ICAUS İSKENDERUN 2025 - 2026 I **ESSENTIAL DOCUMENT**

OUTLINE

0. PREFACE

"ICAUS" (*International Contest for Architecture and Urban Planning/Design Students*) aims to explore the complex and critical challenges of contemporary cities by establishing multidisciplinary conceptual frameworks. Focusing on the cities affected by natural and human-made disasters, ICAUS engages students of architecture and urbanism with the explicit and hidden impacts of such events. It seeks to initiate an international platform to devise innovative design solutions for the pressing urban challenges faced by disaster-affected cities.

Based on this motivation, ICAUS challenges the fundamental bases upon which cities have been historically founded and the urban conditions that have gradually become obsolete. As the international competition states: 'The core aim is to inspire a *fresh, creative, innovative, unfettered, and spontaneous conceptual vision* for the future, unburdened by professional or economic constraints.

In this respect, the first competition organised by ICAUS was "City of Irpin: The Future Horizon" in 2023. The essential objective was to propose design ideas for rebuilding the city of Irpin, which was destroyed during the Russian- Ukranian War. The second call from ICAUS is about İskenderun, which was severely damaged due to the Kahramanmaraş Earthquake in Türkiye on February 6th, 2023.

More than 2 years have passed since this great tragedy that claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people, time during which the Thought Group Chile team with the strategic support of the Faculty of Architecture and Design of the TED University, Ankara, Turkey, have worked intensely and with motivation in the development of this new version of our ICAUS.

1. THE AIM OF THE COMPETITION

Cities are constantly challenged with natural, urban, and sociopolitical stresses such as climate change, air pollution, ageing infrastructure, urban segregation, social inequity, migration, etc. As we struggle to strengthen resilience in cities, acute shocks by natural disasters or acts of terror leave us with unexpected ground zeros.

The Kahramanmaraş Earthquake of 2023, a magnitude-7.7Mw earthquake and a severe aftershock of magnitude 7.6Mw, heavily damaged several cities in southern Turkey and northern Syria. The February 2023 earthquake was Turkey's deadliest in the past 100 years and was registered as the 10th deadliest earthquake in the last century. The 2023 earthquake affected over 400.000 buildings in Hatay, half of which were demolished or heavily damaged.[1] The earthquake also created geological problems on the coast of İskenderun, including widespread liquefaction and subsidence that led to flooding, landslides, and rockfalls, all of which have critical impacts on infrastructure.

Surrounded by the East Anatolian Fault, one of the two major faults bounding the Anatolian Plate where Turkey sits, İskenderun Bay is an earthquake-prone region with tsunami risk. Regions challenged with known stressors and risks are increasingly vulnerable to catastrophic shocks.

Despite earthquake-resistant building codes and a well-regulated construction industry, identifying risks and vulnerabilities to build long-term resilience is crucial in avoiding repetition, the governance of which is critical in the selected context.

[1] *2023 Kahramanmaraş ve Hatay Depremleri Raporu* [2023 Kahramanmaraş and Hatay Earthquakes Report], published by *Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Cumhurbaşkanlığı Strateji ve Bütçe Başkanlığı* [Presidency of Strategy and Budget]: https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-Kahramanmaras-ve-Hatay-Depremleri-Raporu.pdf

Focusing on the coastal city of İskenderun in the aftermath of the 2023 earthquake, the second version of our International Contest for Students of Architecture and Urbanism, ICAUS İSKENDERUN 2025-2026, aims to explore how architecture and urbanism can develop seismic-resilient and tsunami-resilient solutions for building and mitigating risks to prevent disasters.

The aim of ICAUS İSKENDERUN 2025-2026 is to question the current seismic mitigation strategies in the city, to destroy the concept of an anti-seismic city and to build a new concept: **the Seismic-Resilient city, a Pro-seismic city.**

The central idea is to explore strategies that arise from observing the territory and respecting its footprint. We should start by recognizing that repressing nature only leads to its explosion; however, if we adapt to its movements and forms, we will be able to find harmony in the disaster and move closer to resilience in the city.

In this way, there is an important concept that is not only to obtain a pro-seismic city but one that gives its inhabitants a feeling of CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY, that one feels truly protected in their city. Making peace with the territory and with the nature through which our cities are being. **"If we learn from it and respect it, we can be with it and not against it."**

2. THE TYPE OF THE COMPETITION

ICAUS İSKENDERUN 2025-2026 is an international, open, and single-stage student idea competition. The competition's scope involves issues requiring the collaboration of multiple disciplines and/or fields of art, including architecture, planning, and urban design.

Addressing a specific theme related to seismic and tsunami resilience, strategic and intelligent architectural and urban design, this new version of our international competition for architecture and urbanism students is presented as a new and interesting opportunity to question, rethink and improve our current models and references for cities, the way of thinking and making cities.

In this sense, the new version of this competition does not only seek to find an optimal and efficient seismic and tsunami-resilient urban solution, using the traditional elements and strategies so often tested, and copied, without good results around the world, but rather, this competition aims to provoke the development and proposal of new, creative and innovative urban and architectural strategies and solutions.

In terms of architectural conceptuality, every commission and any new requirement represents a great opportunity to investigate and respond to many other pre-existing commissions and requirements.

3. THE CONTEXT AND THE SITE
İSKENDERUN, HATAY - TURKEY

Being one of the biggest districts of Hatay and located in the Southeast of Türkiye, İskenderun is nestled between the Mediterranean Sea to the west and the Amanos Mountains (Nur Mountains) to the east. Positioned in a strategic and historically significant location, the city is oriented along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, with much of its urban development concentrated near the waterfront. This coastal orientation and the İskenderun Bay – an inlet of the Mediterranean Sea – have significantly influenced its historical, economic, and cultural development.

İskenderun is located in a seismically active region, which is a part of the East Anatolian Fault zone. This geographic feature makes the area prone to earthquakes, and the city has experienced many earthquake strikes in history. The recent earthquake was on February 6, 2023, and a powerful series of earthquakes struck the region, with magnitudes of 7.7Mw and 7.6Mw. Centered in Kahramanmaraş province, these earthquakes caused tens of thousands of deaths and injuries and extensive damage in multiple provinces, including Hatay and İskenderun.

Located near the crossroads of major trade routes, the city has historically served as a key transit point between the Middle East and Europe, facilitating trade and commerce. Developed as an industrial center in the Çukurova region, İskenderun experienced substantial industrial growth, especially after the 1970s, particularly with the port and related facilities.

Being a focal point of the city's economy, the port area serves as a key gateway in the region, with extensive industrial zones located nearby. These areas include facilities for steel production, shipbuilding, and other heavy industries. The establishment of the İskenderun Iron and Steel Works (Isdemir) in the 1970s marked a significant milestone in the city's economic development. Isdemir Port is a small harbor built especially for the steelworks, which is located within the territories of Isdemir on İskenderun Bay and supports industrial and trade facilities.

The city’s orientation along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and the industrial density are the main factors that define the distribution and development pattern of the residential neighborhoods of the city. Contrasting with the Southern parts, the northern parts of the city present a dense and compact form where the main settlement areas lie between İskenderun and Isdemir. Although the historical center of the city and older settlements are located closer to the port area, the new settlements are located in the hinterland of the city.

4. THE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPETITION

A Disaster-Resilient Urban Form: A Seismic-Resilient, A Pro-Seismic New City. This competition aims to question and formulate spatial solutions to ensure natural disasters (specifically earthquakes and tsunamis) as a critical layer of concern in urban design and architecture. In this context, the participants are encouraged to employ future design strategies and scenarios for the city of İskenderun.

One of the central objectives is to guide students in rethinking the rigid frameworks of earthquake-prone cities. Students are encouraged to cultivate critical perspectives that challenge these conventions, generating design solutions that align sensitively with the inherent, dynamic risks. The aim is to envision a city that harmonizes urban form with natural forces.

From this perspective, the competition seeks to present design concepts and strategies essential for creating a SECURE, RELIABLE, livable, sustainable, and high-quality urban fabric, as well as a disaster-resilient urban form.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPETITION

The primary objective of this competition is to enhance İskenderun's resilience to disaster risks, particularly earthquakes and tsunamis. In pursuit of this overarching goal, participants are expected to develop innovative and futuristic design ideas addressing the following topics:

- Understanding and demonstrating the **seismic condition** in İskenderun and the impacts of the earthquake to develop a more resistant urban form.
- Conducting a detailed analysis of the "disaster footprint" by tracing the earthquake's movement throughout the city. This includes mapping the cracks and fractures left in its wake to identify the most vulnerable areas. Through these indicators, uncover insights into the city's structural weaknesses and points of fragility.
- Develop a **form-based/morphological approach** specific to İskenderun, emphasizing the physical layout, design principles, and structural coherence of the city.
- Identify and articulate the **primary problem(s) or key design question(s)** to be addressed for the city of İskenderun, establishing an integrated main perspective that guides the entire design research and proposal.
- Analyze the urban dynamics in İskenderun that contribute to **disaster conditions**, focusing on factors such as building stock, the level and type of the damage of the earthquake, infrastructure resilience, and emergency response capabilities.
- Investigate the relationship between **urban form and earthquake safety** in İskenderun, considering morphology, typology, design, construction methods/materials, and spatial planning to enhance resilience.
- Employ a **multi-scalar perspective** to understand the interplay between different levels of urban design in İskenderun, from individual buildings to citywide systems, ensuring a holistic approach.
- Conduct a **multi-layered assessment** of İskenderun's urban fabric, integrating social, economic, environmental, and infrastructural factors to provide a comprehensive evaluation.
- Develop a **scenario** that outlines potential future developments in İskenderun and design a corresponding urban system that addresses anticipated challenges and opportunities.
- Create **new urban typologies** for İskenderun that reflect innovative design solutions, accommodating evolving needs and enhancing the overall functionality and aesthetics of the urban areas.
- Identify and define the sequential relationships between different scales of the proposals for İskenderun, ensuring that each scale and frame of the study is clearly articulated and nested within the broader upper scale, promoting **coherence and integration**.

CRITICAL QUESTIONS FOR THE PARTICIPANTS

Essential First Main Question.

- Why do you think cities collapse under the impact of natural disasters?
- How can “resilience for natural disasters” be defined and understood in the urban context?
- Which aspects/elements/components of urban morphology do you perceive as being in conflict with the natural dynamics of cities?

Specific questions.

- How can the current city of İskenderun be conceptually defined from the perspectives of architecture and urban design?
- How can the spatial organization and design of a **disaster-resilient future** be developed for İskenderun, considering the city's morphology, character areas, coastal and urban interactions/interfaces, topographic features, and typologies?

- What comprehensive **system design** can be developed to enhance disaster safety in İskenderun?
- How can a **robust system** design be created to address and improve disaster resilience in İskenderun?
- How does İskenderun's **urban fabric** interact with its **coast**?
- What are the dynamics between the city's layout and its coastal area, and how do these **urban components/elements** influence one another?
- How can different **texture compositions** in İskenderun be analyzed in relation to the coast through detailed **sections**?
- What methods can be employed to evaluate various urban textures and their interactions with the coast using sectional analyses?

How can design strategies and models be developed to create disaster-resilient settlements/forms?

- What specific design strategies, elements, and models can be employed to enhance the resilience of settlements against various types of disasters?
- How can these strategies be tailored to address different types of hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, or floods?
- What role do community involvement and stakeholder input play in the development of these strategies and models?
- **What is the critical role of urban form and pattern in enhancing resilience to earthquakes and tsunamis?**
- How do different urban forms and patterns influence the ability of a city to withstand and recover from earthquakes and tsunamis?
- What specific aspects of urban form are most significant for improving resilience?
- How can urban planners and architects integrate these aspects into their designs to mitigate disaster impacts?

How can the concept of morphological resilience be defined and applied in urban design?

- What does morphological resilience entail in the context of urban design, and how does it differ from other types of resilience?
- How can urban designers incorporate morphological resilience into their planning and design processes?

What are the key principles and strategies for optimizing urban form to ensure disaster safety?

- What are the fundamental principles that should guide the optimization of urban form for disaster safety?
- How can these principles be translated into practical spatial strategies?

How do form-based design principles contribute to disaster resilience in cities?

- Is it possible to formulate certain form-based design principles which might contribute to disaster resilience?

5. DELIVERY FORMAT

The competition strategy involves creating a conceptual Master Plan for the architectural and urban development of the city of Iskenderun, utilizing maps, images, photomontages, digital urban views, renders, and a digital video to convey a visionary approach to earthquake-resilient architecture and

urban planning. Participants are expected to adopt a multi-scalar and layered methodology, formulating proposals across four distinct scales and frameworks to guide the city's current and future resilience.

Each officially registered team is required to submit three A0 color sheets along with an explanatory video detailing their *"contest journey."*

Both the sheets and the video must be sent via email to director@icausarchitecture.org within the specified deadline in the timeline. Please package these files in a ZIP folder, ensuring that the total size does not exceed 20 MB.

SHEETS TO DELIVER

Each team must deliver three A0-Size sheets in digital PDF format in color, which must respect the letter format Helvetic and bullet marked on the attached example sheets. The sheets and their material must respect the order and format described below:

Sheet n°1 | The Form of the City.
A0 Portrait Color.

For this sheet, it is important to understand that the various urban components—such as layers, sectors, segments, borders, and zones—define the urban form and interact with the city to shape its dynamics. When these urban elements are reorganised or rearranged, the relationships between different parts of the city change, consequently altering its dynamics, responsiveness, and overall character.

In this context, students are tasked with redefining the macroform of the city to create a coherent urban environment that is resilient to natural disasters. They should discuss how the relationships among different city elements directly influence its ability to respond effectively to such disasters.
Expectations:

1. Diagrams expressing the main ideas and strategies for the future of İskenderun.
1. It is expected from the participants to designate a strategic/conceptual design framework which responds to the "Fundamental Questions" in the competition brief.
2. This framework must explicitly include the answers to the Fundamental Questions previously exposed in this document and must be through drawings, sketches, writings, or perspectives, including inspirations with comments and conclusions and sketch of the main idea/vision/principles of the proposal.
3. A simple conceptual plan which defines the future urban macroform and its main components.
4. A main digital image, visualization in 3D, render, handwritten perspectives, or photomontages, on a large scale and with a striking visual character that captures the central futuristic and conceptual idea of the project.

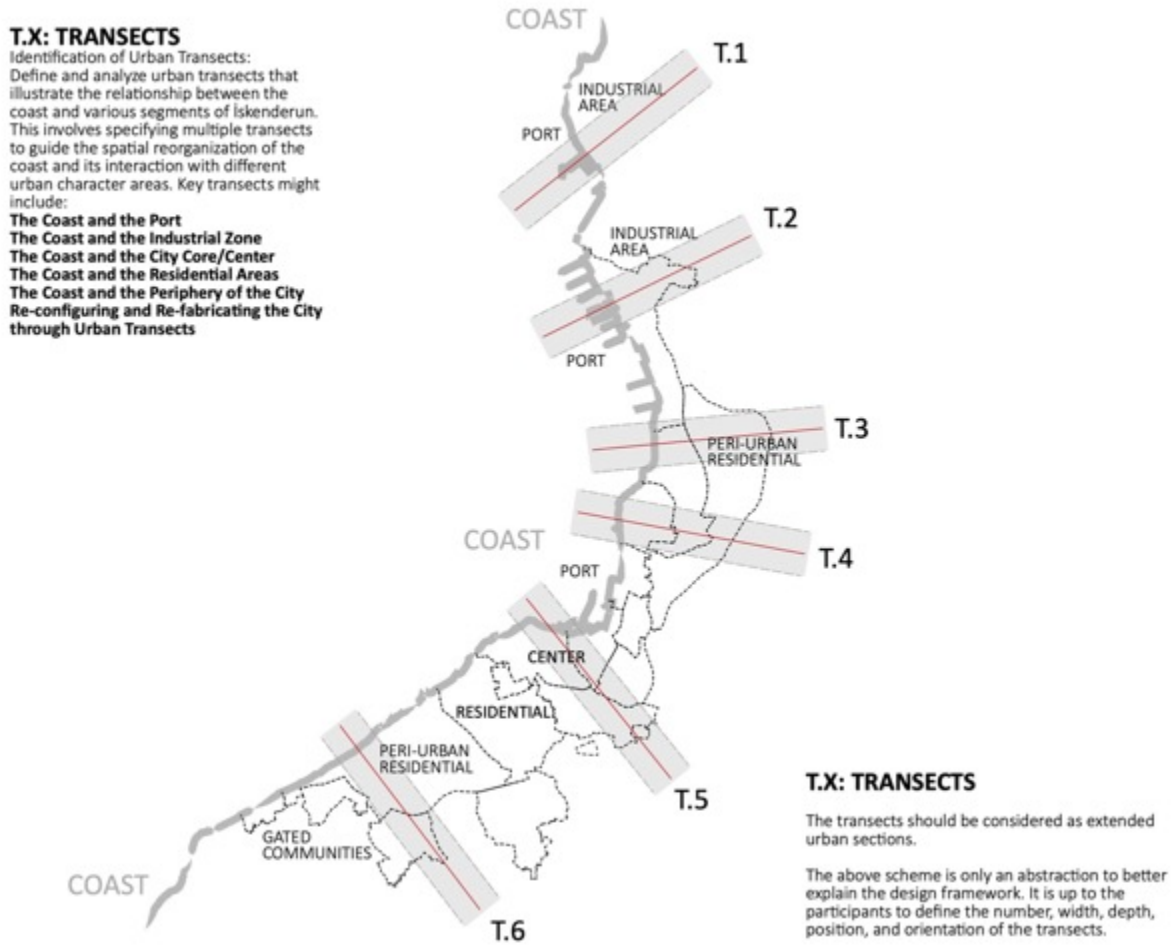
Sheet n°2 | The Coast and The City.
A0 Portrait Color.

Reconfiguring and Refabricating the City through Key Urban Transects:
Students will be tasked with defining and analyzing at least two urban transects (vertical axes or sections) that illustrate the relationship between the coast and various segments of İskenderun in order to establish a cohesive view of the spatial organization of the city.

Each team must reconfigure the city through these transects, rethinking the profile and section of each transect. Participants must specify spatial solutions to ensure that water and coast become integral components of the future configuration of the city, thus improving its resilience to disasters.
The goal of this reconfiguration is to harmonize coastal dynamics with urban development, improving resilience and functional integration across different segments of the city. Participants can define “the transects” based on their own design strategies.

Expectations:

1. We requested the development of a detailed elaboration of the Conceptual Master Plan outlined in Sheet 01, focusing on the following layers: the transportation system, circulation model, open space configuration, remanufacturing of the urban form, and the formation of new patterns along with their solid-void configurations.
2. Develop a conceptual or diagrammatic plan that illustrates at least 2 selected transects to be worked on, whether those suggested or new ones proposed by each team.
3. The development of these selected transects in Cross Sections, illustrating in a radical way the new urban and architectural proposal that connects the urban fabric with the coast in a resilient and pro-seismic way.



Identification of Urban Transects:

Define and analyze urban transects that illustrate the relationship between the coast and various segments of İskenderun. This involves specifying multiple transects to guide the spatial reorganization of the coast and its interaction with different urban character areas. Key transects might include:

The Coast and the Port: Examine the interface between the coastline and the port area, focusing on how coastal conditions influence and influence port activities.

The Coast and the Industrial Zone: Analyze the relationship between the coastline and the industrial zone, considering factors such as pollution control, land use compatibility, and industrial impact on coastal resilience.

The Coast and the City Core/Center: Investigate the interaction between the coastline and the city center, emphasizing how coastal proximity affects central urban functions, accessibility, and economic activities.

The Coast and the Residential Areas: Assess how the coastline integrates with residential neighborhoods, addressing aspects such as residential quality of life, coastal access, and disaster risk management.

The Coast and the Periphery of the City: This section explores the relationship between the coast and the city's peripheral areas, focusing on how coastal edge conditions affect suburban/semi-rural development and connectivity.

Sheet n°3 I Development of 1 Transect.
A0 Portrait Color.

This should include both plan and cross-section drawings to provide a comprehensive representation. The proposal must address essential aspects of urban design, such as developing innovative design strategies tailored to the specific context of the transect.
Additionally, it should focus on creating urban forms by specifying new architectural and urban typologies. Participants should also identify various types and scales of interventions, ranging from macro-level planning to localized spatial enhancements.
Furthermore, the submission must include clear design guidelines, operational frameworks, and codes to ensure the coherence, feasibility, and adaptability of the proposed interventions.
The proposal must include:

1. Massing and intensity, buildings and structures and structural landscape elements.
2. Major transportation systems and new public transportation modes can be introduced.
3. Circulation and open space system.
4. Footprints of buildings and other structures.

In this document, we also recommend that participants present silhouettes, 3D perspectives, and axonometric views of the project at an appropriate scale.

VIDEO

Along with all the above, each group must present a video in MP4 format of no more than 5 minutes in 1920 x 1080 resolution with a 16:9 aspect ratio, in which you must include:

1. A first-person recorded description of any of the group members recounting "the journey of the contest": how and why they made certain decisions and their relationship to the Essential Questions presented in this document to be answered by each team.
2. Some visualizations in 3-D movement, during the places intervened by each team.

6. CONTACT INFORMATION

All communication regarding the competition must be done exclusively via e-mail with the Competition Director Cristián Wittig director@icausarchitecture.org, who will be supported in all this management by the Co-Director of the Competition Cansu Canaran.

7. ELIGIBILITY

The contest will be aimed at undergraduate students in their last years, and also postgraduate (Master's and PhD) of the architecture and urban planning career, from faculties, institutes, schools of architecture and urban planning that are part of officially and internationally recognized and accredited universities.

The format of the contest will allow the participation of student teams, **with a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of six (6) members** per registered team, led by architecture and urban planning students. It is highly recommended that they include, as consultants, no more than two students from other areas related to the population and the city (sociology, anthropology, engineering, psychology, construction, art, etc.). These groups **will have an instructor or a team of guide instructors (2 maximum)**, who are formally employed by the University, Institutes and Schools of Architecture and Urban Planning who wish to participate.

Application / Registration Process:

For such purposes, the Director of the International Competition will first electronically contact a list with a selection of faculties and schools of architecture and urbanism with which they want to work for any event, and then will launch an open invitation to the faculties and architecture schools that wish to participate.

Once the interest to participate has been confirmed, a Formal Letter of Invitation will be sent, detailing aspects of the contest.
Each team must register digitally on the official website of the contest, which will be enabled for such purposes soon.

The registration system will be through the Educational Institution, University or School of Architecture. Internally, these schools will define if the contest development process will be carried out through a workshop/seminar or if groups formed independently of the internal academic planning of the educational institution will participate.

The number of groups that can be registered by educational entities will be from 1 to 5. No more than 5.

The registration fee per each non-Turkish University team will be **200 Euros**, which must be paid in a PayPal special account or deposited in a current bank account which will be specially enabled for these purposes.

As a way to encourage the participation of teams belonging to universities in the country affected by this great earthquake of February 2023, we have considered that the registration fee per each Turkish University team will be **100 Euros**, and only **50 Euros** are paid starting from the second team you wish to register which must be paid in a PayPal special account or deposited in a current bank account which will be specially enabled for these purposes.

Each Faculty, School or Institute of Architecture and Urbanism, after registering and paying the registration fee for its teams, must send a formal email to the Director of the Competition Cristián Wittig director@icausarchitecture.org informing the number of teams paid and registered, attaching proof of said payment, with which, the Director's Team will proceed to register their official participation in our competition.

Once this official registration process has been completed, the Director of the Competition will send an official email confirming the successful completion of this registration, informing about the next steps of the competition process and sending an access link with all the all information, plans and technical documentation necessary for the development of the proposals of the participating teams.

This payment and registration process must be completed **before 7:00 p.m. (CET) on Friday, June 27th 2025.**

Once the acceptance of the invitation to participate has been formalized and the digital registration has been completed, a leader will be defined for each of the groups. This leader must be one of the teachers or tutors of the participating teams and will be responsible for leading and coordinating their respective institutions with the Director of the Competition.

Competition Process:
The process of the International Contest will be based on 8 phases:

Phase 1: The university or student entity will choose the proposals that will enter the international competition. The way in which these groups are chosen (workshops, seminars, etc.) will be defined by the universities or educational entities themselves, and the selected groups will inform to us of the contest platform through a formal representative of the university.

Phase 2: Registration and pre-selection of participants according to compliance with the basic requirements of the contest (formats, organisation and number of pages, font, bullet point, duration, and resolution of the video). This process will be carried out by the Director's Team. This phase will be digital through the official email of the contest at director@icausarchitecture.org Each Faculty, School or Institute of Architecture and Urbanism must send a formal email to the Director of the Contest confirming their participation in our contest and informing the number of student teams that was successfully paid and registered, **before 7:00 p.m. (CET) on Friday, June 27th 2025.**

Upon confirmation of payment and successful registration of each of the participating teams, the Competition Director will send via formal email the link with all the information related to the City of Iskenderun, the process of development of the participating proposals, conditions and formats of the

final delivery of these proposals, and the work procedure of the International Jury, selection and awarding of the winning proposals.

Phase 3: Development of the Questions and Answers process regarding the contest process, where the participating teams will have the opportunity to send their questions, doubts and queries to the Contest Director and then receive the official list of their answers and clarifications. This process will be carried out **between Friday, June 27 and Friday, July 25th 2025.**

Online digital selection of 10 finalists chosen by the Official Jury of the contest.

Phase 4: Development of the process of preparing the proposals of the participating teams.
The deadline for the delivery of the final proposals developed by the participating teams will be **before 7 pm on Friday, December 5, 2025.**
Phase 5: Development of the review, classification and double secret coding process of the proposals received by the Director of the Competition, which will take place **between Friday, December 5 to Friday, December 19, 2025.**
In order to maintain the complete and total anonymity of the proposals received, the Director of the Competition and his work team made a change to this initial Registration Code for a new Competition Code, which will be the Code with which each team will develop and send their proposals on the day of the final delivery.
Phase 6: Development process of the International Jury work, in which 10 finalist proposals will be selected, which will move on to the next stage of review to select the 5 proposals that will be awarded. This process will take place **between Monday, January 5th and Friday, January 30th, 2026.**
The 10 finalist teams will have the opportunity to present their projects to the International Jury, answer questions and defend their proposal.

Phase 7: Development of the Official Announcement Ceremony of the winning proposals of the competition, which will be carried out online by the Director of the Competition with the presence and participation of the International Jury in the final comments**.** This official announcement will be carried out on **Friday, February 6th, 2026.**

Phase 8: Development of the official award ceremony for the winners of the competition, which will take place on **Friday, March 6th,** 2026, at TED University, Ankara, and will be broadcast online

8. INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS PROVIDED TO PARTICIPANTS

Each one of the universities that paid and successfully completed the registration of their student teams that will participate in this international contest was assigned a first Registration Code that corresponds to the payment transfer number made via PayPal or the bank transfer number.

Subsequently, each registered university will be sent a letter thanking them for their payment and confirming that the registration process for their student teams was carried out and completed successfully.

In addition, this letter will include an electronic link that accesses a Folder on Google Drive that contains all the information about the City of İskenderun, prepared by the Director of the Contest and his collaborating teams, to introduce the participating teams to the most fundamental aspects. referred to this city, to know and understand in a general way the main architectural, urban, patrimonial, and social

guidelines, in order to provide each participating team with an information base to carry out their own research and discussion process for the elaboration of each one of his proposals.

Finally, together with this informative letter, a file is included that contains the Gantt Chart of the contest process and a file with the format of the sheets and video on which each student team must develop and present their proposals.

Info-Note: All the base documents and maps related to the City of Iskenderun, which will be provided to participants, are prepared by the Urban Design Studio 2023-24: *Morphological Urbanism: A Morphological Perspective Towards Earthquake Safety*; TEDU.MUD | Master of Urban Design | TED University, Ankara, Turkey.

9. RULES FOR DISQUALIFICATION

Any participating team or any proposal prepared by them that does not comply with any of the general and specific requirements or demands expressly indicated in the points developed by this document will be disqualified from our competition.

The Director of the Competition, together with the Co-Director and all the staff that is developing this international competition, once all the proposals sent by the participating teams have been received and before they are presented and delivered to the International Jury, will determine, based on the demands, conditions and technical requirements established by this document, whether any of the proposals presented, failing to comply with said demands, deserve to be disqualified.

This determination will be formally and exclusively informed by the Director of the Competition via email to each of the teams that have been disqualified.

10. COMPETITION CALENDAR

a) Contest creation and process planning
(June – September 2024)
b) Development of official documents
(October 2024 – January 2025)
c) Jury members' confirmation process
(October 2024 – January 2025)
d) Research process and preparation of the list of universities to invite official universities invitation process.
(September 2024 – January 2025)
e) Official university invitation process
(March 2025)
f) First Call the official registration process
(March 2025)
g) Deadline registration process
(June 2025)
h) Delivery of specific technical information about the City of İskenderun to the registered university teams in the call registration process.
(March - June 2025)
i) Question & Answer Development Process

(June - July 2025)
j) Research process and elaboration of the proposals by registered university teams
(June 2024- December 2025)
o) Deadline for proposals' final submission
(5th December 2025)
p) Process of proposals review by the International Jury
(January - February 2026)
q) Final Award Ceremony at TED University, Ankara, Turkey
(6th March 2026)

11. SUBMISSION RULES

All these files that will make up each of the proposals (3 Sheets, Explanatory Memory, and Explanatory Video) must be sent via email to the Director of the Contest at director@icausarchitecture.org through a link that accesses a Digital Folder in Google Drive.

All necessary precautions must be taken so that this folder in Google Drive has permission to be freely accessed by the Director of the Contest and also of the International Jury.

The email sending the proposal of each student team must be sent by the Representative Professor of each university officially registered in our international competition, and in the subject line of this email it must only contain the following text: "Submission of Student Team Proposal, Code of Participation Number (The Participation Code that has been assigned to each competing team), and the name of the respectively registered university".

The text of this email must include the link that accesses the Google Drive Folder that contains the files of the proposal of each participating team.

This email containing the Link to the Folder in Google Drive must be sent to the Director of the Contest at director@icausarchitecture.org **before 7 pm (CET) on 5th December 2025**, which is the deadline defined by the contest. Proposals submitted after this deadline will not be accepted.

After the final delivery of the proposals developed by the participating student teams, the Director of the Contest will review the content of each of the Google Drive Folders to confirm that the files, their format and the content sent meet the conditions and requirements of the contest.

Then, the Director of the Contest will replace the Registration Code of each of the proposals received by a new random numbering that will be called the Competition Code to ensure the complete anonymity of each proposal during the review and decision process of the International Jury.

This will be the code with which each proposal will be reviewed by the International Jury for the selection of the 10 finalists and the 5 winners of the contest (First, Second and Third Place, and also the 2 Honors Mentions.

At the Award Ceremony, the President of the International Jury will announce the Competition Codes that the winners, and the Director of the Contest will homologate those codes with the Registration Codes, and will announce the names of the students, their representative professors and the registered university of the winning teams.

12. ORGANIZATION TEAM

Our team, based in both Chile and Turkey, will oversee the administration and development of the competition, represented by Senior International Consultant MA. HU. Cristián Alfredo Wittig Grell, an architect from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and a Master of Housing and Urbanism Architectural Association School of Architecture, London, UK, and Academician Member of The Association of Urbanism, London, UK, will officiate as the Director of the Competition.

Dr. Cansu Canaran, representing TED University, Ankara, Turkey, will serve as the Co-Director of the Competition, providing continuous support and coordination throughout the entire process. Mr. Canaran completed his PhD at METU, Ankara-TR while holding a position as a visiting scholar at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation (GSAPP).

Dr. Başak Uçar, Dr. Seray Türkay, and Irmak Yavuz, represent TED University on the organizing committee and have been integral to the development of the competition, including the preparation of the design brief, the selection of the jury, and the overall management of the process from its inception.

The Architect and Magister in Sustainable Architecture from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Ms. Camila Rivera Álvarez, will officiate as Executive Secretary of the Contest.

Likewise, the Director of the Competition together with the Executive Secretary and their Thought Group Chile work team, representing Chile, and the Co-Director of the Competition and the Professional Team representing TED University, Ankara, Turkey, will develop the administrative and technical bases of this International Contest, the invitation and dissemination documents of the contest, they will contact, invite and coordinate the different faculties, institutes and schools of architecture, urbanism and urban planning in Europe and the rest of the world, who wish to participate, and will assume the responsibility of inviting and forming the International Jury, defining its President and Executive Secretary, and on the other hand, defining the detail of the terms of its format, its formal delivery and the prizes for its winners.

The process of development and administration of the contest will be financed through the participation registration fee that must, as a contribution, be paid by each faculty and school of architecture, urbanism, and urban planning for each of the interested teams to participate. In addition, we hope for financial support from other private institutions from Türkiye, Chile and other interested countries around the world.

13. JURY MEMBERS AND PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

The Advisory Board, the Official International Jury, and the rapporteurs constitute the jury's structure. The members of each board are as follows:

ADVISORY BOARD:

- A representative of the İskenderun Municipality
- Baykan Günay | TEDU - Faculty of Architecture and Design
- Namık Günay Erkal | TEDU - Faculty of Architecture and Design

JURY MEMBERS:

Jury members are representing 3 different countries (Chile, Turkey, and Netherlands) which developed the competition:

- Alper Kiremitçi I OMA, Netherlands
- Berin Gür I TEDU - Faculty of Architecture and Design, Turkey
- Cansu Canaran I TEDU - Faculty of Architecture and Design, Turkey
- Luis Valenzuela Blejer I Director of CIT, Faculty of Design, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile
- Mert Nezih Rıfaioğlu İİskenderun Technical University Faculty of Architecture, Turkey
- Olgu Çalışkanl METU - Faculty of Architecture, Turkey
- Teodoro Fernández Larrañaga I Chilean National Architecture Award, Chile

REVIEW PROCESS OF THE PROPOSALS

Once the procedure described above in Point N°11 (SUBMISSION RULES) has been completed, the Director of the Competition will convene the members of the International Jury to inform them of the results of this process and make the official delivery of the proposals successfully received.

In addition, at this meeting, the Director of the Competition will present the results of the process of submitting the received participating proposals and will explain to the members of the Jury the procedure for reviewing the received proposals and for selecting the 10 finalists and the 5 winning proposals of the competition.

The Director of the Competition will participate in and record each one of the deliberation meetings of the International Jury, with the right to speak but without the right to vote.

Once this process of reviewing the proposals received has concluded, the International Jury will select 10 finalist proposals, which will be invited to present their proposals online to the Jury.

When this process is concluded, in a specially designed online meeting, the representatives of each of the 10 teams selected as finalists will have the opportunity to present online, anonymously, the main distinctive and differentiating aspects of their respective proposals.

After that, the International Jury will define the 5 winning proposals, determining the First, Second, and Third place as well as the 2 Honorable Mentions.

The coordination of this process will be carried out by the Director of the Competition, who will be in charge of defining the dates of these presentations and informing to the 10 teams selected as finalists in order to prepare their presentations.

In these online presentations, the selected teams will not be able to provide any information that allows the identification of the student members, their university and the country of origin of each selected team, otherwise, they will be disqualified and eliminated from the competition.

In these presentations, only the students that make up each selected team will be able to do it, the presence or participation of their representative teachers will not be allowed.

The Final Award Ceremony will be held in a mixed online and face-to-face format in the City of Ankara, Turkey, under the auspices of TED University, and will be attended by its authorities, the President of the International Jury and the Director of the Competition.

In this Ceremony, the President of the International Jury will announce the Competition Codes that have been the winners, and the Director of the Competition will homologate those codes with the Registration Codes and will announce the names of the students, their representative professors and the registered university of the winning teams.

14. AWARDS AND METHOD OF PAYMENT

The competition has considered the delivery of 3 prizes, to the first 3 places of the competition and 2 Honorable Mentions for those teams whose proposals have been considered worthy. These 3 prizes have been considered as follows:

The First Place will receive a prize equivalent to 3,000 EUROS.
The Second Place will receive a prize equivalent to 2,000 EUROS.
The Third Place will receive a prize equivalent to 1,000 EUROS.

The delivery of these prizes will be financed exclusively through the amount collected by the payment during the registration process of each of the teams participating in this competition.

The process of delivering these prizes will be carried out in a Final Award Ceremony, which will be held in the City of Ankara, Turkey, on **Friday, March 6th, 2026.**

The details for the development of this specific process will be delivered by the Director of the Competition, with sufficient advance notice to the participating teams, during the development of the competition process.

15. THE COLLOQUIUM

The Colloquium, which will formally report on the competition process, will be held as part of the Final Awards Ceremony program and will include the participation of the Director of the Competition, the authorities of TED University, the International Jury and the representatives of the winning teams.

The details for the development of this specific process and its program of activities will be delivered by the Director of the Competition, with sufficient advance notice to the participating teams, during the development of the competition process.

17. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

To clarify any possible doubts or questions and to provide more details about the specific procedures of the development process of our contest, we will carry out a Question and Answers process.

To prepare and send questions to the Director of the Competition, they can be asked between **Friday, June 27 to Friday, July 18, 2025,** a date which will be the deadline for its submission.

Then, the Director of the Competition and his team will review each of these questions and prepare a single list of official answers, a process that will be carried out between **Friday, July 18 to Friday, July 25, 2025,** a date which will be the deadline for its submission to the participant teams.

All the questions and queries required by the student teams regarding the development and delivery of their proposals may be made only via email addressed by the representative teachers of each student team to the email of the Director of the Competition at director@icausarchitecture.org

18. PUBLICATION RIGHTS.

It has been determined that with the mere delivery of the proposals developed by the participating teams, it is understood that they are being granted to the Director of the Competition and his collaborating team all the rights of dissemination and publication of these proposals, with an exclusive character. of diffusion and promotion of our contest, renouncing in this way any type of commercial use of these proposals.

Cristian Alfredo Wittig Grell
Director of ICAUS ISKENDERUN 2025 - 2026
Architect PUC and MA HU Architectural Association
CEO Thought Group Chile
Thought Europe & Lignum Design
Email: director@icausarchitecture.org
Web: www.icausarchitecture.org


ICAUS 2025-2026
ISKENDERUN
NEW RESILIENT
PROSEISMIC
CITY DESIGN
The goal of this contest is to create an innovative and conceptual seismic-resilient solution for rebuilding a devastated city, free from professional or economic constraints. Students are encouraged to design a Pro-Seismic-Resilient city that harmonizes with its geography, embraces seismic and tsunami challenges, and works with the natural movements of the land rather than against them.
CONTACT
director@icausarchitecture.org
FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT:
www.icausarchitecture.org
REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
27/06/2025
FINAL DELIVERATION
05/12/2025
AWARD CEREMONY
06/03/2026
INTERNATIONAL CONTEST FOR
ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN STUDENTS
THOUGHT GROUP CHILE
TED UNIVERSITY