Theme: Housekeeping

Stay-at-home orders have prompted many of us to see our domestic settings anew, and to consider the various ways in which we “keep house.” The term “housekeeping” implies oversight and control, maintenance and responsibility. It is much more than an act of labor, but also an act of care. That said, it is impossible to think about housekeeping without considering the social, political, and economic conditions that define and consider the work under the rubric of gender, race, and class.

Architecture has been complicit in social, ecological, and economic crises that demand immediate attention. How should we think about the maintenance of our disciplinary home? What is it about the way designers work that we’ve so desperately to maintain, preserve, and protect? Architecture is invested in appearances—how we present ourselves and our work, but for whom? Who do we serve? How do we think about the care and labor involved in maintaining the appearance of our home, our disciplinary house? The term “housekeeping” evokes the comfort of the familiar, the excitement of the new. For some people, layers of dust went unnoticed until their living rooms had to double as workplaces. In other cases, household chores have provided respite from digital devices that require their own form of upkeep to optimize performance. Housekeeping implies oversight and control, maintenance and responsibility. It is much more than an act of labor, but also an act of care. That said, it is impossible to think about housekeeping without considering the social, political, and economic conditions that define and consider the work under the rubric of gender, race, and class.

The competition is open only to current full-time students (who need not be citizens) of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Entrants must be ten years or less out of a bachelor’s or master’s degree program. Current students are ineligible.

Eligibility

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Entry forms

Each submission must include a digital entry form. To maintain anonymity, no identification of the entrant may appear on any part of the submission, except on the entry form. If relevant, please also include collaborator acknowledgment and/or partner acknowledgement form(s). The portfolio and image-key files should be uploaded on the entry form.

For complete eligibility and submission requirements as well as detailed instructions to submit materials, please visit archleague.org/competition/lp21.

Submission requirements

A single digital portfolio in PDF format, no larger than 8.5” × 11” image-key PDF in landscape format. It should contain thumbnail images of the projects included in the portfolio for reference.

A separate one-page, 8.5” × 11” image-key PDF in landscape format. It should contain thumbnail images of the projects included in the portfolio for reference.

This is an anonymous competition. Your portfolio and image-key cannot contain any form of identification. Please do not include your name or firm name on your submission materials.

Entry fee

Each submission must include an entry fee of $35, to be paid online. Please be sure that the credit card is in the name of one of the entrants; we are unable to accept payments made on behalf of others.

Funding

League programs are made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Support is also provided by the Next Generation Fund, an alumni fund of The Architectural League’s Emerging Voices and Architectural League Prize programs, and the J. Clawson Mills Fund of The Architectural League.

Sponsors

The Architectural League Prize for Young Architects+ Designers: Housekeeping

Call for entries

Young architects and designers are invited to submit work to the annual Architectural League Prize Competition. Projects of all types, either theoretical or real, and executed in any medium, are welcome. Awards are given to the competition winners based on their presentation in lectures, digital media, and an exhibition in June 2021. If COVID-19 restrictions are required, the exhibition and lectures might shift to a digital format. Winners will receive a cash prize of $2,000.

Established in 1981 to recognize visionary work by young practitioners, the Architectural League Prize is an annual competition, lecture series, and exhibition organized by The Architectural League and its Young Architects + Designers Committee. For more information about The Architectural League, please visit archleague.org/architectural-league.

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