

# ARCASIA Thesis of the Year (TOY)

2024

## 1. Overview

- 1.1 The ARCASIA Thesis of the Year is a prestigious architectural thesis competition that celebrates the innovative and socially relevant work of architecture students across Asia. Initially conducted by the Association of Siamese Architects (ASA), the competition was later adopted by the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA), an assembly of 22 member countries in the year 2015.
- 1.2 The competition aims to provide a platform for the brightest minds in architecture to showcase their fresh ideas and potential on an international stage. It focuses on theses that address critical social issues, display innovation and originality, and consider global needs and challenges.
- 1.3 Each year, architectural students from ARCASIA member countries are invited to submit their work. The theses are first evaluated at the national level by their respective institutes. The top entries from each country are then submitted to the ARCASIA Committee on Architecture Education for final judging.
- 1.4 The competition culminates in an awards ceremony held during the ARCASIA Congress or ARCASIA Forum, where the winners are announced. In essence, the ARCASIA Thesis of the Year competition is not just a contest, but a celebration of the talent, creativity, and commitment of the next generation of architects in Asia.
- 1.5 The ARCASIA Thesis of the Year (TOY ARCASIA) aims to establish a competitive platform for architecture schools from ARCASIA member countries. The following are its specific objectives:
  - 1.5.1 *To Recognize Excellence:* The primary objective of the ARCASIA Thesis of the Year is to recognize and reward excellence in architectural thesis work produced by undergraduate students from ARCASIA member countries. The competition aims to highlight exceptional talent and innovative ideas within the field of architecture.
  - 1.5.2 *To Encourage Innovation and Originality:* The competition seeks to foster a spirit of innovation and originality among architecture students. By encouraging students to push boundaries, think outside the box, and explore new approaches to architectural challenges, the competition aims to inspire the next generation of architects to create groundbreaking and impactful designs.
  - 1.5.3 *To Promote Social Relevance:* The ARCASIA Thesis of the Year emphasizes the importance of addressing pertinent social issues and needs through architectural design. By focusing on the social relevance of the theses, the competition aims to promote architecture that contributes to the betterment of communities, improves living

conditions, and addresses societal challenges.

1.5.4 *To Foster Global Perspective:* The competition encourages architectural theses that consider global needs and challenges. By promoting a world orientation in the theses, the competition aims to instill a sense of responsibility and awareness among students regarding the broader impact of their designs. This includes considerations such as sustainability, inclusivity, and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

## 2. **Competition Details**

- 2.1 The competition is open to architecture students from ARCASIA member countries. Each institute must set up a procedure to select National Winners and submit a maximum of three (3) national winners to TOY ARCASIA Committee for the final judging (by TOY ARCASIA Judging Committee).
- 2.2 The thesis should be recent, not older than two school years from the date of the competition award. For example, if the competition will be awarded in September 2024, the thesis should have been produced between September 2022 and September 2024.
- 2.3 The thesis should be a product of students pursuing their first professional degree in architecture, be it B. Arch, B.S. Arch., or M. Arch, depending on which is recognized as the first accredited degree by their respective National Boards, Authorities, or Councils. Thesis of Post Professional or Post Graduate Courses i.e., Master Programs that are taken after B. Arch course (Professional Degree) is not be eligible for joining.
- 2.4 Individual or group thesis is allowed.
- 2.5 The thesis entry must have any or all of the following characteristics:
  - 2.3.1. *Thesis with High Social Relevance:* The thesis should address a pertinent social issue or need. For example, focusing on urban architecture solutions for overcrowding or slum redevelopment can demonstrate a high level of social relevance. The thesis should aim to provide better living conditions, sanitation, and well-being for the community it serves.
  - 2.3.2. *Thesis with High Innovation and Originality:* A good architectural thesis that brings something new to the field. It should dare to present fresh ideas or unique approaches to architectural challenges. This could be in the form of innovative design, use of materials, or application of technology.
  - 2.3.3 *Thesis with High World Orientation:* The thesis should consider global needs and challenges. It should not only focus on the student's interests but also on the broader impact of the project. The thesis should aim to make a positive contribution to the world, in terms of sustainability, inclusivity, or another global issue.
- 2.6 The thesis should make a contribution towards attaining any, some, or all of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations or its future global blueprint or roadmap.

- 2.7 All entries for submission must include the following:
- 2.7.1 One (1) A1 (594mm x 840mm) size of board containing any important drawings or details that the student wishes to put including (but not limited to) written concepts, site development plan, floor plan/s, elevation/s section/s, interior perspective/s, exterior perspective/s. The electronic file should be in PDF format based on a jpeg output with 300 dpi minimum resolution.
  - 2.7.2 PDF file of text, identifying the submitting ARCASIA member institute, institute's contact person and address, student's name, Degree Program name and duration (such as 5year B. Arch, B.S. Arch. or M. Arch), name of department & university, postal address, email address & contact details.
- 2.8 This is an anonymous award selection. Anonymity should appear in all submission materials, except item 2.6.2 above. The participant making the submission must have legal rights and copyrights of all the submission materials.
- 2.9 No identification marks shall appear on the graphic layout. The participant(s) shall keep his/ her/their entry confidential and take necessary steps to ensure it is not disclosed to any third parties throughout the process until the public announcement of results.
- 2.10 The thesis entry must be presented in the English language

### 3. **Organization**

- 3.1 The following is the Thesis of the Year's Organization details:
- 3.1.1 The Convenor of the Host Member Institute of the ARCASIA Congress/Forum shall appoint a TOY Convenor. The ACAE Chairperson shall be the Co-Convenor.
  - 3.1.2 The duties and responsibilities of the TOY Convenor are the following:
    - a. Leadership and Management: The **Convenor** is responsible for providing overall leadership and management of the Thesis of the Year competition. This includes overseeing the planning, organization, and execution of all competition-related activities.
    - b. Committee Formation: The **Convenor** is responsible for forming and leading the organizing committee for the Thesis of the Year competition. This involves selecting committee members, delegating tasks, and ensuring effective communication and collaboration among committee members.
    - c. Policy Development: The **Convenor** plays a key role in reviewing and updating the competition policies and guidelines subject to the context of the ARCASIA Congress or Forum for

that specific year. This includes defining eligibility criteria, submission requirements, assessment guidelines, and other relevant rules and regulations.

- d. Communication and Coordination: The **Convenor** serves as the primary point of contact for participating institutes, jurors, and other stakeholders. They are responsible for ensuring clear and timely communication, addressing inquiries, and coordinating the flow of information throughout the competition process.
- e. Judging Process: The **Convenor** oversees the judging process of the competition. This includes coordinating the selection of jurors, ensuring fairness and impartiality in the evaluation of entries, and managing the confidentiality and security of the judging process.

3.1.3 The duties and responsibilities of the TOY Co-**Convenor** are the following

- a. Support to the **Convenor**: The Co-chairperson works closely with the Chairperson to provide support in the planning and execution of the Thesis of the Year competition. They assist the Chairperson in carrying out their duties and responsibilities effectively.
- b. Committee Management: The Co-**Convenor** assists in managing the organizing committee and helps coordinate committee meetings and activities. They collaborate with the Chairperson in delegating tasks and ensuring smooth committee operations.
- c. Liaison with Stakeholders: The Co-**Convenor** assists in maintaining effective communication and coordination with participating institutes, jurors, and other stakeholders. They may serve as a point of contact in the absence of the Chairperson and help address inquiries and concerns.
- d. Event Coordination: The Co-**Convenor** assists in organizing the awards ceremony or any other related events associated with the Thesis of the Year competition. They help coordinate logistics, venue arrangements, and other event-related tasks.
- e. Continuity and Succession Planning: The Co-**Convenor** plays a role in ensuring continuity and succession planning for future iterations of the competition. They may assist in documenting processes, lessons learned, and recommendations for future improvements.

3.1.4 The launching of the competition shall be undertaken the **Convenor** and shall be assisted by the Co-**Convenor**. They shall ensure that the competition is launched according to the most practical timeline possible. The suggested timeline is as follows:

**3.1.4.1 Six (6) months before Congress / Forum: Launching of TOY Competition**

- 3.1.4.2 Three (3) months before Congress / Forum: Submission of entries to the 22 member institutes closes and its subsequent judging to determine the 3 finalists per institute
- 3.1.4.3 Two (2) months before Congress / Forum: Submission of 3 Finalists from the 22 member institutes
- 3.1.4.4 Six (6) weeks before Congress / Forum: Final judging and its consequent notification of finalists
- 3.1.4.5 During the Congress / Forum Proper: Awards Ceremony

3.1.5 The Asia-level judging shall be judged by a jury composed of the following:

3.1.6.1 ACAE Immediate Past Chairman (Head Juror)

3.1.6.2 ARCASIA President's Nominee

3.1.6.3 Representative from Zone A to be determined by the Convenor

3.1.6.4 Representative from Zone B to be determined by the Convenor

3.1.6.5 Representative from Zone C to be determined by the Convenor

3.1.6 The selected entries sent from all the national institutes of ARCASIA will be judged on broad assessment guidelines.

3.1.7 The decision of the Jury Panel shall be final and binding on all parties concerned and decisions cannot be appealed against.

3.1.8 Participants do not have the right to request access to the Jurors' comments or records on the adjudication.

#### 4. Awards

4.1 The following awards will be given:

4.1.1 Thesis of the Year (Gold Medal)

4.1.2 Special Awards (Certificates)

4.1.4.1 ARCASIA Thesis with Highest Social Relevance

4.1.4.2 ARCASIA Thesis with Highest Innovation and Originality

4.1.4.3 ARCASIA Thesis with Highest World Orientation

4.2 The ARCASIA Thesis of the Year could be the recipient of any or all of the Special Awards

4.3 The Awards Ceremonies will be held during the ARCASIA Congress/Forum.

#### 5. Intellectual Property Rights

5.1 Intellectual Property Rights belong to the author(s), but upon submitting an entry to the category, the participant declares, warrants, agrees and undertakes that the submission (Intellectual Property Rights inclusive) would be used for promotion/ publication of the event.

5.2 The participant affirms that their submission does not infringe upon the

Intellectual Property Rights of any third party. If it is found otherwise, the participant would be solely responsible for any legal implications that may arise.

- 5.3 The participant has the right to withdraw their submission at any point in time. However, once the work has been used for promotion or publication, the organizers reserve the right to continue its use.
- 5.4 The participant/s understand and agree that the submission of the work for promotion or publication of the event does not entitle them to any form of compensation. The organizers are not obliged to provide payment for the use of the work.
- 5.5 The organizers agree to provide appropriate credit to the participant for their work whenever it is used for promotion or publication of the event.
- 5.6 Any disputes arising out of the use of the Intellectual Property Rights would be settled amicably through mutual discussion.