



**AIA**  
Pittsburgh

## **Design Pittsburgh 2020**

### **Young Architects Studio Competition (YASC) Submission Criteria**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Now in its tenth year, the goal of this competition is to engage young architects, emerging design professionals, and students by challenging them to find innovative ways to approach a regional design challenge.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

Enter the competition as an **individual** or create a **design team!**

Entrants are welcome to submit individual entries or design team entries. Individual entries must come from either an architecture graduate or undergraduate.

##### **Architecture Graduates:**

Individual architecture graduates, who have been out of school for no more than ten years, are eligible to enter this competition. Entrants may or may not be licensed to practice architecture. AIA membership is not required; however, entrants must be located within AIA Pittsburgh's **11-county chapter area**.

##### **Architecture Students:**

Individual architecture undergraduates, who are currently enrolled in an architecture program, are eligible to enter this competition. AIA membership is not required; however, entrants must be currently studying in or have a home address within AIA Pittsburgh's **11-county chapter area**.

##### **Design Teams:**

The teams must be led by an architecture graduate and/or undergraduate. Teams can include graduates, who have been out of school for no more than ten years, or undergraduates in a design industry related field which can include, but is not limited to, engineers, landscape architects, or artists. All team members must be located within AIA Pittsburgh's **11-county chapter area**.

## THE PROMPT

### DESIGNING YOUR WORLD FOR A NEW REALITY

Without a doubt, 2020 has proven to be a historic year. From international conflicts across the globe to the local impacts of police brutality, our society is facing troubling issues that span multiple scales. For each of these massive challenges, there is one persistent undercurrent: the COVID-19 global pandemic.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, citizens have been forced to rapidly rethink how they choose to share spaces and find “shelter” in our homes. Many of the places that we once enjoyed - and the kinds of gatherings they once held - are now regarded as active threats, both to our own health and that of others. To mitigate these risks, we have pivoted our focus inwards as we shelter-in-place. Today, many students are staying home from school, non-essential workers are staying home from work, and essential workers are risking their lives to perform life-sustaining services- all the while the threat levels fluctuate day-by-day and county-by-county. In light of all this, we have had to re-imagine our homes to satisfy all of life’s needs and a fuller spectrum of daily activities.

The global pandemic provides a unique design challenge, which requires multiple levels of design thinking - from furniture design through urban design. As designers, we may not be able to inhabit new spaces as easily, but that does not stop us from re-imagining those which we currently occupy. **Drawing from your own experience during the COVID-19 pandemic, and using the place you have “sheltered” as the canvas, propose an intervention or adaptation which addresses your needs (or by extension, the needs of your defined community) at the scale of inquiry which best suits you.**

It is up to you to propose a design solution that is responsive to your unique built environment. Furthermore, you will define the scale of your design solution to meet your particular interest. Can a furniture system provide the critical improvements to sustain life and work? How could you optimize your larger living space - your room, your apartment, your house, your property? Are you imagining a different version of a wider built landscape - your apartment building, your block, your neighborhood - which supports the current and future needs of your community? The scale and footprint of the design proposal is entirely up to you, but the level of rigor and detail should correspond with your chosen scale of intervention.

While much of Pennsylvania moves into a “Green Phase” as of June 2020, the threat of a second wave and the overall persistence of the disease remain to be seen. We may soon need to prepare for pandemics like we prepare for hurricanes. Designers are asked to set their design proposals for five years in the future, on the cusp of an outbreak similar in global impact to COVID-19. Assume that the virus behaves similarly to a coronavirus, and that this project has already been funded and constructed by the time of the outbreak.

## DESIGN CHALLENGE:

- Drawing from your own experience during the COVID-19 pandemic, and using the place you have “sheltered” as the canvas, propose an intervention or adaptation which addresses your needs (or by extension, the needs of your defined community) at the scale of inquiry which best suits you.

## DESIGN PARAMETERS:

- 1. SITE:** The design proposal should be primarily centered around the participant’s home, or where they have sheltered-in-place. The location is entirely up to the participant and is not limited to Pittsburgh. However, we strongly encourage the participant to draw from first-hand experience and leverage the site with which they are most familiar with and have access to.
- 2. SCALE:** The participant may define the scale of their design solution to meet their particular interest. This may include furniture design, architectural design, urban design, or any combination - as long as it engages the built environment. Suggested upper limit might be 250 linear foot radius from your domain. The scale and footprint of the design proposal is entirely up to the applicant - but the level of rigor and detail should correspond with your chosen scale of intervention.
- 3. CONTEXT:** Depending on the scale of the design solution, the designer will need to reflect context as needed to justify their proposal. Be sure to consider that you will be living in the space and sharing it with anybody else you decide to include.
  - a. Who is this design proposal affecting - you, your household, your community?*
  - b. What is the relevant physical context that informs your design decisions? What is the construction of your home? Is this in the city, the suburbs, or countryside?*
  - c. What specific issues are you seeking to address? Mental and physical health? Access to fresh food? Productivity? Work-life balance? Access to culture?*
- 4. TIME:** All designs should be designed for five years in the future. Assume the project has already been funded and constructed by the time of the outbreak.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

All judging will be **completely anonymous**. Judges will consider the following:

- Comprehensive quality of the design proposal, including the written statement
- Clarity of the narrative. How and why submitter choose the scope/criteria
- How well the design solution communicates its vision and detail
- Creativity of the design, materials, explanation, and solution
- The rigor and level of detail expressed in the design proposal, relative to the chosen scale of inquiry

## AWARDS

The YASC entries will be judged by measuring the architect's performance against each project's potential and not in competition with each other. Thus, each project will be assessed based on the designer's skill in optimizing their unique design opportunity.

- **Award of Excellence** – One Award of Excellence will be given to the participant that demonstrates a mastery of design in responding to the competition design prompt, and creates the most inspiring, innovative, and creative overall proposal.
- **Award of Justice** – One Award of Justice will be given to the participant that demonstrates a dedication to supporting others through their design.
- **Award of Representation** – One Award of Representation will be given to the participant that demonstrates mastery in graphic communication and cohesively communicating their design intent.

## THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

All project entries will be submitted via DropBox.

1. Submit a submission request form along with the entry fee. *See submission request form for details.*
2. Once AIA Pittsburgh has received your submission request form, you will receive an email inviting you to your personalized YASC DropBox folder.

Note: If you do not have a DropBox account, you will be prompted to create one when you receive the invitation.

## DIGITAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

For each project entry, please include the following items in your electronic submission folder via [DropBox.com](https://www.dropbox.com):

- Design Submission
- Written Summary
- Publication & Print Images

### Design Submission: For Jury Use

- Four 11x17 pages compiled into a single PDF file (150 dpi). File names shall contain the name of the project title:

YASC\_ProjectTitle\_Submission.pdf

- *Page 1:* The first page must be the title page and contain the designer's written approach to the problem, research, ideas, and other statements supporting the author's response to the challenge. Images are also encouraged on this slide.

On this sheet, please include the following:

- Project Title
  - Thesis Statement of design intent
  - Explanation of site scale and physical scope of the inquiry
  - Explanation of relevant context
  - Explanation of relevant users
- *Page 2-4:* The remaining three pages must contain images illustrating the designer's understanding and solution to the design challenge.
- There should be no reference to author's identity in the body of any of the pages contained in the entry folder.

### Written Summary: For Jury Use

- The one-page **written summary sheet** must synthesize the Design Submission as an at-a-glance synopsis. This should primarily be a written work, with some key project images. This must be formatted for an 8.5 x 11 printout. File name shall be labeled:

YASC\_ProjectTitle\_Summary.pdf

### Publication & Print Images:

Images may be used for print, web, and exhibit publication. These should be the best representation of the designer's solution to the design challenge. These may be shared with media outlets or shown in an AIA digital gallery.

- Two files not to exceed 1000 x 1000 pixels each, at 100 dpi, saved as a JPG or PNG. File names shall be labeled:

YASC\_ProjectTitle\_Media\_01.JPG

YASC\_ProjectTitle\_Media\_02.JPG

## DEADLINES

**Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>:** Submission Request Forms must be turned in to the AIA Pittsburgh office by 4PM. Please submit by email at [kkellner@aiapgh.org](mailto:kkellner@aiapgh.org)

**Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>:** Project submissions must be received by AIA Pittsburgh via DropBox by midnight to be eligible for judging.

## LIABILITY CLAUSE

AIA Pittsburgh assumes no liability for original drawings and other submission materials or loss or damage to any part of the submission. AIA Pittsburgh retains the right to reproduce any of the submission materials in its publications, educational programs, and web site, and guarantees that credit will be given to the designer. Please check all information for correct spelling and accuracy since it will be used for publication. By making a submission, the entrant agrees that the information contained in this form is correct and complete, and that the entrant will hold harmless AIA Pittsburgh for any and all damage arising out of the use of the information contained herein. Any errors or omissions are the complete responsibility of the entrant. The entrant further certifies that permission has been obtained from the owner, developer, and photographer of the project to publish photographs, drawings, and other information included in the submission (and releases and authorizes AIA Pittsburgh to use all such materials).

AIA Pittsburgh  
[info@aiapgh.org](mailto:info@aiapgh.org) | 412.471.9548  
925 Liberty Avenue, Suite 700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222