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A contest for
**WHO WILL LIVE IN THE
EMPTY HOUSES?**

Architecture Festival 2026
July 7-8-9 2026
former Fish Market, Porta Palazzo, Turin

UNDER 35 DESIGN CALL

**FUTURE
HOMES
EUROPE**

Competition organizer
Fondazione per l'architettura / Torino

In collaboration with
Ordine Architetti Torino

With the participation of
IREN

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Deadline extension notice published on 20 May 2026

. context

Today, the way we live is changing faster than ever before.

Students, workers and families are moving around more, staying in one place for shorter periods, and facing new opportunities and uncertainties. Meanwhile, cities are becoming more expensive, space is harder to find, and the very concept of 'home' is changing. With rising prices, ever-higher rents and often insufficient incomes, access to housing has become a daily challenge for many: in the European Union, in recent years, house prices and rents have risen significantly, whilst a growing proportion of the urban population spends over 40% of their income on essential housing costs. This situation highlights a growing imbalance between incomes, costs and the availability of adequate housing solutions.

However, the housing issue cannot be reduced to a purely economic dimension. Climate change, the digital transition and evolving social models demand a comprehensive rethinking of the concept of housing. A house is no longer just an asset to buy or rent: it is a space that must be sustainable, accessible and capable of adapting to new models.

The European Commission's European Affordable Housing Plan 2025 fits into this framework, promoting an integrated approach based on increasing the housing supply and strengthening public and private investment.

Guiding principles of the plan:

- ◆ affordability
- ◆ housing as social infrastructure
- ◆ environmental and climate sustainability
- ◆ innovation in design and process
- ◆ Replicability and adaptability across Europe

This call originates from precisely this point, where crisis and opportunity converge. It is aimed at those who wish to rethink contemporary living as a space for innovation, inclusion and the future.

. under 35 call

In this context, the call invites designers aged under 35 to develop visions, scenarios and design proposals for the future of affordable housing in Europe.

The aim is not merely to address a housing shortage, but to radically rethink the very meaning of contemporary living: as a physical space, but also as a social, cultural and environmental framework. We are seeking proposals that challenge the present and open up new possibilities for the future of European housing, capable of being:

- ◆ visionary yet practical
- ◆ experimental yet accessible
- ◆ critical yet practical

Proposals must interpret the principles of the 'European Plan for Affordable Housing' in spatial and design terms, not merely as a regulatory framework, but as an opportunity to imagine new housing models and forms of contemporary living.

For full details on how to enter, please refer to the competition guidelines.

. the festival

The competition is part of the “Who will live in the empty houses?” Architecture Festival, created and curated by the Fondazione per l’architettura / Torino and the Order of Architects PPC of the Province of Turin.

The initiative, dedicated to the theme of contemporary living, will take place in Turin, at the Former Fish Market in Porta Palazzo (Ex Mercato Ittico di Porta Palazzo), on 7, 8 and 9 July 2026.

Contacts

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