

# TAB 2021

# Tallinn Architecture Biennale Curatorial Competition

# The Estonian Centre for Architecture hereby announces the Curatorial Competition for the 6th international Tallinn Architecture Biennale TAB 2021.

## DEADLINE: 27 April 2020 at 4PM Estonian time + 2GMT

Tallinn Architecture Biennale (TAB) is an international architecture festival which addresses relevant issues in architecture and delves into the present and the future of the field. TAB is intended for both experienced and young architects as well as members of the general public interested in architecture.

The general goals of TAB are:

- popularising a quality built environment;
- internationalising Estonian architecture - offering an international platform for architecture;
- presenting new ways of thinking and creating a new vision in architecture.

The principal organiser of TAB is The Estonian Centre for Architecture (ECA).

TAB 2021 will take place from September to November and will consist of a main programme led by the head curator and a satellite programme led by co-curators. The TAB 2021 Curatorial Competition aims to find the best theme and head curator (or head curatorial team) for the 6th biennale. After finding the theme and head curator (or head curatorial team) for TAB, ECA will find co-curators who will work with the head curator to develop a satellite programme.

Throughout the previous five biennales, the core of TAB has been the curatorial exhibition, symposium and the Tallinn Vision Competition. The best examples from previous years are moments when the curatorial exhibition and the symposium complemented each other and became an integral whole. The main events expand the curator's idea in society in general, not only within a narrow group of professionals.

# Participation

The competition is public and open to all teams. We recommend that you include in your team at least one person who is well-versed in Estonian architecture and proficient in the Estonian language. If the people wishing to take part in the competition do not have such a person in their team, the Estonian Association of Architects can provide appropriate contacts upon request ([info@arhliit.ee](mailto:info@arhliit.ee)).

The competition is held in two stages. Stage I consists of submitting the competition project in writing and stage II is an oral presentation of the project in front of a jury. If the jury finds that a winner can be chosen in stage I, the jury is entitled to cancel stage II.

Questions may be submitted in Estonian or English; competition entries must be submitted in both Estonian and English. The deadline for developing the concept of the biennale and submitting the corresponding draft in writing is on 27 April 2020 4PM Estonian time + 2GMT. Competition entries must be submitted digitally at [maria@arhitektuurikeskus.ee](mailto:maria@arhitektuurikeskus.ee).

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE JURY WILL TAKE PLACE ON 4 MAY 2020.

THE STAGE II MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 14 MAY 2020.

The competition may not be entered by the chairman, members, back-up members and experts of the jury, or the individuals who have been involved in drafting the terms and conditions of the competition, those who have participated in the preparation of the competition and those who are clearly in a privileged position due to the preparation and organisation of the competition and/or who could influence the decisions of the jury. The following are also not allowed to enter the competition: close relatives (spouses, partners, direct relatives, siblings) of the above mentioned individuals, as well as business partners related to the chairman and members of the jury, who are shareholders of a company operating in the same field of activity.

# Competition Task

The task of the curator is to set up an innovative and responsive theme related to the context of Estonia and relevant in the contemporary world of architecture. It is important that the chosen subject has the potential to cross the international news threshold and raise interest in a wider cultural audience. The underlying topics should address issues that may become trending in the field of architecture. The main theme must be centred around architecture and/or urban planning.

In addition to setting the theme, the tasks of the head curator include curating three events that form the core of TAB:

1. Curating the CURATORIAL EXHIBITION. At the curatorial exhibition, at least half of the exhibits must be produced specifically for TAB 2021. At least one-third of the participants must be local architects practising in Estonia. The minimum number of works exhibited is 9.
2. Curating a two-day architectural SYMPOSIUM with presentations by architects invited to the curatorial exhibition. The symposium unpacks the background to the original works presented at the curatorial exhibition with the aim of linking different events into an integral whole and introducing the curatorial theme to a wider audience. At least one-third of the symposium presenters must be local.
3. Curating the TALLINN VISION COMPETITION in collaboration with the Tallinn City Planning Department, and curating the exhibition of the selected works.

The locations of the exhibitions and symposium will be confirmed at a later stage in cooperation with the head curator.

In addition to the above, the tasks of the head curator include:

- Compiling a catalogue accompanying the events of TAB, which will be completed by the opening week of TAB and will serve as a guide for visitors to the biennale to understand the events taking place throughout TAB. The function of the catalogue is to provide an overview of most of the TAB events and locations. If the curatorial team does not include a professional editor, a competent editor must be involved in the preparation of the catalogue.
- If necessary, participate in introducing TAB in Estonia and abroad, before and after TAB 2021.
- Engaging in negotiations with the supporters of TAB, if needed.

The curator's fee for the described competition tasks is estimated at 25,000 euros.

# TAB Satellite Programme

In addition to the main programme curated by the head curator (team of the head curator), the biennale also includes the satellite programme, which will be co-curated and coordinated by people found by ECA, who will be obligated to co-operate with the head curator (team of the head curator). The activities of the satellite programme may or may not be directly related to the theme formulated by the head curator. Satellites for the 2021 biennale are:

- The Estonian programme (in this form taking place for the first time during TAB) - exhibitions, workshops, discussions etc. on Estonian and local topics, mainly for the local audience. The curator for the programme will be selected after the competition for head curator.
- International installation competition and the erection of the winning work in front of the Estonian Museum of Architecture. The curators of the programme are the winners of the TAB 2019 installation competition, Gwyllim Jahn, Cameron Newnham (Fologram, AUS), Soomeen Hahm Design (UK) and Igor Pantic (UK). An exhibition of works submitted for the installation competition will be organised.
- An exhibition of work by international architectural schools related to the theme of the curatorial exhibition. The curators as well as the location of the exhibition are yet to be confirmed.
- TAB Club. The club features workshops and a spontaneous programme of short lectures. The coordinator will be found by ECA.
- Satellite programme. The satellite programme will have a separate coordinator in 2021. The coordinators of the satellite programme do not set conditions for the head curator and will cooperate with them.

## COMPETITION ENTRIES MUST BE WRITTEN IN ESTONIAN AND ENGLISH AND MUST INCLUDE:

1. The title for the 2021 Tallinn Architecture Biennale in Estonian and English;
2. A summary synopsis (up to 300 characters);
3. The subject of the curatorial exhibition (up to 5,000 characters);
4. A list of exhibitors and symposium participants, of which at least 50% must overlap;
5. The theme for the two-day symposium;
6. The subject for the Tallinn Vision Competition;
7. The concept for the catalogue content;
8. The list of team members and/or co-curators, the distribution of roles within the team and CVs. Each event at the biennale has to be assigned to a responsible person, including the editor of the catalogue. The names of the head curator(s) responsible for the work of the curatorial team and concluding the curation contract with ECA must be indicated.

The submission of entries will be followed by the qualification of entries to make sure they meet the competition conditions. The works will be reviewed and accepted by a qualification committee consisting of Maria Kristiin Peterson and Eve Arpo. In case

of technical deficiencies, the qualification committee has the right to contact the person who submitted the entry to remedy the deficiencies. Entries that fail to meet the competition conditions in terms of their content are not subject to evaluation. The jury will evaluate only entries accepted by the qualification committee.

## Award Fund

1st prize - 2,000 euros  
two 2nd prizes - of 1,000 euros

The whole prize will be paid out regardless of the number of participants in the competition and the outcome of the competition.

## Assessment of Entries and Assessment Criteria

Entries submitted will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- relevance of the theme;
- compliance of the project to the competition conditions;
- feasibility of implementing the curator's vision;
- team's experience, capability and professionalism.

## Legal Relations

- ECA is the principal organiser of TAB and ensures the organisational and technical functioning of the biennale.
- The competition is public and non-anonymous, which means that by submitting the project, all participants confirm their consent to participate in the project. Only the titles and the designers of the winning works will be announced. Other authors of the submitted entries will remain confidential, unless the authors of the entry wish otherwise.
- After the end of the competition, ECA will enter into an agency agreement with the head curator of the competition to curate TAB 2021 to the extent specified in this competition.
- The property rights of the works created for TAB 2021 will remain with the principal organiser, except for the property rights of the exhibits produced for the curatorial exhibition, which will remain with the authors unless otherwise agreed upon with the authors of the work.

# Timeline

The competition will be held from 18 February to 27 April 2020. The jury will select from among the entries and invite up to five of the best applicants for an interview. Based on the results of the interview, the jury will select the winner and two 2nd places. The jury has the right to cancel the second stage of the competition. The results of the competition and the jury's final report will be made public the latest in June 2020.

On 20 March 2020 at 4 pm, TAB 2021 will host a public briefing at the Estonian Centre of Architecture, introducing TAB as an architecture festival, the terms and conditions of the curatorial competition and the recommended themes for the Tallinn Vision Competition.

18.02 announcement of winners

20.03 briefing

27.04 4PM Estonian time + 2GMT. Deadline for submission of competition entries

04.05 jury meeting - stage I

14.05 jury meeting - stage II

(authors of up to 5 of the best works will be invited for an interview)

# The Jury

VILLEM TOMISTE, Head of TAB Committee, Head of the Jury

RAUL JÄRG, Director of the Estonian Centre for Architecture

VERONIKA VALK-SISKA, Ministry of Culture, Adviser (Architecture and Design)

LIINA SOOSAAR, assistant to the curator of TAB 2019

TIIT TRUMMAL, architect

EPP LANKOTS, Estonian Academy of Arts, Senior Researcher

JOHAN TALI, architect

Experts:

Yael REISNER, Head Curator of TAB 2019

VLADIMIR FROLOV, architect

# Questions and further information:

Estonian Centre for Architecture

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Questions will be answered by the jury of the TAB 2021 Curatorial Competition.