

BERLIN UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES



Introduction

“All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin, and, therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words “Ich bin ein Berliner.””

John F. Kennedy. June 26th 1963

Two towns founded around 1200, joined to form a single city of 7,000 inhabitants called Berlin. Over the years, the city was taking importance until it became the hub of great civilizations: Berlin was the capital of the kingdom of Prussia, the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich. After the Second World War, the west was also the capital of the German Democratic Republic and after the fall of the Wall and unification of both sides, it is established as the capital of Germany.

With a population of 3.4 million inhabitants, Berlin is the largest city in Germany and one of the major enclaves of power and culture in Europe. The division of the city during the Cold War doubled the cultural offer. Two theaters, two philharmonic and two stadiums were built generating a great amount of establishments that after the unification enrich the collective culture. Berlin is the cultural capital of the country by excellence. Despite the atrocities it suffered in the past, the city is known for its religious tolerance and multiculturalism. Today the city coexists exemplarily with different religions and cultures from all around the world. Berlin is also home to the alternative youth culture. A great university city where young people from Germany and around the world come to study and socialize.

Berlin is a city that has known destruction, division and reconstruction significantly, which transformed it into a laboratory for modern architecture and urbanism. The Berlin Wall divided the city and materialized it in two ways of living. The west side: western, compact and cosmopolitan differentiates from the east side: spacious, simple and Prussian.

The turbulent history of Germany often made cultural movements forced to grow behind political events. Such is the case of the Bauhaus school of architecture, possibly the most influential in history, which was closed three months after Hitler was named chancellor.

Founded by Walter Gropius in 1919, the school brought together artists, designers, architects and craftsmen with the will to vindicate manual work and eliminate barriers between craftsmen and artists. Birthplace of the austere rationalism and industrial design school was a space for reflection and learning. In 1930 it was moved to Berlin under the leadership of Mies Van der Rohe, but the complex political situation made the school close its doors forever.

The wall is a scar that divided the world and fragmented the German capital. Today the intangible layout no longer divides, but generates a shaft connecting different realities and strengthens the memory. Today Berlin is an international city and a cultural and artistic center of excellence. A young city where art, entertainment and culture around the world live intensely and naturally.

Proposal

The multiple events suffered, set the Berlin to be doomed as the “not to be” city. Berlin does not have the museum beauty like other European capitals, but its people and its rich history make it a strong and vibrant city. The constant change is perhaps the only thing that remains stable in the German city.

Nowadays, the intense city of Berlin offers new possibilities to project a common future where tolerance, culture and young life are the protagonists in the German capital. That is why from ArchMedium we propose the development of new ways of living around this city. The aim is to redefine the collective modes and temporary residence, as well as the pieces that confirm and how they are grouped.

In the alternative district of Kreuzberg, we propose a complex of temporary residences for students, recent graduates, families and travelers. On one hand a university residence with the comforts and services necessary for their operation. Private spaces and collective spaces are combined to generate a social complex. On the other hand, taking advantage of the common services of the residence; the competition also raises a number of rental housing for temporary use as a hostel for young travelers. The bar / restaurant and the hostel will be self- managed by the students of the residence.

How would you like to live?

Site

The district of Kreuzberg is located in the center of Berlin, south of the Mitte district. Because of its central location the city was divided in two by the Berlin Wall during the Cold War. This division deepened the social problems of the time, although nowadays those differences are the foundation of diversity and style.

Xberg, as the locals call it, was historically an immigrant and poor neighborhood, but today it is the alternative district by excellence. With an interesting night life and many restaurants, it is often known as a point of reference for the young people of the city. Its beauty lies not in a perfect finish, but Kreuzberg has an interesting musical and artistic focus. A place well connected by public transport where bohemian and graffiti are seen in every corner.

Despite this, the district has yet to generate social cohesion between local, youth and immigrants: there are still mental walls that have to be overthrown. The neighborhood has a lot of potential, but lacks housing and residences for the young people who are arriving to the neighborhood. There are no dorms or hostels. There is only a small hotel that does not cover the demand. Housing prices are rising and public spaces are needed.

The site of the competition is located 300m from the metro station Schlesisches Tor. With about 7000m² the site is located in the corner of Curvystrasse Street and Schlesische Strasse Street, which is the main street of the neighborhood. On the opposite side of the streets, the short side, the site overlooks the Spree River and on the long side it has a great wall that had a very famous graffiti.

This imposing graffiti was a huge critic to the system and for its rotundity it acquired a lot of international fame. So much so, that they were going to build a luxury hotel with a view to the graffiti. When the artist of the graffiti was told of this, which where the complete opposite of what he wanted, he went down to the site at night and erased it. The locals have manifested in several occasions in order to detain the hotel project.

Unlike the luxury hotel, the residence has to maintain the local spirit, in addition to following the required program.



2.2 Program

The competition brings together different programs regarding the residency and temporary housing. ARCHmedium's team developed the program based on a series of surveys that participants of previous competitions helped us fill out. With these surveys we established the parts of the program and the uses that it would include.

Berlin university residences is called to be a meeting point between students, young graduates and tourists seeking a different experience in one of the most characteristic neighborhoods of Berlin. Different cells make up the private sector of the residence that complements the areas of collective use. The program has to resolve the threshold between public and private areas in order to provide the surroundings with new spaces for collective use.

The program contemplates different organizations regarding the typologies.

All of the typologies have a bathroom inside the dormitory with the exception of the small bedrooms of the 1A residences. For these users they will dispose of the 20 bathrooms of 10m² each one stipulated.

The typologies should have the kitchen incorporated inside the bedroom or apartment which will be 1C, 2A, 2B, 2C. The rest of the users would use the 30 communal kitchens of 20m² each one.

* Being as it is an academic competition, the proposed areas in this brief should be taken as guidance. You can eliminate, subdivide or group the areas suggested in the program in order to fit your proposal provided that it justified in the panel. The spaces can be altered in +/- 10% for circulation.

Student residence

1A	100 x 15m ²	1500
1B	50x30m ²	1500
1C	40x45m ²	1800

Kitchens	30x20m ²	600
Bathrooms	20X10m ²	200
		5600

Rental housing

2A	50x30m ²	1500
2B	30x50m ²	1500
2C	20x100m ²	2000
		4800

Hostal

3A	20x60m ²	1200
3B	40x20m ²	800
		2000

Common services

Hall	250
Study room	500
Bar	500
Offices	250
Storage	500
Playroom	500
Gym	500
Sauna-waterzone	500
	3500

Total	15400m²
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3. Organization Criteria

3.2 Prizes

3.1 Eligibility

3.1.1 Students

This category will accept architecture and related fields undergraduate students who can prove their student status on the day the competition launches with some official document (student ID or enrolment papers).

Graduate, masters, and PhD students who are currently enrolled in some official course can also participate, but only if they obtained their undergraduate degree less than 3 years ago.

The 3 year rule applies to graduate, masters and PhD students who are CURRENTLY ENROLLED only!

3.1.2 Young Architects

This category will accept young professional architects who graduated less than 10 years ago (according to their degree expedition date) can also join the competition and opt to win the “young graduates” prize which will be awarded separately from the student prizes.

In both categories teams can be formed by just one member or up to six (6). Members of a team don't necessarily have to be students at the same university or live in the same country.

It is not necessary that all members of a team are architecture specialists. Having a photographer, artist, philosopher, etc. on a team can help to see the project in a new way, thus enriching the final result. However, it is recommended that at least one member of the team has some experience in architecture.

The registration fee is paid per team, regardless of how many members form it.

3.2.1 Students

1°	2°	3°
2.000€	1.000€	500€
+		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered for publication in an architecture magazine. • One-year subscription to architecture magazine. • Exhibition at ETSAB (Barcelona) • One-year subscription to ARCHcase Premium. • Reviews in digital magazines and several architecture blogs. 		

10 Honorable mentions

- Considered for publication in an architecture magazine.
- Exhibition at ETSAB (Barcelona)
- One-year subscription to ARCHcase premium.
- Reviews in digital magazines and several architecture blogs.

3.2.2 Young Architects

1°
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.000€ • Considered for publication in an architecture magazine • One-year subscription to DETAIL magazine. • Exhibition at ETSAB (Barcelona) • One-year subscription to ARCHcase Premium. • Reviews in digital magazines and several architecture blogs.

3 Honorable mentions

- Considered for publication in an architecture magazine
- Exhibition at ETSAB (Barcelona)
- One-year subscription to ARCHcase premium.
- Reviews in digital magazines and several architecture blogs.

3.5 Registrations

The Young Architects prize will be awarded separately from the student prizes. Students won't opt to win this prize in the same way that young architects won't opt to win student prizes. The projects submitted by these two groups will be judged separately.

*Publications and subscriptions are subject to the agenda and availability of the magazines.

*Depending on which country you live and pay taxes in, the cash prizes might be subject to some withholding to comply with the corresponding legal regulations.

3.3 Jury

The jury will be formed by the following members:

- **Félix Arranz**
- **Ibón Bilbao**
- **Carles Enrich**
- **Miguel Jordá Peterson**
- **Vora Arquitectura**

*All members of the jury have expressed their willingness to take part in the voting process of this competition. However, their participation is subject to their professional commitments.

3.4 Calendar

Dec 17th 2015	Special Entry period starts
Feb 14th 2016	Special Entry period ends
Feb 15th 2016	Early Entry period starts
March 13th 2016	Early Entry period ends
March 14th 2016	Regular Entry period starts
April 10th 2016	Regular Entry period ends
April 24th 2016	Submission deadline
April 26th 2016	Publication of list of received projects
May 5th 2016	Jury meeting
May 27th 2016	Winners announcement

The entry periods will be divided as follows:

Special	Dec 17th - Feb 14th	60.50€*
Early	Feb 15th - Mar 13th	90.75€*
Regular	Mar 14th - April 10th	121€*

*Registration prices include VAT (value added tax).

The registration fee is per team, regardless of how many members are on the team.

If a team wants to submit more than one proposal to the competition they will have to register each proposal separately and pay an additional fee for each proposal they wish to submit.

For a project to be accepted the team must be properly registered to the competition. All registrations will be done through the ARCHmedium website (ARCHmedium.com), where you will be asked to choose between several payment options.

After completing the registration form each team will be assigned with a registration code. It's important to keep this registration code in a safe place since it will allow your team to access the intranet where you'll have access to your registration status, payment tools, and the upload form to submit your project as we will explain in further sections of this document.

3.6 Payments*

All payments made through Bank Transfer or Western Union must be identified with the registration code of the team they belong to so that we can relate them correctly. If we receive a payment that is not properly identified we won't be able to relate it to your team and your participation will not be confirmed until you provide a proof of payment.

Accepted payment methods:

Credit or Debit Cards.

You may use any major credit or debit card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, etc.). All payments will be handled by PayPal to ensure the highest security standards on the web. ARCHmedium will never get direct access to your card details. Your registration will be confirmed automatically. We do not charge any extra fees for the use of this payment method.

Pay-Pal.

It is the fastest, easiest, and most secure way to pay online. Your registration will be received instantly. We do not charge any service fees when you use Pay-Pal, debit cards, or credit cards.

Bank Deposit

You must make a deposit of the stipulated amount (according to your registration period) to the account below. **

Bank: Caixa Catalunya
Account holder: ARCHmedium
Account: 2013 0405 94 0203925775
Concept: Registration Code (three letters)
IBAN: ES7420130405940203925775
SWIFT: CESCEBXXXX

Western Union

For payments via Western Union please contact us at marketing@archmedium.com

* Once the payments are received and the registration is confirmed the fees won't be refunded or transferred to other competitions under any circumstance.

** The date that must be considered to identify which registration period you belong to is the date that ARCHmedium will receive the deposit and not the day that it is sent.

***Any bank fees that this operation might generate must be paid by the sender.

3.7 FAQ

During the competition, all participants are permitted to ask questions which help them better understand the project description and/or any other aspect of the competition.

Any questions that are not resolved in this document or in the FAQ section on our website must be made through the ARCHmedium's Facebook page. This ensures that all participants have access to the same amount of information.

3.8 Documentation

All the necessary documentation to develop the project, such as pictures of the site, videos, AutoCad drawings, etc. will be available at the ARCHmedium website so that anyone can download them before or after joining the competition. They may access and download the materials as many times as they need to. No additional information or working material will be provided to teams after registering.

Participants are free to use all this material in the context of this competition. They are also allowed to create their own graphic documents or to find new ones from other sources.

3.9 Presentation

Each team will submit only one din-A1 size (59,4, 84,1cm), landscape or portrait panel with their proposal.

This panel must be identified with the registration code of the team and the registration code **ONLY**; any panel including team names or personal names might be disqualified without refund.

Each team is responsible for choosing which information they include in their panel so that the jury may gain the clearest understanding of their project.

The representation technique is completely free (2D drawings, pictures of models, sketches, renders, collages, etc.). The jury will not only evaluate the quality of the project but also the clarity and quality of the presentation.

We do not recommend including large amounts of text on the panel. The project should be explanatory enough through the graphic material. However, certain notes might be acceptable. These notes must be written in English **ONLY**—any text written in a different language will not be taken into account and may lead to a team's disqualification.

3.10 Submission

Submissions must be done through the ARCHmedium's intranet only, before the date indicated on the competition calendar. You must log in with your username and password and follow the upload process. No submissions will be accepted by e-mail or any other medium. The submission page will be automatically closed after the submission date and time are reached, not allowing any modifications or aggregations after that, so please, try to upload your project 24 hours in advance so that you have time to solve any issues that might come up along the way (they always do!).

The panel must be no other size than Din-A1 and be in no other format than JPG. The maximum weight of the file is 12MB.

The voting system to choose the winning projects is as follows:

1. ARCHmedium team, following the jury's instructions, will make an initial selection of 50 projects in response to the above criteria.
2. The members of the jury will study both the pre-selected projects and all others privately and include, if they consider it necessary, any of the non-selected projects in the initial list of 50.
3. At the meeting, the jurors will discuss all the pre-selected projects (The ARCHmedium's selected 50 projects plus the projects added by the jury) to decide the winner, second and third prize and honorable mentions.

3.11 Evaluation Criteria

The jury will be in charge of establishing the key points that this project needed to address based on the site, brief, etc. and evaluate each project accordingly.

As part of the design process we recommend that each team takes the necessary time to research the working site as well as other case study projects that might relate to the brief in hand to determine what aspects of the project are the most unique and therefore need to be addressed and successfully solved to achieve a good result.

Remember that this is an ideas competition, an opportunity for experiment and explore the limits of architecture. The jury reserves the right to award any proposal that fails at any of the parameters mentioned in these rules, as long as it justifies the breach of the rule in favor of the architectural design of the proposal.

3.13 Intellectual Property

All the material submitted to the competition will become part of ARCHmedium's files. ARCHmedium will have full rights to publish and promote this material, always making proper mention of their authors. For any other purposes the authors of the projects will keep full rights over their design.

By submitting a proposal you are giving ARCHmedium the right to use the received material in both printed and on-line publications. ARCHmedium will also have the right to modify any of the mentioned material at its will in order to better adapt it to the different formats and layouts that different publications might have.

3.14 Additional Notes

- ARCHmedium reserves the right to make any changes to this document (dates, deadlines, requirements, etc.) as long as the changes benefit a majority of the competition participants. Any modifications will be announced on the ARCHmedium's Facebook page. It is each team's responsibility to check the ARCHmedium's Facebook page on a regular basis to follow and incorporate all changes.
- Under no circumstances will members of the jury, members of the organization, or persons with a direct personal or professional relationship with members of the jury or the organization be allowed to participate in this competition.
- The project of this competition is a fictitious job and will not be built. The provided documentation has been modified to better meet the goals of this competition and, as a result, the provided documents do not fully correspond with reality.
- This project is only an exercise, and therefore it will not necessarily follow any existing building or urban planning regulations.
- No one has hired or contacted ARCHmedium in order to organize this competition. The idea and program of this competition have been fully developed by ARCHmedium to serve solely as an academic exercise.
- ARCHmedium has no relation to the owners of the site where this exercise is proposed to be and therefore cannot guarantee that participants will have any access to the property.
- ARCHmedium is not held responsible for a breach of contract regarding the publications and subscriptions of the magazines.

3.14 Thanks

ARCHmedium wants to thank the collaborators that have contributed to the organization of this competition. We would also like to thank the jury members, without whom this project would not have been possible.

