



# AFRICAN SCHOOL PROJECT

EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

/OPEN IDEAS COMPETITION/

in collaboration with





# INTRODUCTION

Universal education, gender equality and empowering women are vital components of the mission in developing countries. Educating children helps reduce poverty and will give the next generation the tools to fight poverty and conquer disease. School also offers children a safe environment, with support, supervision and socialization. Here they learn life skills that can help them prevent diseases, including how to avoid HIV/AIDS and malaria. Children may receive life-saving vaccines, fresh water and nutrient supplementation at school.

Many countries have committed themselves to more than the achievement of universal primary education. They are also looking at expanding universal education so that it includes several years of secondary school and a new basic education. The challenge of keeping children in school after primary school is great.

UNESCO reports that when lower secondary-school-age children are counted in, the number of out-of-school children is doubled, as more than 72 million adolescents in this group are out of school. The barriers to school attendance at secondary level resemble those at primary level, but those barriers are intensified. The cost of secondary schooling is often higher than the cost of primary schooling and therefore more difficult for families to afford; secondary schools are further from home, often requiring transportation; and the conflict between educational aspirations and the potential income that could be earned by a working adolescent becomes greater.



# CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

Malawi is a country with a population of 16 million people, where more than a million are orphans. It is one of the most densely populated countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and one of the least developed and poorest countries in the world.

After years under British rule, Malawi has enjoyed stability since its independence in 1964, although always under a dictatorial and corrupt government. Today, Malawi is a democratic and multi-party country. It is known as "The Warm Heart of Africa" for the generosity and hospitality of its people, who always have a smile for their visitors despite the adversities with which they live. Their culture is rich and vibrant, with a great passion for their songs and dances.

Poverty, AIDS, lack of education and their heavy dependence on agriculture are the main problems. Malawians have a life expectancy slightly above 50 years, and more than half live below the poverty line. Its economy is based on agriculture, with practically 90% of the population living in rural areas.

The objective of this project is to bet on secondary education, thus ensuring the complete education cycle.

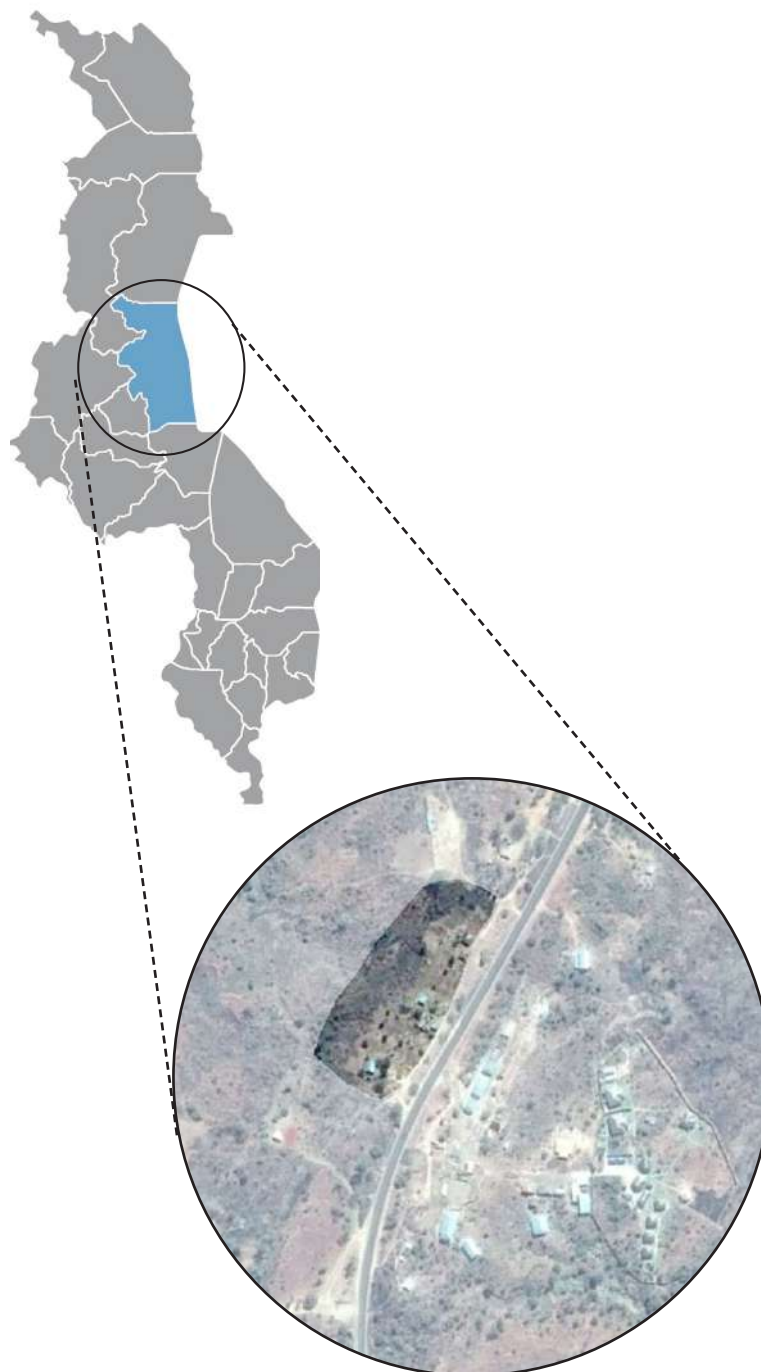
**Education is a human right** and is central to achieving many other sustainable development outcomes.

A quality basic education gives children and youth the knowledge and skills they need to face daily life challenges, and take advantage of economic and lifelong learning opportunities. It is also a key driver for reducing poverty, fostering economic growth, achieving gender equality, and social development.





# LOCATION



**Archstorming is calling for proposals to design a secondary school building in Benga, Malawi.**

Benga is located in the Nkhotakota District, situated 10 km east of Lake Malawi and 30 km west of the Ntchisi Forest Reserve. It is 60 km south of Nkhotakota Township and 50 km north of Salima Township. Benga is located halfway of these towns, in a tar road.

The school will be located next to Benga Parish, a Missionary Community of Saint Paul the Apostle. They already have a primary school and are planning to build the secondary school in the other side of the road.



**The aim of this project is to provide a better education to the youngest citizens of the country by giving them the opportunity to access a decent secondary school infrastructure.**

Participants have to align their proposals with the dimension of the project, which are specified in the next pages, always keeping in mind that it must be located within the area marked.

They also have to **take into consideration the local materials and constructive systems**, so that it can be as realistic as possible, giving the resources they have.

The school must be designed to accommodate four academic years. At first only one classroom per academic year will be constructed, but participants will have to take into account that the school could be extended in the future to three classrooms per academic year, which means twelve classrooms could be built at some point.

Bear in mind that school programs in developing countries, especially those in Africa, can also include spaces such as: dormitories for the students, houses for the teachers... All requirements will be detailed in the following pages.



# EARTH AND CLIMATE

Malawi has a sub-tropical climate, which is relatively dry and strongly seasonal. The warm-wet season stretches from November to April, during which 95% of the annual precipitation takes place.

The climate of Malawi varies widely because of the terrain. Near the lake, the mean annual temperature is 24°C. November is the hottest month where temperatures are ranging from 17 to 29°C. The coldest month, July, has a temperature range of 7 to 23°C.

The natural vegetation pattern reflects the country's diversity in relief, soils, and climate. The predominant vegetation of Malawi is the savannah woodland. Evergreen forests are found in places where ground water is plentiful, such as the river valleys and mountains. Lake Malawi, the twelfth largest fresh water lake in the world, borders the lowlands and marks the boundary east side of the nation.

However, **Malawi's natural vegetation has been altered significantly by human activities.** Swamp vegetation has given way to agricultural species as swamps have been drained and cultivated. Much of the original woodland has been cleared, and, at the same time, forests of softwoods have been planted in the highland areas. High population density and intensive cultivation of the Shire Highlands have also hindered natural succession there. The Ministry of Mines, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the protection of Malawi's environment, since **deforestation is becoming one of the main problems in the country.**





# MATERIALS AND BUILDING TECHNIQUES

**In this competition the winning project is going to be built**, the chosen proposal will be used as the basis of the final project. That is why materials and building techniques will be crucial. It is mandatory to use the materials and building techniques specified below, otherwise your proposal can be disqualified.

The main materials of the area currently used for construction are **clay, stones, wood and iron**. Clay and stones are used to make bricks, having two different brick typologies: clay bricks and concrete bricks. The first ones are more economical than the second ones. The two other structures used as the most common structural systems are metallic structure or wood structure. Remember that both materials have to be treated in the right way to prevent future problems (termites, iron corrosion etc.). Although a metallic structure can be built, keep in mind that it is also more expensive than using wood or bricks.

For the roof, they mainly use dried grass ceilings or iron sheets. Remember that, since they still don't have electrical network, **solar panels will have to be considered in your proposals**.

**The water provision must be covered by water tanks**, so participants will also need to keep an area to locate them.

Participants can also consider the **option of improving the constructive systems and bring new ideas**, but always thinking that the resources and financial capacity of the project are limited. If a participant team decides to include a new material to the construction, make sure it is affordable and achievable for an NGO working in a third world country.





# MATERIALS

NATURAL STONES  
CLAY BRICKS

**WOOD STRUCTURE**

PVC WATERPROFF

**CEMENT**

THATCHED ROOF

**METALLIC STRUCTURE**

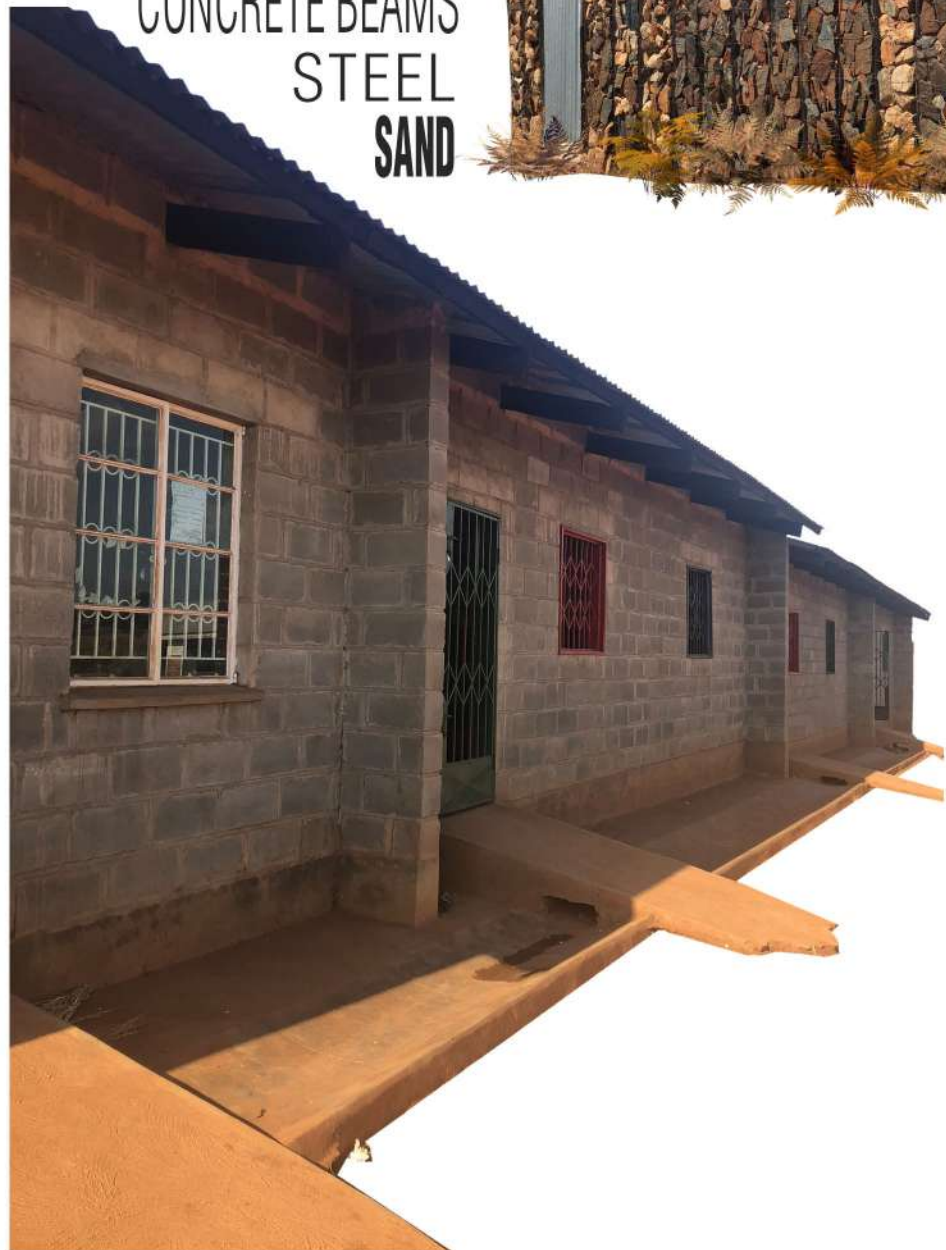
REINFORCED RODS

**METAL ROOF PANELS**

CONCRETE BEAMS

STEEL

SAND



# THE CHALLENGE

Giving the fact that education is something to be improved in many underdeveloped countries, the project for the secondary school aims to be adaptive in many different areas and also needs to be thought in global terms, giving a solution to a problem that directly affects the educational system in the third world.

In the proposals, **participants have to adapt on using local materials, easy constructive systems and energetic technologies** as it has been explained before, in order to make proposals as realistic and efficient as possible.

Through your projects, the main goal is to:

- **EDUCATE:** allowing children to access school and make them understand what improvements could they reach if they work hard on learning not only history, maths or languages but also in everyday activities such as agriculture or livestock.

Another fact is that many of these children live without access to proper healthcare, and teaching them how they can protect their own health is crucial. Many common health issues, such as malaria, dysentery, respiratory infections and nutrition-related illnesses are preventable by simply making small lifestyle changes.

- **INVESTIGATE:** study about what should their country's society do in order to improve socially and economically.

Education is particularly important to communities that are fragile or rebuilding. Education provides stability, structure and hope for the future, helping children and youth to overcome trauma caused by war, disaster, or conflict.

Having a safe learning environment also makes children and youth less vulnerable to exploitation, kidnapping, and recruitment by militant groups or organized crime.

- **CONTRIBUTE IN THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT:** it is a fact that people in Malawi don't worry about the deforestation. The aim is that through education, we could raise awareness of that huge problem.

The deforestation in the hills is causing a major change to the landscape and to the climate. As soon as the trees are cut down, the soil is exposed to the rain and, in many places, most of the top soil is washed away into the rivers and eventually into Lake Malawi. This is leaving the hills infertile so that trees and crops do not grow well, and the soil that is being deposited in the lake is affecting fish stocks which, together with over-fishing, is causing a dramatic reduction in the number of fish that are being caught in the lake.

**You have to be realistic and get as close as possible to the project needs. You'll find more specifications in the next section.**



# THE PROGRAM

To achieve the goals set, and considering the fact that our secondary school will be composed by four academic years, the following program is proposed:

- **Four classrooms:** with a capacity of twenty-five students per classroom. Your school project should consider that in the future each academic year could be extended to three classrooms per academic year (meaning twelve classrooms in total). But, for now, only four classrooms will be built.
- **Teacher office:** a space where teachers can have their personal space. Only one office will be needed.
- **Computers room:** the computer room will be used to teach the students how new technologies can help them. Approximately 25 computers will be used in this space.
- **Library:** a place where students can do their homework and have access to some books and additional knowledge out of school time.
- **Laboratory/research area:** this space is where students will learn Science.
- **Animal area:** since agriculture is a main point of the country subsistence, it is important for the youth to learn from animals, plants and land cultivating systems.
- **Multipurpose space:** we can think about this space as a performance and adaptive area, depending on the activity planned to be done there: dance show, performance, exposition, conference...
- **Dry latrine:** since there is no current water provision in the country, they will have to use latrines as bathrooms.
- **Director and secretary office:** an independent space for the director and his or her secretary.
- **Meeting room:** to attend new student families, internal staff meetings, or external visitors.
- **Storage room:** a space where cleaning and school material can be kept.

It is also important to have outdoor space inbetween the areas. It is not mandatory to have all the spaces on an only construction. Keep in mind that, because of the cost and constructive complexity, in the villages of this countries they only construct **one floor buildings**.

Apart from this central program, you also have to take into consideration:

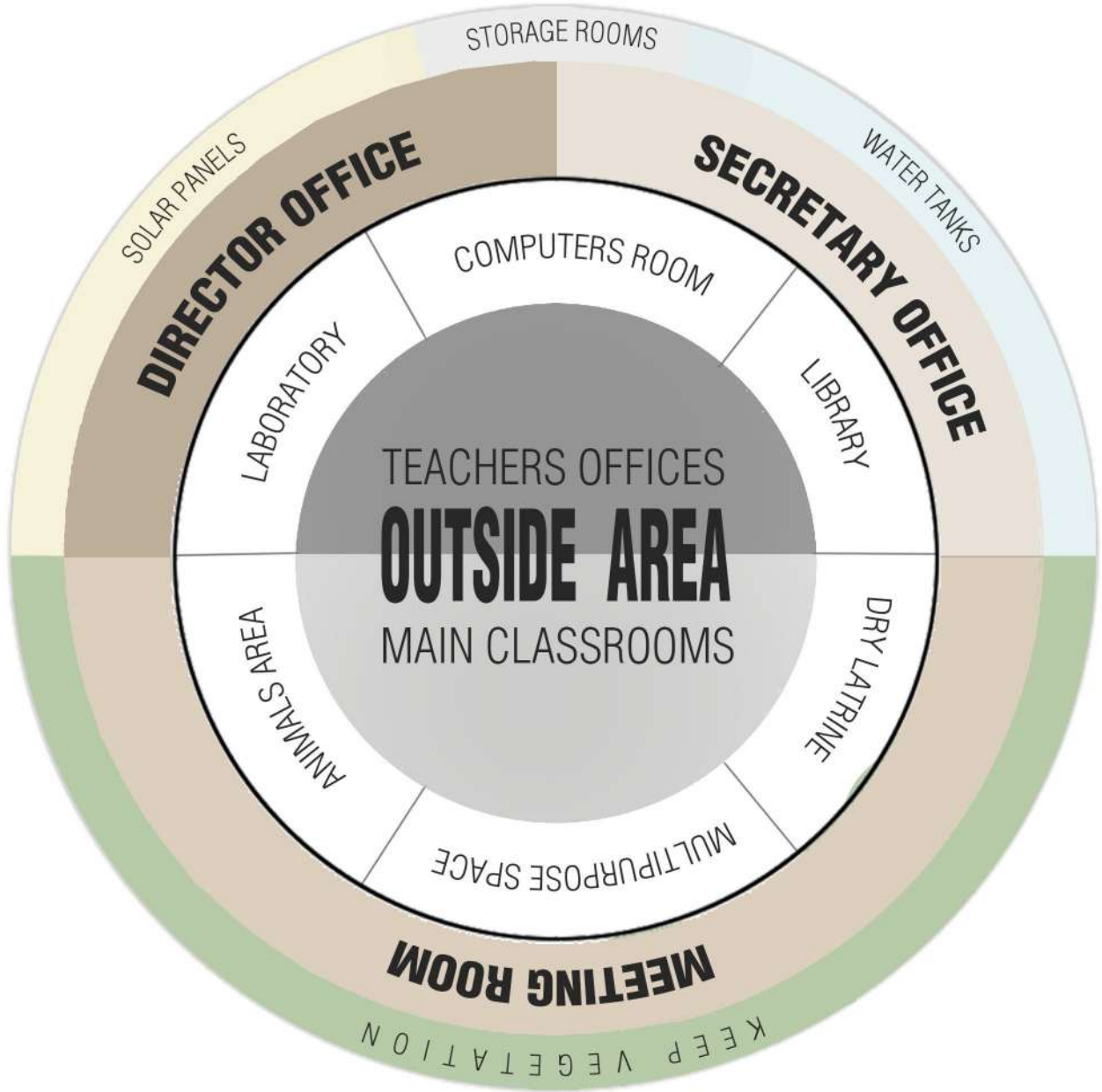
- **Students dormitories**, with a capacity of 100 students, divided by male/female rooms. It must include **showers** and a **dining room**.
- **Twelve basic houses** composed of three bedrooms per house, shower, kitchen and a dinning room for the teachers family who will be living there.





## TEACHERS HOUSES

12 HOUSES  
3 ROOMS



## STUDENTS DORMITORY

100 BEDS  
MALE/FEMALE ROOMS

**SHOWERS**  
**DINNING ROOM**

# COMPETITION DETAILS

## ELEGIBILITY

Any architecture student or actual architect can participate in AFRICAN SCHOOL PROJECT, regardless of their nationality. Likewise, people from other disciplines can also participate, such as philosophers, sociologists, photographers, etc. Not being necessary the presence of an architect in the team, although it is recommended. Teams may be formed by a maximum of four (4) members and a minimum of one (1).

All team members must be 18 years of age or older.

The registration fee must be paid per team, regardless of the number of members (1-4 people).

In the event that a team or participant wants to participate with more than one proposal, it will be necessary to register twice (or as many times as proposals will be submitted), paying the full price corresponding to each registration.

Under no circumstances may jurors, the organization or persons directly related to the jury participate in this competition.

## AWARDS

When competition reaches 500 participating teams, registration will be immediately closed and prizes will be 20.000€, broken down as follows:

1st PRIZE

**10.000€**

**+ PROJECT CONSTRUCTION**

**\*possibility of collaborating in the project construction in Africa**

(\*contact us for more details)

2nd PRIZE

**5.000€**

3rd PRIZE

**3.000€**

4th PRIZE

**1.500€**

5th PRIZE

**500€**

+10 HONORABLE MENTIONS

Prizes will depend on how many teams have registered successfully after registration deadline. If, after that date, teams don't reach 500, prizes will be:

001-100 registered teams:	1  2.000€	2  1.000€	3  500€
101-201 registered teams:	1  3.000€	2  1.500€	3  500€
201-300 registered teams:	1  4.000€	2  2.500€	3  1.000€
301-350 registered teams:	1  5.000€	2  3.500€	3  1.500€
351-400 registered teams:	1  6.000€	2  3.500€	3  1.500€
	4  1.000€	5  500€	
401-450 registered teams:	1  8.000€	2  4.000	3  1.500€
	4  1.000€	5  500€	
451-475 registered teams:	1  9.000€	2  4.500	3  2.000€
	4  1.500€	5  500€	
476-500 registered teams:	1  10.000€	2  5.000	3  3.000€
	4  1.500€	5  500€	

\*Depending on the country of residence of the winners, the prize may be subject to the withholding or payment of taxes foreseen in the law of that country.



# COMPETITION DETAILS

## CALENDAR

NOV 21st 2018	REGISTRATION OPENS
MARCH 20th 2019	REGISTRATION CLOSES
<b>MARCH 20th 2019</b>	<b>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b>
APRIL 3rd 2019	WINNERS ANNOUNCED

\* Registration can close earlier if the competition reaches 500 teams registered. In that scenario, submission deadline won't change

\*No submissions will be accepted after the general deadline indicated above: 23:59:59 Los Angeles time (UCT / GMT-8) or CDT.

## PAYMENT

Registration fees will depend on how many teams are already registered in the moment of registration, and will evolve as follows:

001-100 registered teams:	<b>50€+ VAT</b>
101-201 registered teams:	<b>65€+ VAT</b>
201-300 registered teams:	<b>80€+ VAT</b>
301-350 registered teams:	<b>100€+VAT</b>
351-400 registered teams:	<b>110€+ VAT</b>
301-450 registered teams:	<b>120€+ VAT</b>
451-475 registered teams:	<b>135€+ VAT</b>
476-500 registered teams:	<b>150€+ VAT</b>

VAT: 21%

Registration process must be completed on the official Archstorming website. In order for the registration to be successful, the team must pay the fee corresponding to the registration date. Once the registration and payment process have been completed, there will be no refunds.

## PAYMENT METHODS

Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express credit or debit cards may be used. The Archstorming team will not have access to credit card details. Please provide the information on the card as it appears on it.

Likewise, payments are accepted through Paypal.

## REGISTRATION

Within 24 hours after registration and payment, the Archstorming Team will send a confirmation email that will include working material such as pictures, dwg file etc. and the registration number. This number must be placed in a visible spot on the team's competition board, preferably the lower right corner.

At the time of completing the submission form when sending the proposals, the registration number will also be required to identify the team.

<http://www.archstorming.com/register.html>



# COMPETITION DETAILS

## SUBMISSION MATERIALS

Participants must submit **two (2) A1 format boards** (594x841 mm or 23.4x33.1 inches) oriented either landscape or portrait with the registration number in the lower right corner.

The content of the boards is open, as long as the idea that the participants want to communicate is clearly expressed. However, it is important to detail the proposal with the materials and constructive systems thought. The boards must be delivered in JPEG or JPG format and its name must be the registration number provided by the Archstorming Team (eg CRZ0118156.jpg)

In addition, **one (1) description of the project no longer than 400 words** must be submitted. The description must be submitted in PDF format and its name must be the registration number provided by the Archstorming Team (eg CRZ0118156.pdf)

All the materials must be submitted in the Submit section on the Archstorming's website.

<http://www.archstorming.com/submit.html>

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

The jury will evaluate the projects based on the proposed objectives, the main being the creation of a new secondary school where students are respected and encouraged in order to contribute in having better opportunities in the third world countries.

The jury is free to add other criteria that they consider important for the secondary school project needs.

A total of 50 proposals will be selected for the final round. Among the 50 finalists, the jury will choose the winner, the second and third place, and the 10 honorable mentions.

## FAQ

You can check the most common questions in the corresponding section on the Archstorming website:

<http://www.archstorming.com/faq.html>

Also, during the competition, all questions sent by email will be answered individually and uploaded to the section of the website mentioned above.





# COMPETITION DETAILS

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT

All materials submitted to the competition will become property of Archstorming, and therefore give Archstorming all rights to that material from that moment on.

Archstorming will publish all materials given appropriate attributes to the authors.

Archstorming reserves the right to modify the proposals and text in order to better adapt them to any publication format, without changing the essence of the proposal itself and **since the project is going to be built in a near future, we reserve the right to modify the winner proposal according to the real needs of the place, always keeping the essence of the idea.**

The participant is responsible for using copyright-free images. Archstorming is not responsible for the use of protected images by the participants.

## THE CONSTRUCTION

Active Africa is the NGO in charge of the project, in collaboration with the missionary community of Saint Paul Aposotole in Malawi. **They plan to start the construction by the end of 2019.**

Archstorming is collaborating with the project but not responsible of the school construction. It is totally managed by the NGO and it is also the one in charge of the construction timeline as well as the details of the option of going to the construction place. If for any reason the NGO in charge of the project finally decides not to built it, archstorming will not be responsible of the fact.

## NOTES

Archstorming reserves the right to make any changes in the rules of the competition (dates, requirements, etc.). It is the obligation of the participants to check on a regular basis the website of Archstorming to verify if the Terms and Conditions or the competition information have been modified.

Archstorming is not responsible for any research done by participants in the area.

The breach of the norms and terms defined in this briefing or in the Terms and Conditions of the website of Archstorming will result in the immediate disqualification of the team without any refund of the payments made.

Archstorming reserves the right to cancel this contest in case it does not reach a minimum number of participants, defined in the Terms and Conditions. In that case Archstorming will return the full amount of registration fees to the participants enrolled at the time of cancellation.

<http://www.archstorming.com/terms.html>

