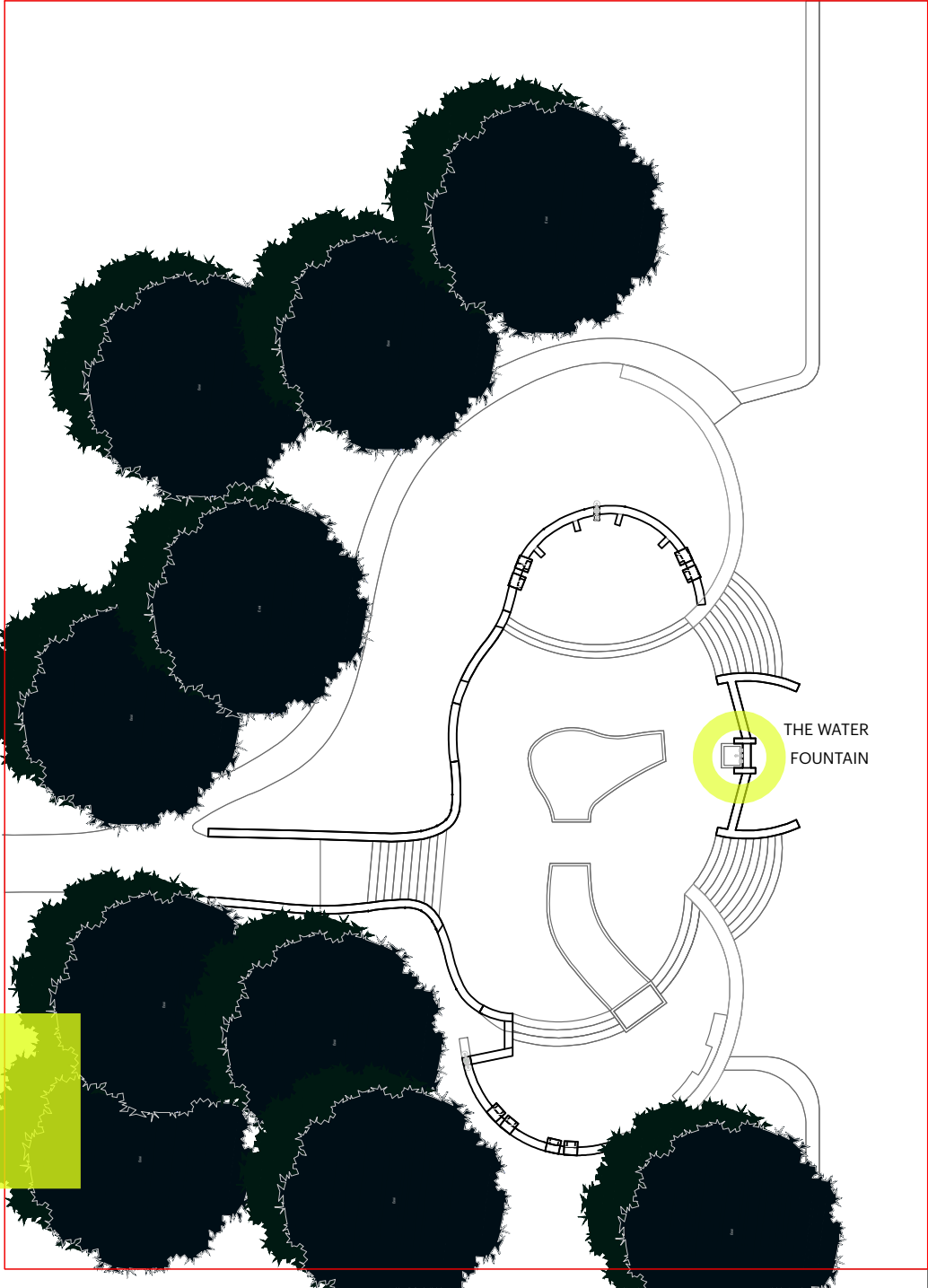
THE WATER FOUNTAIN

SITE CAD PLAN IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD ON
ARCHITECTURECOMPETITIONS.COM/PEJAPAVILION

SITE BOUNDARY

0m   5m   10m   N^

THE WATER FOUNTAIN

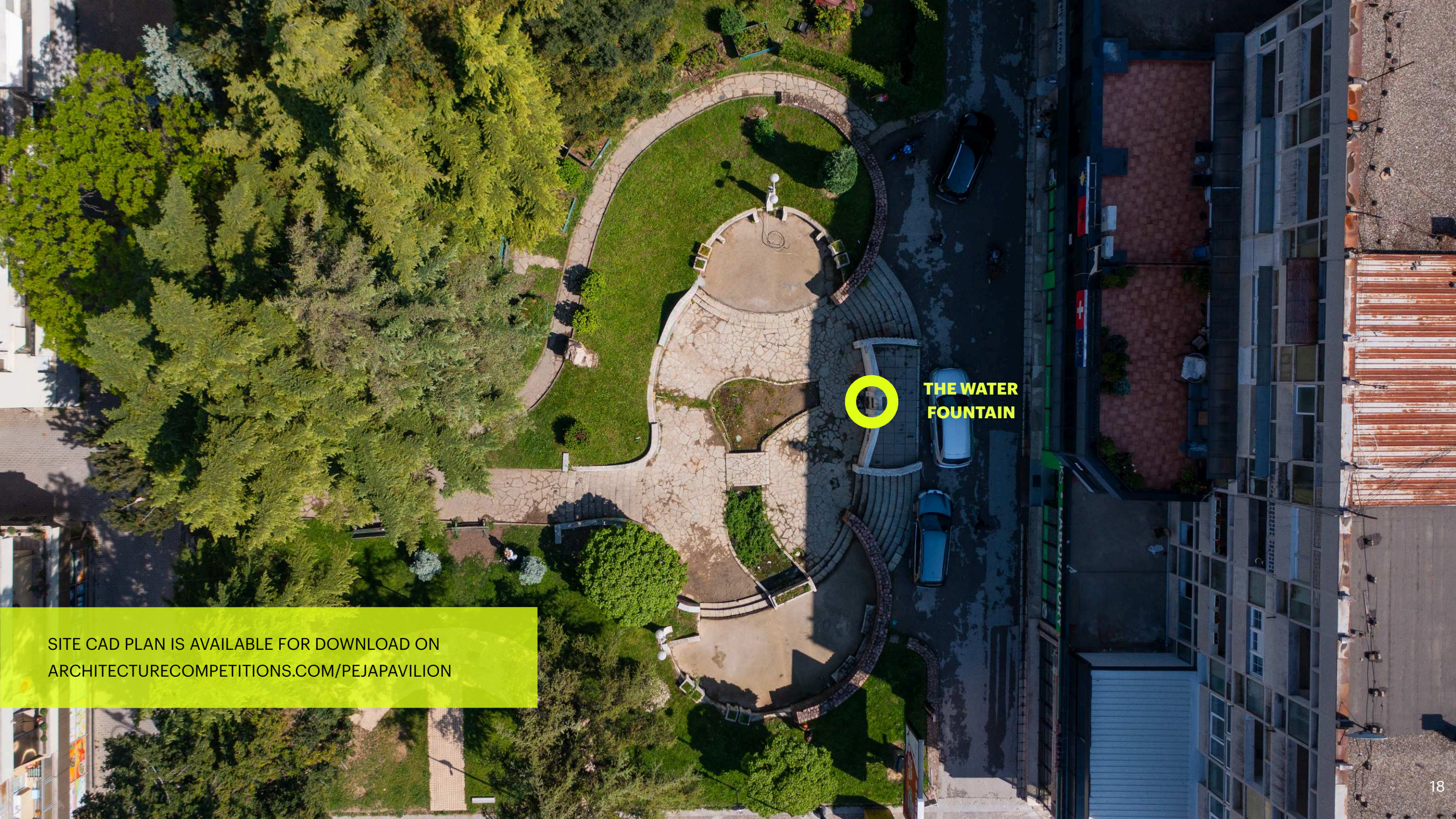SITE CAD PLAN IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD ON
ARCHITECTURECOMPETITIONS.COM/PEJAPAVILION

THE WATER FOUNTAIN

Project budget requirements

The total budget for the Peja Culture Pavilion project is estimated to be around €50,000. Participants are encouraged to prioritize cost-effectiveness and rationalize expenses in their designs. Proposals should demonstrate a thoughtful approach to financial feasibility, focusing on innovative yet practical solutions that maintain low costs while achieving the architectural objectives outlined in the competition brief.

The budget breakdown is as follows:

- Materials: €25,000
- Labor: €15,000
- Miscellaneous Costs: €10,000

These budget guidelines are general, and participants should treat them as an approximate guideline. No detailed cost analysis is required. Participants should strive to use environment-friendly materials and sustainable construction methods to ensure the project's longevity and minimal environmental impact. The goal is to create a functional, inviting, and iconic addition to Peja's urban landscape, honoring the historical significance of the ancient water fountain while providing a contemporary and engaging environment for community and cultural activities.

Prizes

Monetary awards

10,000 € + Potential to be realised

3 winning proposals, 2 special award recipients and 6 honorable mentions will be selected. Buildner will award a total of 10,000 € in prize money to competition winners as follows:

1ST PRIZE	BUILDNER STUDENT AWARD	
5,000 €	**1,000 €**	
2ND PRIZE		**+ 6 honorable mentions**
2,500 €	BUILDNER SUSTAINABILITY AWARD	
3RD PRIZE	**500 €**	
1,000 €		

Prizes

Potential to be Realised

Peja Municipality and Collective Action for Culture have expressed an interest in realizing the winning design of the Peja Culture Pavilion competition. This provides participants with a unique opportunity to see their vision come to life and make a lasting impact on the community.

Certificates

Buildner will acknowledge the outstanding performance of all winners with Certificates of Achievement.

Publicty campaign

Media

Buildner's publicity campaign offers extensive exposure to the architectural community, ensuring that the results of the competition are seen by a vast audience:

BUILDNER'S
TWO MILLION

arch daily
FEATURE

BUILDNER
EXTENSIVE MEDIA NETWORK

The results are published on buildner.com, a leading website in the architecture industry, attracting over one million unique visitors annually. Additionally, the campaign extends to Buildner's social networks, which boast over 800,000 followers combined, and through newsletter campaigns reaching over 200,000 subscribers.

As part of the collaboration between Buildner and ArchDaily, the competition winners will be showcased on ArchDaily, a leading architecture news platform.

This feature will greatly boost the winners' visibility to millions of architecture professionals and enthusiasts worldwide, increasing their chances for new opportunities, attracting new clients, and establishing their reputation in the industry.

Buildner leverages an extensive network of media industry leaders to publish the competition results. This broadens the audience further, ensuring that participants' work is showcased across multiple platforms known for their influence and reach in the architecture and design sectors.

Publicty campaign

Interview & Movie

After participants submit their project, they have the opportunity to upload a questionnaire (in writing) and a video about themselves **on the Buildner project upload panel**, up to five days before the results announcement. The specific submission deadline is indicated in the project upload panel.

These submissions are **OPTIONAL** but highly recommended in case the project is selected amongst the winners to maximize the publicity and media attention their work will receive.

Questionnaires and videos will be published for winners and honorable mentions with the competition results on Buildner's website.

Videos will be published for all participants, including winners, on Buildner's YouTube channel.

Read more about:

The interview – architecturecompetitions.com/interview

The video submission – architecturecompetitions.com/submit-movie

Explore the movies received from Buildner Architecture Competition winners and honorable mentions here - youtube.com/@buildner

Competition schedule

Preliminary registration deadlines

⚑ Early Bird Registration
JUNE 25 – JULY 30

⚑ Advance Registration
JULY 31 – OCTOBER 23

⚑ Last Minute Registration
OCTOBER 24 – DECEMBER 11

It is still possible to participate in this competition after the preliminary deadlines, however, a higher late registration fee will be charged.

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? Closing date for questions & answers
DECEMBER 17, 2024

In order to guarantee equal opportunities to all competition participants, no new questions will be answered after this deadline!

⚑ Closing date for registration
DECEMBER 11, 2024

☑ Closing date for submission
JANUARY 28, 2025 (11:59 p.m. LONDON TIME)

🏅 Announcement of the winners
MARCH 11, 2025

Registration fees

Please find **registration fees** listed at the competition website
architecturecompetitions.com/pejapavilion

Discounts for architecture students

Buildner 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.

Buildner Architecture University rankings

Explore the Buildner's list of the world's 1000+ most competitive architecture universities –
architecturecompetitions.com/architecture-university-rankings

Submission requirements

Project submission

- **Participants are required to upload four (4) A2 landscape-orientated presentation boards (must not exceed 10MB per board) with sketches, renderings, plans, sections, elevations, diagrams, and/or other presentation tools to explain their proposal.**

up to 4 panels

- No video files are accepted.
- All information provided in writing must be in English.
- All submissions must be uploaded via the architecturecompetitions.com upload panel. Access information and instructions on how to upload the presentation board 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.
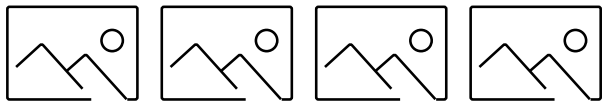
Participants who do not comply with the requirements will be disqualified without refund.

Your project in the media

Participants are required to submit a cover image and a project description in the project upload panel. These will be used for publication purposes and will not be seen by the jury. The image and text need to be submitted in the project upload panel at the time of project upload.

Cover image

Participants can choose and upload **one project preview image from their presentation** that best describes their project.

• The project preview image would need to be at least 2000x1680 pixels large, orientated horizontally, no more than 10 MB in size, and in jpg/jpeg format.

• The project preview image will be used for promotional materials to showcase the project in case the project is selected as the winner.

• Please note: the competition jury will not see the selected project preview image.

Project description

In the project upload panel, participants will be asked to add their project description. Please note that this will not be seen by the jury but will be used mainly for publication purposes. In the project description, please include the following:

• **Project Overview:**
Provide a brief summary of the project.

• **Assignment:**
Explain the task or problem you were assigned to solve.

• **Objectives:**
Outline the main goals and objectives of the project.

• **Design Concept:**
Describe the design concept and the inspiration behind it.

• **Approach and Strategy:**
Detail the approach and strategy you used to tackle the project.

• **Key Features:**
Highlight the key features and unique aspects of the design.

• **Materials and Techniques:**
Mention the materials and techniques used in the project.

• **Challenges:**
Discuss any challenges you faced and how you overcame them.

• **Results:**
Share the outcomes and results of the project.

Recommended submission contet

Landscape visualization:
A visualization that illustrates how the proposed pavilion complements the historical surroundings of the Peja site and enhances the visitor experience, integrating the ancient water fountain as a central feature.

Concept designs:
Designs that emphasize the highest quality standards, aligning with the design brief and the unique characteristics of the project site, while highlighting the historical and cultural significance of the water fountain.

Visualizations:
Artist's impressions from various vantage points to illustrate how the proposal integrates with the historical and cultural value of the site, showcasing the potential to become a vibrant community and cultural hotspot.

Detailed plans and sections:
Submissions should include key points of proposed plans and sections, as well as multiple internal and external perspectives demonstrating the spatial quality of the pavilion, along with its operational needs and accessibility requirements.

Project feasibility demonstration:
A detailed analysis concerning the environmental impact, adaptability to climate conditions, life cycle, and the use of materials characterized by low environmental impact and high durability.

Comprehensive design presentation:
Proposed plans, sections, and multiple internal and external perspectives that showcase the spatial quality of the pavilion and landscape elements. These should also detail operational needs and demonstrate compliance with accessibility standards.

Construction and sustainability strategies:
A thorough presentation on project construction, material selection, functional aspects, management, and maintenance plans. This should also include an approach to environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, and logistics.

Presentation deliverables set

- Urban plan (suggested scale 1:500 or 1:1000)
- Street 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
- Perspectives
  - Primary interior spaces
  - Primary site locations

- Diagrams
  - Circulation
  - Public versus private space
  - Lighting
  - Landscaping
  - Transportation
  - Energy systems
  - Cityscapes/urban relationships

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.

Presentation preliminary review

For more than ten years, Buildner has analyzed and rated thousands of architecture competition project submissions. Trust us when we say — the quality of your presentation is vital to convince a jury team of your design intent, and there are several graphic and representational factors that can make it or break it. We can help you make it right!

Buildner can review your presentation and give you valuable feedback!

Participants are welcome to submit their competition presentation draft panel/s **before submitting it/them as a final competition entry for a preliminary review.**

Within 1–3 days, our team will analyze your presentation panel/s and rate them on predefined criteria points, as well as add valuable written feedback on how you can improve your final competition submission.

Find out more here –
architecturecompetitions.com/reviews
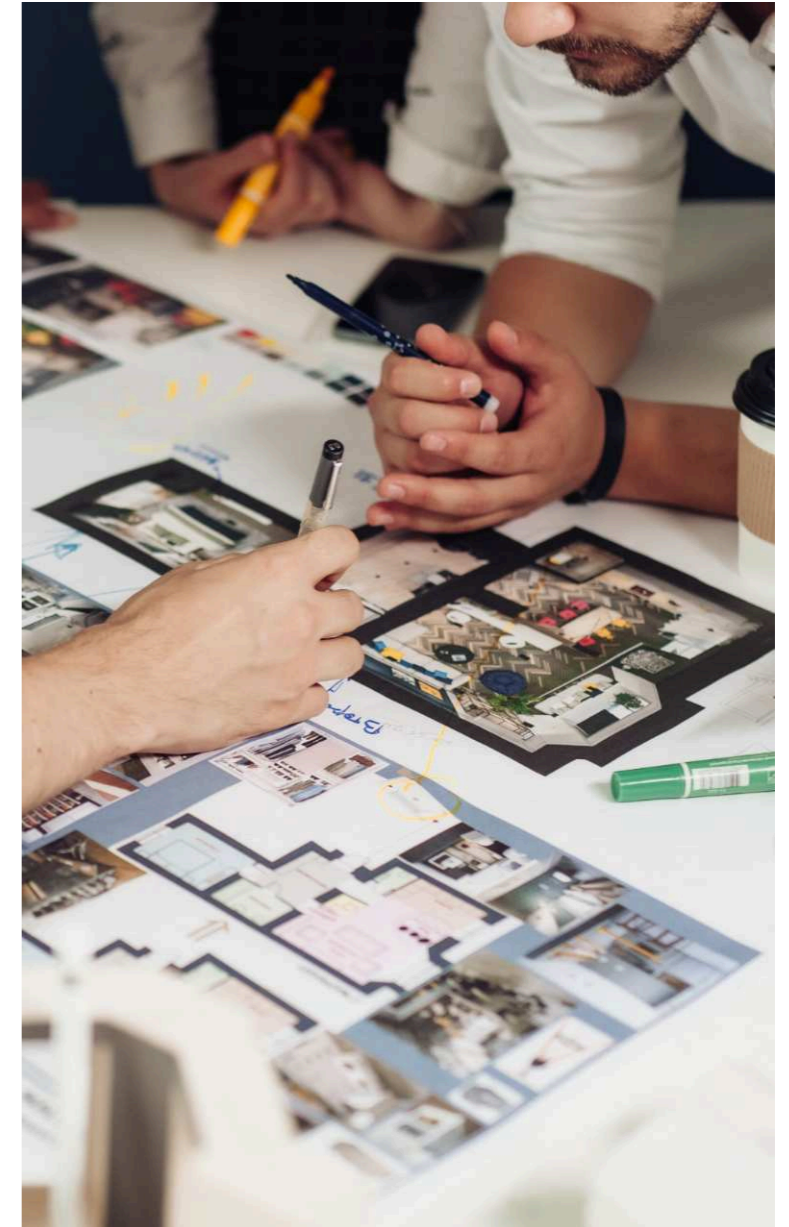
Jury

The jury panel members list and biographies are published at
architecturecompetitions.com/pejapavilion

Participants are advised to research both the working site and previous similar case studies as part of the design process. For each competition, 6–9 jury panel members are selected. Buildner reserves the right to add/remove the jury panel members at any moment.

Jury members shall under no circumstances be contacted by competition participants or their representatives. Participants who attempt to contact jury members shall be disqualified.
All competition-related communications should be carried out solely with Buildner staff.
For any questions, please contact us at contact@buildner.com

Peja Culture Pavilion is a project competition, which encourages participants to test or redefine the boundaries of architecture. The jury may choose to reward projects that show a high degree of creativity, even if they breach competition guidelines, as long as this is justified.

Buildner is committed to selecting the most qualified industry professionals to comprise its jury panels. Jury panels consist of architects, in addition to professionals from other professional backgrounds that are relevant to the competition topic, to guarantee the most objective competition results.

*You may find the invited jury list from **previous** competitions here – architecturecompetitions.com/guest-jury*

Eligibilty

The competition is open to all. No professional qualifications are 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

The following information is available for download on architecturecompetitions.com/pejapavilion
- Full competition brief
- Site and context photographs
- CAD and PDF site plan

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

The brief and all associated documentation for this competition are created 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 architecturecompetitions.com/pejapavilion

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

Competition press kit (in English) and banners are available at architecturecompetitions.com/pejapavilion/press

BUILDNER
Architecture Competitions

Full Competition Terms & Conditions:
architecturecompetitions.com/pejapavilion/terms

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