

The Texas Society of Architects and the Education Outreach Committee are excited to launch the Inaugural Texas Society of Architects Student Design Challenge. This challenge is designed to recognize the incredible work done at the middle and high school levels and to showcase our industry's future leaders and designers. Designs of all types are acceptable, including buildings, structures, community centers, temporary housing, and transportation. Theoretical design solutions such as cell phone apps, events or festivals, and any other non-traditional design solutions are acceptable. Design solutions that go beyond the boundaries of architecture to address the challenge's theme of SHELTER are highly encouraged.

The 2021 Student Design Challenge jurors will be announced on our website and social media accounts. All submissions will be reviewed and evaluated by the Education Outreach Committee. The committee will select the finalists in each category for final review by the jury. The jury will be reviewing the finalists' submissions and presentations during the TxA Conference in October. If possible, the finalists may be asked to present their project to the jury either live, virtually, or via pre-recorded video at the conference. Jurors will base their decisions on the entrants' design submissions and final presentations. Jurors will deliberate at the conference. Once the final selections have been made, winners will be notified and then announced.

Finalists and winners will be recognized at the Texas Society of Architects' 82nd Annual Conference and Design Expo, which will take place in San Antonio on October 7–9, 2021. Winning submissions will then be published on our blog.

Entry Checklist

Entries must be submitted online.

Each entry must contain the following:

- PDF Presentation (13 slides max)
- JPEG copy of each slide (13 slides max)
- Project Description (250 words max, to be included on the second slide)
- 1-2 high-resolution images to potentially use on TxA Blog and/or social media (max file size: 2 MB each)
- Completed submission form online with permission from all participants

Entry Deadline

All entries must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. CT on Sunday, September 26, 2021.**

Design Challenge Brief

Theme: SHELTER

What if going to school every day wasn't the only thing you had to worry about? What if you had to find food and shelter for yourself each day? What if your friends didn't have somewhere safe and comfortable to go to after school?

Just imagine yourself and/or your friends in that situation. What do you think would solve the issue? Can a unique design be a solution to this problem?

We want you to consider this idea of "shelter" and how it is a vital part of our everyday lives. And once you don't have it, everything begins to focus around trying to obtain it. We challenge you (and/or your team) to come up with a creative design solution for "shelter". If possible, consider critical issues involving "shelter" in your local community and target your solution towards solving a shelter problem local to you and your friends.

Project Eligibility

To be considered for a 2021 Texas Society of Architects Student Design Challenge finalist, projects must be submitted in accordance with the following requirements:

- » Projects can be submitted by either an individual student or a group of students (no limit on group size) currently in either middle school or high school in the state of Texas.
- » Projects must be submitted in their appropriate category based upon their current grade as of May 2021:
 - » Middle School Category (Grades 6 – 8)
 - » High School Category (Grades 9 – 12)
- » If a group of students that contains multiple grades submits, they must submit into the category of their oldest (by grade) student.
- » Teachers, counselors, etc. are encouraged to support and engage with students about their submissions, but cannot submit the project on their behalf.
- » Students may enter the challenge as both an individual entrant and also in a student group submission. No student may be included in more than two (2) submissions.

Presentation Criteria

- » PDF Presentations must contain no more than 13 pages/slides per project; however, each slide may contain more than one image and/or text.
- » Images/drawings that support the design solution (could include but not limited to: site plan, floor plans, renderings, sections, sketches, etc.). If applicable, include graphic scales and directional north arrows to ensure a complete understanding of the project.
- » The first slide include one image that best showcases the project and the entrant names.
- » The second slide should include the project's title along with the proposed location (if the solution has no physical location, such as an app, then a link or code to the digital solution is required.).
- » A 250-word (max) description (to be included on the third slide) of the project should include evidence of its positive impact on individuals and communities, as well as the extent to which it achieves program requirements and design solutions.
- » With the expectation for slide one, the name of the entrant or entrants must NOT be visible on any of the images or slides.

Specifications

All entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. CT on Sunday, September 26, 2021.

Presentation Tips

- » Order your presentation pages/slides so that they tell a clear, concise story.
- » Use drawings and graphics to support the story. Show simplified, clean plans, sketches, or other drawings that allow for quick comprehension. Drawings should support and complement the graphics.
- » Select only the best graphics (renderings, sketches, images, or drawings) to represent your project. You may not need all 12 slides (pages) to illustrate the design solution.
- » Edit your images for screen presentation. Process and size images accordingly.
- » Show images as large as possible on each slide. You may group multiple images on one slide.
- » Brief captions or labels will help jurors quickly grasp important information.
- » Do not set your presentation to auto transition or to a timed interval. Jurors may want to study one slide at a time.
- » Adhere to the digital requirements, checking to be sure your PDF presentation is no larger than 15 MB.
- » Test your files prior to submitting your entry.

Examples

See these projects below to help spark ideas. Remember, this competition is open to your interpretation of “shelter” and your own creative design solution.

- » <https://www.bdcnetwork.com/aia-design-competition-creates-portable-temporary-housing-homeless>
- » <https://www.bcworkshop.org/rapido>
- » <https://www.bcworkshop.org/cottages>
- » <https://mlf.org/community-first/>

Submission Requirements

The following are guidelines for preparing your entry, which should be submitted online.

PDF Presentation

- » Provide one presentation in PDF format with no more than 13 pages/slides. The file name should be the same as the project name (for example, “JonesHouse.pdf”).
- » The first slide should include one image that best showcases the project (can be a rendering, sketch, etc.). At the bottom left corner of the slide, include all entrant’s names, the grade they are entering this fall, and their school.
- » The second slide should include the project’s title and proposed location (unless the solution has no physical location.)
- » Slide three of the presentation should include the project description with bullet points and/or a brief paragraph describing the project, all on a white background. The narrative must describe the project in no more than 250 words. Include programmed elements (ex. community center, homeless shelter, temporary housing, etc.) and design solutions, and briefly detail information supporting objectives such as community impact, sustainability, how the solution provides or supports “shelter”, etc. This slide should include the project name; it may also include an image
- » Do not identify the entrant(s) on the slides, images, or in any text with the exception of what is included on the first slide.
- » Pages should be 11 x 8.5 inches, and oriented horizontally (landscape).
- » Font sizes should be 9 pt or larger.
- » Presentations should be concise and of high graphic quality. They may not contain sound, animation, video clips, or panorama movies. HOWEVER, you can submit any of those items as additional elements to support your project by including either links in the PDF Presentation, and/or in your submission.
- » Each PDF presentation file should not exceed 15 MB.

High-Resolution Images

For online use.

- » Include 1-2 high-resolution digital images you feel best represent the project. All images must be in JPEG format, no larger than 2 MB each, and at least 5 inches on the shortest side at 300 dpi.
- » The file name of each image should include both the project name and image name (for example, “JonesHouse_buildingrendering.jpg”).
- » Note: By providing these images, the entrant is providing permission for the Texas Society of Architects to use images for editorial and promotional purposes

Completed Entry Form

- » Each entry must include a fully completed submission form approved by all participants.