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

UNDER 35 DESIGN CALL

**FUTURE
HOMES
EUROPE**

Architecture Festival 2026

July 7-8-9 2026

former Fish Market, Porta Palazzo, Turin

Competition organizer

Fondazione per l'architettura / Torino

In collaboration with

Ordine Architetti Torino

With the participation of

IREN

Contacts

Fondazione per l'architettura / Torino

Via Giolitti 1 - 10123 Torino

eventi@fondazioneperlarchitettura.it



Deadline extension notice published on 20 May 2026

. introduction

The competition aims to promote the exchange of design ideas and raise awareness on the topic of affordable housing, and seeks to gather innovative, experimental and bold visions capable of challenging and redefining the concept of contemporary and future living in its spatial, social and cultural dimensions.

The aim is to develop proposals which, even through less conventional approaches, interpret the principles of the **European Plan for Affordable Housing** – presented by the European Commission in December 2025 – in design and spatial terms, not merely as a quantitative response to the housing shortage, but as an integrated vision based on quality, inclusion, sustainability and experimentation.

Architecture is called upon to translate these principles into adaptable, replicable and culturally relevant spatial solutions, capable of pointing towards innovative perspectives on the future of living.

. guiding principles

Proposals must be guided by the key principles of the **European Plan for Affordable Housing and the 75 recommendations outlined by the European Commission's Housing Advisory Board** (documents attached to this call for proposals), and in particular by the principles of:

- ◆ Affordability
- ◆ Housing as a social infrastructure

- ◆ Environmental and climate sustainability
- ◆ Innovation in design and process
- ◆ Replicability and adaptability across Europe

. the festival

This call for entries is organized as part of the **“Who will live in the empty houses?”** Architecture Festival, created and curated by Fondazione per l'architettura / Torino and Ordine degli Architetti PPC della Provincia di Torino. 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**. The Festival also ties in with the City of Turin's application to become European Capital of Culture 2033.

The selected projects will have the opportunity to be exhibited during the Architecture Festival in a dedicated exhibition space.

. aims and purpose of the contest

The contest invites participants to develop design ideas that are consistent with the principles of the European Plan for Affordable Housing and the 75 recommendations of the Housing Advisory Board. The initiative aims to promote knowledge, scenarios and innovative solutions for the future of affordable housing in Europe.

Projects do not need to be situated on a specific site; however, each proposal must relate to a real-world context and make explicit reference to it.

The call is open to design proposals for multi-family residential buildings and multi-unit housing systems, covering both new-build projects and cases of reuse, regeneration, conversion or transformation of existing buildings.

Proposals may develop projects at one of the following levels of detail:

- ◆ settlement system (urban block, section of a neighborhood, residential cluster) in relation to the context, with particular attention to the relationship with public space, services, mobility, open spaces, access points and connections with the relevant urban or territorial fabric;
 - ◆ standard building and housing unit: the proposal must address the general organization of the building, specifying the layout, the relationship between private and communal spaces, and strategies for accessibility, sustainability and flexibility of use, and must provide a detailed study of at least one housing unit representative of the proposed model.
- All proposals must take into account spatial quality, flexibility of use, accessibility, sustainability and the relationship with any communal and/or urban spaces and services.

The contest aims to select solutions that offer housing models capable of being replicated and adapted to different urban, peri-urban or rural contexts, integrating typological innovation, architectural quality, social inclusion and innovative models of housing management and governance.

. how to participate

Participation is open and requires the designer or design team to submit an application. The identity of the contestants will be known to the Jury from the moment the entries are received.

Participation is open to candidates aged under 35, from both national and international backgrounds, who hold a master's degree, academic diploma or other qualification/educational background deemed equivalent within the European context, in architecture, design, urban planning, landscape architecture or related disciplines. These requirements must be declared by means of a self-certification at the time of application.

Participation is permitted on an individual basis, as a group or as a professional practice. In the case of collective participation, the majority of members must be under 35 years of age and meet the above requirements. For collective applications, the maximum number of participants allowed per group is five. A single participant is not allowed to be part of more than one group, on penalty of exclusion of the participant and the groups involved.

. materials

The organizer provides candidates with the following documentation:

- ◆ Contest summary
- ◆ European Affordable Housing Plan (in Italian and English)
- ◆ Housing Advisory Board recommendations to the European Commission – 2025 (English version)
- ◆ The European Affordable Housing Plan – Factsheet (English version)

. languages

The contest will be held in Italian and English. Entries may be submitted in Italian, English or both languages.

If selected, the winners will be required to provide an Italian translation of all texts and accompanying captions for the purposes of exhibition and public display during the Festival.

.required documents

The competition is an open procedure.

In order to ensure consistency across entries, to facilitate the jury's assessment process, and to enable the direct use of the materials in the exhibition layout for the Architecture Festival, participants are required to adhere to the technical specifications and formats set out below.

a) Application form and consent form for the processing of personal data (Annex A)

The application must include the personal details and contact information of all participants, as well as a self-certification of eligibility.

The application must be accompanied by all the documents specified in the application form.

b) Project manifesto (Documents 1 and 2)

The following are required:

2 boards in A1 format, vertical or horizontal orientation;

files in PDF format, maximum size 5 MB each.

These documents have the function of communicating the vision and design concept effectively and immediately. In the case of selection and exhibition, the display is intended to be viewed from a distance of approximately 2 meters; it is therefore recommended that text and graphic content be sized accordingly for this viewing method. By way of example and without limitation, the poster may contain images, renderings, axonometric projections, infographics and other visual summaries.

c) Detailed drawings (Documents 3 and 4)

The following are required:

2 documents in A3 format, horizontal orientation; files in PDF format, maximum size 2 MB each.

d) Illustrative report (document 5)

The following is required:

1 document in A3 format, horizontal orientation, text of a maximum length of 5,000 characters, including spaces. The report must contain:

- ◆ a description of the guiding principle and the project vision, with reference to the chosen context
- ◆ alignment with the principles of the European Plan
- ◆ strategies for affordability and social impact
- ◆ environmental sustainability strategies
- ◆ aspects of the proposal relating to replicability and adaptability
- ◆ identification of target users

e) Audiovisual submission (for phase 2, selected projects only)

If selected, applicants will be asked to submit an audiovisual piece on a topic of their choice, which may include, but is not limited to: images, 3D visualizations, interviews, short films, digital and interactive prototypes, as well as works created using artificial intelligence tools. The contribution, with a maximum duration of 2 minutes, must be designed for continuous loop playback, be in MP4 format and have a minimum resolution of 1080 pixels. The contest encourages the use of contemporary languages and innovative modes of representation, provided they are consistent with the requirements of clarity, legibility and comparability of the works, in order to enhance the narrative and experimental dimension of the proposals.

The selected projects will be provided with the following exhibition support:

- ◆ stands for displaying design boards

- ◆ screen for showing the audiovisual presentation
- ◆ surfaces for displaying any supplementary materials

. evaluation criteria

Projects will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria, with a total score of 100 points:

- ◆ consistency with the principles of the European Reference Framework (20 points)
- ◆ architectural and spatial quality of the proposal (20 points)
- ◆ ability to translate accessibility and inclusion into design choices (10 points)
- ◆ typological and conceptual experimentation (20 points)
- ◆ environmental and social sustainability (10 points)
- ◆ replicability and clarity of the proposed model (10 points)
- ◆ quality of the project's presentation and communication (10 points).

. evaluation, results and prizes

The shortlisted projects will be assessed by an interdisciplinary jury, which will select, at its sole discretion, three winning entries, to which the following prizes will be awarded:

- ◆ **1st prize:** €2,000.00
- ◆ **2nd prize:** €1,000.00
- ◆ **3rd prize:** €500.00

The amounts quoted include all applicable charges, taxes and statutory contributions and shall not give rise to any further remuneration, financial rewards or reimbursements of any kind.

The winning projects and a selection of those deemed worthy will be exhibited as part of the 2026 Architecture Festival and featured in the initiative's public program.

The selected projects may also be the subject of further promotion and dissemination activities, including publications, institutional communications and cultural initiatives linked to the Festival.

.jury

The judging panel will consist of five experts, selected to ensure a balance of expertise and disciplinary perspectives.

It will comprise:

- ◆ one member nominated by the organizing body
- ◆ two members representing the Festival's technical and scientific coordination committee
- ◆ a member appointed by the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment at TU Delft
- ◆ a member appointed by Iren, in its capacity as a party involved in the competition

The jury's decision is final, binding and cannot be appealed.

. application submission

Applications, together with the accompanying documents, must be submitted by email to:

eventi@fondazioneperlarchitettura.it

Subject line: **Contest_Future Homes Europe**

Deadline for submission of applications:

Wednesday 10 June 2026 at 12.00

. timeline - New!

- ◆ **30 April 2026:** launch of the contest
- ◆ **20 May 2026:** deadline extension notice
- ◆ **10 June at 12.00:** deadline for entries

. exhibition rights

By entering the competition, participants authorize Fondazione per l'architettura / Torino and Ordine degli Architetti PPC della Provincia di Torino to use the submitted entries (drawings, images and audiovisual materials) exclusively for promotional, institutional communication and dissemination purposes relating to the competition and the Festival of Architecture.

This authorization is granted free of charge, on a non-exclusive basis and for an indefinite period, subject to the acknowledgement of the authorship of the works.

The organizing body may make only technical and graphic adjustments to the submissions that are necessary for their publication, exhibition or dissemination, such as resizing, layout, extracts or montages, without altering their substantive content.

The name(s) of the author(s) will be indicated for each selected and exhibited entry.

All intellectual property rights in the submitted works remain with the designers.

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