

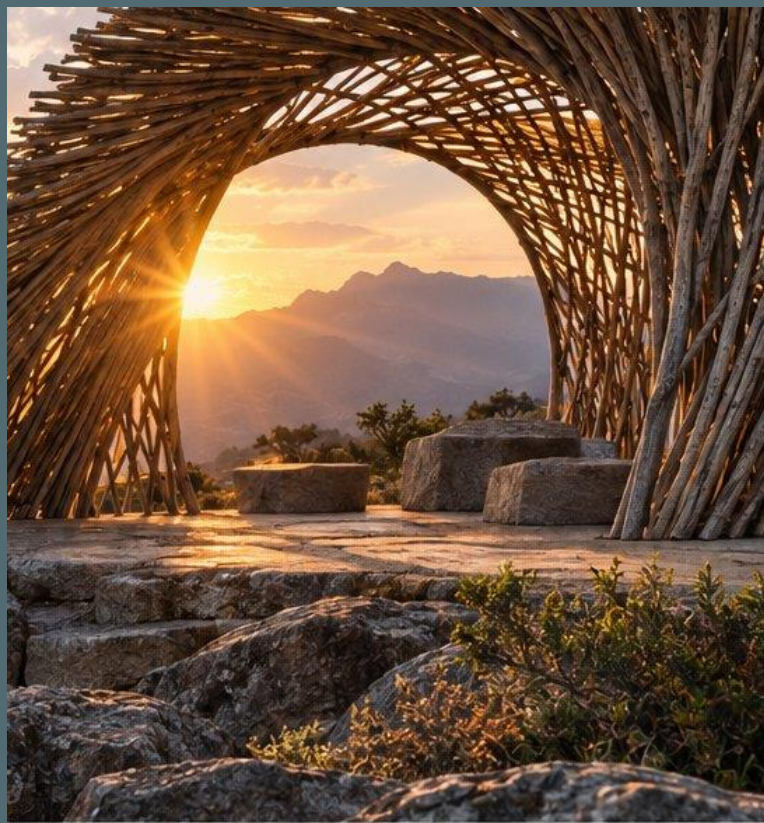


MUSEUM OF
OUTDOOR
ARTS

Design and BuildTM

A National Art, Architecture, & Design Competition

Eighth Annual • 2027 Design Challenge



HAVEN: ROOTED HERE

Build what belongs to the place

Entries open January 11, 2027 • Due May 16, 2027

\$24,000 in prizes • moaonline.org

THE 60-SECOND VERSION

Pick a real place. Design a haven that could only exist there.

A national conceptual design competition for U.S. college students in art, architecture, design, engineering and related fields. Enter solo, as a team, or as a whole class.

YOUR CHALLENGE IN 3 MOVES

01

PICK A PLACE

Any real, public site on one of six continents: a rainforest, a desert, a coastline, a city park. You decide.

02

BUILD FROM IT

At least 51% of your materials come from the site or its region: stone, timber, earth, fiber, salvage, snow.

03

OPEN IT UP

A shelter, pavilion, or gathering space that anyone in the public can use.

Design Check: If your haven would work just as well somewhere else, keep going. The best entries will only belong to one place.

WHAT YOU CAN WIN

\$24,000 in cash prizes, plus a permanent spot in MOA's competition design archive.

1ST PLACE

\$10,000

2ND PLACE

\$7,500

3RD PLACE

\$5,000

HONORABLE MENTION

\$1,500

Entering as part of a class? An additional prize goes to your academic department for the benefit its students. Winners are featured on the [Design and Build Competition archive](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JAN 8, 2027

ENTRY PORTAL OPENS

MAY 16, 2027

ENTRIES DUE BY 11:59 PM ET

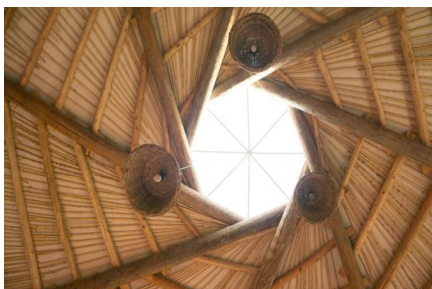
OCT 2027

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

READY? Register at the [competition website](#). The full rules are on pages 4–5.

NEED A SPARK?

Real places that shaped real buildings



The Maloca, Greece

Green School, Bali

Ricola Herb Center, Switzerland

More precedents in Appendix B: Global Precedents, Building from Place.

WHO WE ARE

A Real museum. A Real jury. A Real shot at getting built.

THE MUSEUM

MOA

A Denver-metro arts nonprofit with one mission: “*making art a part of everyday life.*” Think outdoor sculpture, gallery exhibitions, public art education, live music, and immersive art experiences.

THE PROGRAM

40+ years

MOA’s Design & Build brings students and emerging artists together to create site-specific artwork across Colorado. The motto: *to motivate invention through collaborative creativity.*

THE JURY

Working Pros

At least one architect from a nationally prominent firm and one accomplished leader in the fine arts. Entries are judged blind: no names, no schools.

THE PAYOFF

4 cash prizes totaling \$24,000

Plus a permanent place in the online archive. The competition is conceptual, but MOA may build a winning design someday and invite the winning team to help.

WHY THIS IS WORTH YOUR TIME



Portfolio piece

A finished, juried concept you can show anywhere.



Cash

\$24,000 split across four winners.



National exposure

Your work joins the national archive.



A chance to build it

Winning teams may help construct their design.

THE 2027 CHALLENGE, DECODED

HAVEN: ROOTED HERE

Design an architectural haven: a structure or space that shelters, gathers people, or marks a place, built from or in response to one real site.

STEP BY STEP

STEP 1

Choose a continent

North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa or Australasia.

STEP 2

Pin a real site

Natural, rural or urban. Give a place name or coordinates.

STEP 3

Say why there

In a few lines: why this place, and why a haven belongs there. Site choice is part of the challenge.

ANY MEDIUM WORKS

architecture • landscape architecture • sculpture • installation • or mix them

THE 6 RULES

Every entry has to hit all six

1 NAME THE PLACE

One continent, one specific, publicly accessible site.

2 BUILD LOCAL

51%+ of the structure is native to, sourced from, or salvaged within the region.

3 SERVE THE PUBLIC

Open to and usable by everyone. Permanent or temporary.

4 ANSWER THE CLIMATE

Weather, ecology, culture and seasons show up in the form, not just the narrative.

5 ACCOUNT FOR IMPACT

What it uses, what it gives back, and what happens at the end of its life.

6 SHOW A BUDGET

Up to \$500,000 for materials, labor, and general construction costs.

WHERE TO SPEND YOUR ENERGY

SKIP IT: NO BUDGET REQUIRED

- ✗ Land acquisition
- ✗ Site preparation
- ✗ Engineering drawings
- ✗ Permits

NAIL IT: WHAT THE JURY WANTS

- ✓ A strong idea
- ✓ Smart use of materials from your site
- ✓ A memorable link between design and place
- ✓ A believable \$500K materials + labor budget

NEXT PAGE What to submit, key dates and who can enter →

EVALUATION

What the jury will look for

Entries are juried blind by a panel of practicing artists, architects, and designers, and will be announced when the portal opens in January, 2027. Finalists will present to the panel by recorded video submission. Competition entries will be scored based on the following criteria: originality, artistic/creative expression, professionalism, addressing the challenge, technical proficiency, safety, and the final video presentation.

WHAT TO SUBMIT

- **One file.** All entries must be submitted as a single PDF, 11 × 17 in. landscape, under 25 MB, uploaded [through the entry portal](#). Other formats or multiple files are disqualified.
- **Drawings.** At least 1 image MUST be an elevation view of the context of the selected site. Other drawings/renderings can include detail, cross section, or site plan views. This section must also include documentation images of a **physical model** of the concept. You may include as many images as you would like, but this section **may not exceed 5 pages**.
- **Narrative.** Respond to [the 10 questions listed on this page](#) in numbered order. Your Project Narrative may not exceed 3,000 words. Budget information does not count toward the word limit.

PRIZES + DATES

FIRST \$10,000	SECOND \$7,500	THIRD \$5,000	HONORABLE MENTION \$1,500
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Winning entries are archived and featured on the competition website.

OCT 5, 2026	Competition announced; brief published	AUG 2027	Finalists selected and notified
JAN 11, 2027	Entry portal opens	SEP 2027	Finalist presentations by video conference
MAY 16, 2027	Entries close, 11:59 p.m. ET	OCT 2027	Winners announced and added to the archive

ELIGIBILITY

Open to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at any U.S. college or university, plus recent graduates up to one year after the competition opens. Students of art, architecture, landscape architecture, design, engineering and related creative fields are welcome.

- **Individuals, teams or classes.** Students may enter individually, as a team, or through a participating class or studio. Interdisciplinary collaboration is strongly encouraged. Faculty incorporating the competition into a course, studio, seminar, or capstone may submit multiple student or team entries from the same class.
- **Prizes.** All eligible students are welcome to participate regardless of citizenship or residency status. Monetary awards, however, may only be paid to recipients who are **legally eligible to receive award funds in the United States** and who can provide all required payment and tax documentation. For team entries, monetary awards will be divided equally among eligible team members.
- **Waiting period.** Previous winners and Design & Build Summer Interns are ineligible to participate in the competition immediately following their award or internship. They may participate again beginning with the next competition cycle.

QUESTIONS

We are glad to help by email or video call. Contact the Design and Build Program:

APPENDIX A GLOBAL MAP



APPENDIX B

GLOBAL PRECEDENTS: BUILDING FROM PLACE

The following precedents illustrate different ways architecture can respond to place. Each demonstrates one or more principles central to *Haven: Rooted Here*—local materials, environmental response, cultural connection, public gathering, sustainability, or a strong relationship between structure and site.

They are intended as inspiration, not as models to replicate.

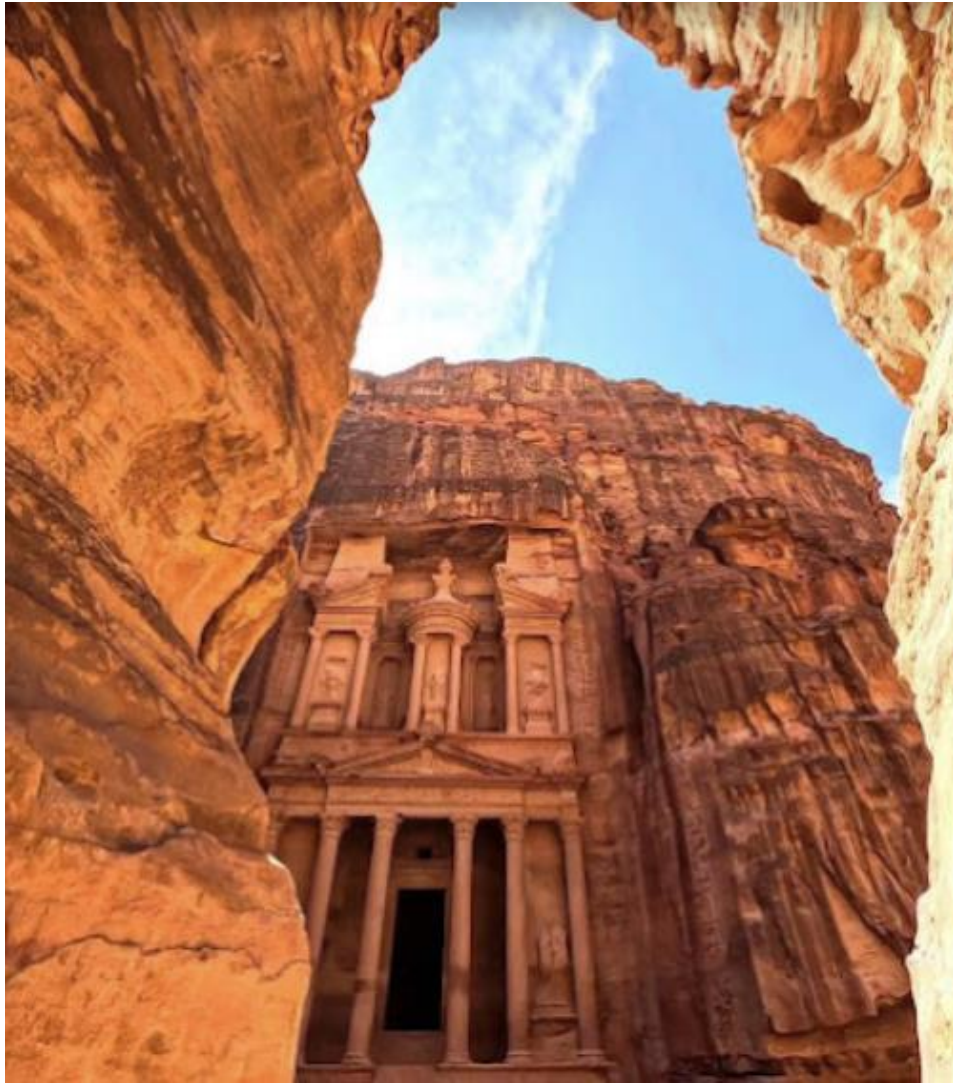
“THE GREEN SCHOOL” — BALI, INDONESIA

The Green School demonstrates how a locally abundant material can become the architectural idea itself. Its extensive use of locally sourced bamboo produces structural forms uniquely suited to the material while creating open, naturally ventilated spaces responsive to Bali’s tropical environment.



“THE TREASURY” — PETRA, JORDAN

Carved directly from the region’s native sandstone, the Treasury demonstrates an extreme connection between material, landscape, and place. Rather than placing a structure onto the site, the architecture emerges from the site itself—an example of a design that truly could not simply be relocated elsewhere.



“THE MALOCA” — GREECE

Built from locally available and sustainable materials using techniques including rammed earth, straw bale, cordwood, and

earth bags, the Maloca demonstrates how regional resources can determine both construction method and architectural character. It reflects the emphasis on local material logic, sustainability, and building from what a place provides.



“VERTICAL PANORAMA PAVILION” - CALIFORNIA

The Vertical Panorama Pavilion at Donum Estate in Sonoma was designed specifically around the environmental conditions of its exact location.

Studio Other Spaces describes the design as essentially a vertical cross-section of the site: soil, vegetation, wind, sunlight, atmosphere, rain, fog, and seasonal conditions all become part of the architecture.



“RICOLA HERB CENTER” – LAUFEN, SWITZERLAND

Its massive rammed-earth envelope is made largely from earth excavated locally, including loam, marl, and material from the site. Ricola says the materials used for the building envelope came from within roughly 8–10 kilometers. The earth walls also naturally regulate temperature and humidity, particularly appropriate because the building processes and stores herbs from the surrounding Swiss landscape.



“XYLEM PAVILION” — MONTANA, USA

Constructed from locally sourced ponderosa and lodgepole pine - including standing dead timber affected by pine beetles - *Xylem* demonstrates how regional materials and ecological conditions can become design opportunities. The raw timber creates both structure and experience while giving new purpose to a resource already present in the surrounding landscape.



“JUNGFRAUJOCH ICE PALACE” – SWITZERLAND

This structure is a series of spaces carved directly into Alpine glacier ice, demonstrating how local material, climate, and landscape can become the architecture itself.

