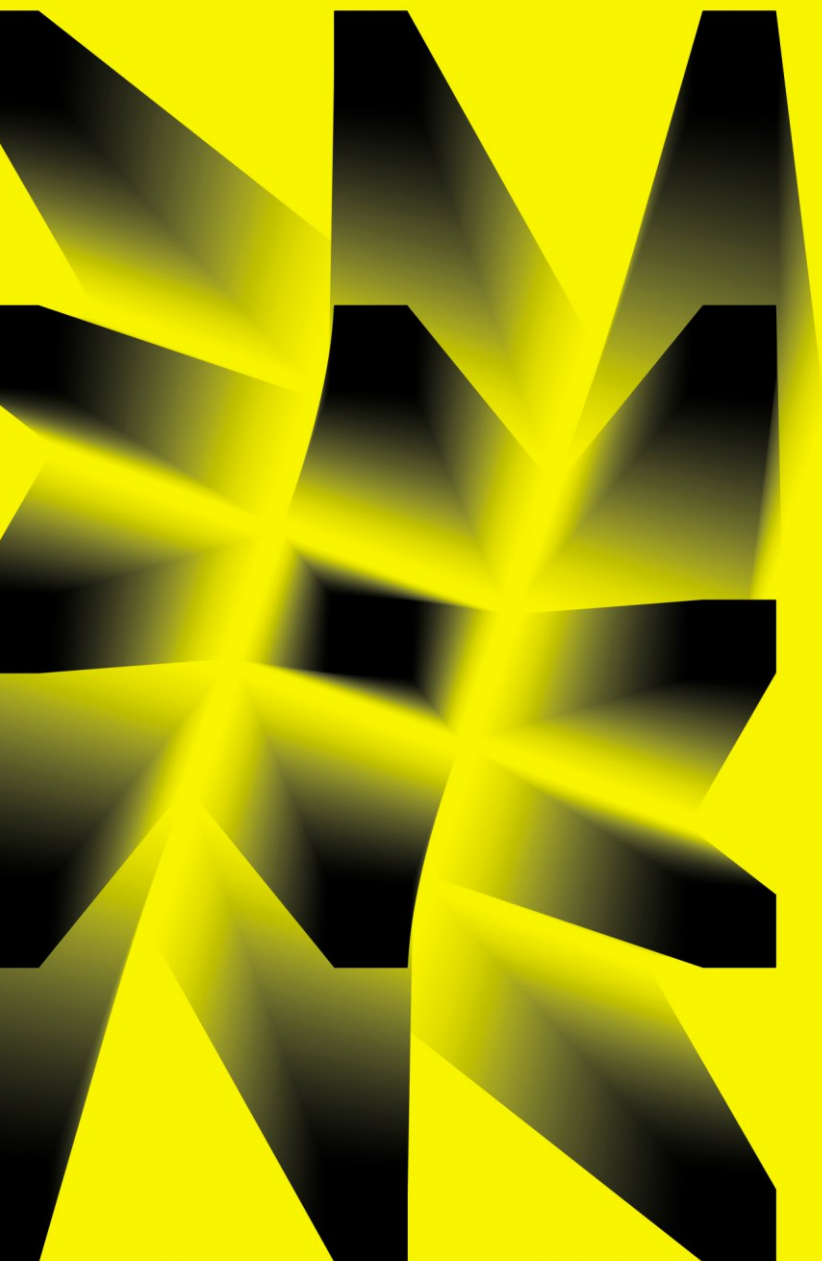


BATRA²⁰²⁵

Transylvania
Architecture Biennale
2025, 7th Edition

17 — 26
October
2025

esth.etic



**Regulation on the Organization
of the Competition Exhibition for
Projects BATRA 2025 Awards**



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Chapter I. General Provisions

The Transylvania Architecture Biennale (BATRA) is a professional event held biennially, with a remit to showcase the most outstanding architectural works, design concepts, and urban interventions by fellow architects affiliated with five partner branches of the Romanian Order of Architects (OAR): OAR Transilvania, OAR Bihor, OAR Satu-Mare, OAR North-West, OAR Alba. Participation is also open to architects who are members of any territorial branch of OAR, provided that the submitted project is geographically located in one of the following counties: Cluj, Bistrița-Năsăud, Sălaj, Alba, Bihor, Maramureș, or Satu Mare.

Alongside the primary competition categories, the Biennale features four distinct special sections – Architectural Photography, Architecture and Habitation: A Verse by Verse Exploration, Partnerships that Build, and The Voice of Public Space – dedicated to all creative individuals engaged in the field of architecture and in the interdisciplinary dialogue with the constructed spaces and the built environment.

The Transylvania Architecture Biennale revolves around the competitive exhibition BATRA 2025 Awards, showcasing the most significant architectural projects and interventions completed over the past two years.

The purpose of the competitive exhibition is to accurately reflect the professional activity of the members of the participating branches, to promote the most successful examples of architectural practice, and to foster an informed and critically engaged attitude towards recent architectural developments.

A jury of distinguished architects from Romania and abroad confers nominations and awards.

A series of auxiliary events are outlined around the competitive exhibition BATRA 2025 Awards, that aim to attract a broad and diverse public to this dialogue with and about architecture.

Architects, urban planners, partners, and collaborators together with representatives of professional communities in fields involved in the architectural domain engage in debates, presentations, and the exchange of contemporary ideas and solutions. A substantial part of the events is also dedicated to the general public, to the local communities in the five regions and to the direct or indirect beneficiaries of the architectural works.

BATRA is part of a broader framework of events supported by the "Architectural Stamp" initiative of the Romanian Order of Architects, dedicated to funding architectural annuals and biennials. The event is organized according to its own set of regulations and enjoys complete organizational autonomy.

The Transylvania Architecture Biennale is a manifestation within the Romanian Order of Architects program for branch-level events, operating under autonomous regulatory frameworks.

Held biennially, the **Transylvania Architecture Biennale (BATRA)** establishes itself as a privileged platform for encounter and reflection upon contemporary architecture, bringing together the most valuable architectural works, designs, and urban interventions created by the architects from the five partner branches of the Romanian Order of Architects: Transylvania, Bihor, Satu Mare, North-West and Alba. Participation is also open to members of other territorial branches, provided that the submitted projects geographically belong to one of the counties of Cluj, Bistrița-Năsăud, Sălaj, Alba, Bihor, Maramureș, or Satu Mare.

Beyond the main competition, the Biennale nurtures four distinctive thematic sections – photography, poetry, partnerships, and civic initiatives – conceived as a bridge between architecture and other forms of expression, inviting all those who think about and shape the built environment from creative and interdisciplinary perspectives to engage in dialogue.

At the heart of this event lies **the competitive exhibition "BATRA 2025 Awards"**, a curated selection of the most significant projects completed over the past two years. The exhibition aims to accurately mirror the current issues and developments in architectural practice in the region, to promote professional excellence, and to encourage a critical and nuanced approach to contemporary architecture. The judging process is entrusted to a panel of nationally and internationally recognized architects, whose perspectives bring both distance and depth.

A constellation of satellite events coalesces around this central exhibition – conferences, debates, presentations – designed to engage a wide audience in the contemplation of the city and the manner in which we live and construct our environment. The Biennale is a genuine cultural forum, where architects, urban planners and professionals from related fields, as well as local community representatives, participate in a dynamic exchange of ideas and viewpoints. Particular attention is paid to the general public, viewed as both direct and symbolic beneficiaries of transformations taking place within the shared public space.

BATRA is an integral component of the cultural program supported by the *Architectural Stamp* of the Romanian Order of Architects – a framework designed to promote and sustain cultural events dedicated to the architectural profession. The event is organized according to its own set of regulations and enjoys complete organizational autonomy, thereby preserving the coherence of its vision, maintaining its rootedness and a firm grasp on the realities of the region it represents, and fostering an openness to innovation.



Chapter II. BATRA 2025 Thematics

esth.etic

Esth.etic is an edition that prompts participants to engage in a multifaceted exploration of aesthetics and ethics in architecture. We propose a debate about the balance and impact of technology, the functional priorities in a fast-paced environment, and the values related to sustainability, history and social equity on the concept of beauty in architecture.

The well-being and balance, whether on an individual level or that of communities, is contingent on the manner in which the built environment embraces innovation while adhering to ethical principles.

This underscores the imperative for a robust ethical discourse in architectural practice, particularly within a paradigm characterized by escalating responsibilities that are precipitated by factors such as climate change, community dynamics, urbanization and the need for the integration and incorporation of technology. A now-familiar example is the use of photovoltaic panels. The undeniable benefits are difficult to integrate into the existing built environment without often creating an aesthetic dissonance or visually aggressive impact.

New materials and technologies, in turn, are themselves the outcomes of processes that must adhere to ethical principles and address challenges relating to sustainability and the need to reduce the carbon footprint.

An architectural object that does not adhere to ethical principles cannot be labeled as immoral, therefore it is paramount not to perceive it as the outcome of artistic alchemy or magic, but rather as the fruition of a process that involves not only architects, urban planners, and engineers, but also clients, financiers, and the administration (as both decision-maker and representative of the local community).

The perspectives through which we can appreciate the beauty of architecture are becoming increasingly diverse. Their multiplicity underscores the necessity to anchor and prioritize ethical reasoning throughout the entire imaginative, design, and construction process of an architectural work.

The beauty of architecture is subjective and devoid of value in the absence of ethical considerations. We believe that these moral values that must underpin the architectural creative process are organized or grouped into several different categories. Many of these principles are reflected in existing normative standards, which, it goes without saying, must be updated periodically in order to address emerging functional needs. The beauty, refinement and balance of a project are directly reliant on the professional culture and education background of all the parties involved. A second tier of ethical values may be included in this chapter. Community engagement, cultural identity challenges, social responsibility are perspectives that round out the ethical dimensions of an architectural intervention.

Architecture is, fundamentally, an art form, and the analysis of its aesthetic value takes into account compositional ideas, scale, design principles, chromatics, and materiality. It is manifest that ethics in architecture is not amenable to precise definition, and that moral principles are instead reflected through the ethics of professional practice. The prioritization and promotion of such principles is conducive to the emergence of quality, sustainability, and beauty within the built environment, outcomes which are both desirable and necessary.

In a world where technological change outpaces our ability as humans to adapt – faster with the mind, slower with the heart and body – how can we keep up with the pressure to build quickly, efficiently, and yet ethically and beautifully? BATRA 2025 is the place where we seek together the balance between being and doing, between necessity and vision, between esth.etic and the future.



Architect Daniela Maier

Curator, Transylvania Architecture Biennale 2025



Chapter III. BATRA 2025 Awards Calendar

June 12

Official launch of the BATRA 2025 Awards Competition

July 7

Deadline for submission of questions and answers

September 19

Final deadline for project submissions to the competition

October 17

Opening of the competition exhibition BATRA 2025 Awards

October 22-24

Jury deliberation

October 25

Awards Ceremony of the Transylvania Architecture Biennale 2025

Note

In the event of any changes, they will be communicated in a timely manner.
The submission deadline is final and will not be extended.



Chapter IV. Sections

The BATRA 2025 Awards comprise the following sections:

01.

Detached Housing

The section is dedicated to all typologies of individual dwellings that stand out through the architectural quality of the living spaces and through their site-specific responsiveness. The functional and aesthetic aspects of the designs, as well as the coherence of the volumetric solutions and the relationship with the surrounding context are addressed. Proposals will be particularly valued if they incorporate principles of sustainability, technological or material innovation, design approaches expressing responsibility toward the built landscape and the natural environment.

The section includes all types of single-family homes — whether detached, semi-detached, or terraced – completed over the past two years, regardless of size, construction system, or architectural style.

The participating projects must be authored by architects who are members of the partner branches of the Order of Architects of Romania (OAR): OAR Transylvania, OAR Bihor, OAR Satu-Mare, OAR North-West, OAR Alba, including Romanian architects from the diaspora. Participation is also open to architects who are members of any territorial branch of OAR, provided that the submitted project is geographically located in one of the following counties: Cluj, Bistrița-Năsăud, Sălaj, Alba, Bihor, Maramureș, or Satu Mare.

02.

Collective Housing

This section is dedicated to multi-family housing projects that stand out through the creation of innovative community spaces, architectural coherence and commitment to professional ethics principles. Particular emphasis will be placed on projects that establish a genuine dialogue with the surrounding environment, propose a well-articulated functional dynamics, ensure economic efficiency, and foster a sense of belonging. An important evaluation criterion is the integration of sustainability principles – whether through energy-efficient technical solutions, the use of sustainable materials, the mitigation of environmental impact, or the creation of responsible and resilient living conditions. All collective housing projects – regardless of scale or height regime – completed over the past two years are eligible.

The participating projects must be authored by architects who are members of the partner branches of the Order of Architects of Romania (OAR): OAR Transylvania, OAR Bihor, OAR Satu-Mare, OAR North-West, OAR Alba, and Romanian architects from the diaspora. Participation is also open to architects who are members of any territorial branch of OAR, provided that the submitted project is geographically located in one of the following counties: Cluj, Bistrița-Năsăud, Sălaj, Alba, Bihor, Maramureș, or Satu Mare.



Chapter IV. Sections

03.

Buildings for Administration, Sports, Services, and Production

This section is dedicated to projects that support and strengthen the infrastructure of community life, bringing together interventions with a variety of functions: administrative, business management, financial and banking, commercial, services (including tourism services), production, sports as well as functions related to transport infrastructure, or special-purpose buildings. Projects are expected to substantially contribute to the quality of the built environment, with an emphasis on architectural relevance, contextual integration, and responsiveness to collective needs.

An important criterion in project assessment is the implementation of sustainability principles – whether through energy-efficient construction methods, the responsible use of resources, the integration of renewable energies, or the creation of sustainable and adaptable spaces over time.

The section includes both new constructions and interventions on the existing buildings – reconversions, extensions or rehabilitations – completed over the past two years.

The participating projects must be authored by architects who are members of the partner branches of the Order of Architects of Romania (OAR): OAR Transylvania, OAR Bihor, OAR Satu-Mare, OAR North-West, OAR Alba, and Romanian architects from the diaspora. Participation is also open to architects who are members of any territorial branch of OAR, provided that the submitted project is geographically located in one of the following counties: Cluj, Bistrița-Năsăud, Sălaj, Alba, Bihor, Maramureș, or Satu Mare.

Note: Considering that the mixed-use buildings may include features relevant to both collective housing (Section 2) and community amenities (Section 4), it is the author's responsibility to decide under which section the project should be submitted based on the prevalence or prevailing nature of the represented function. **Remark:** In the event of more than five projects for new buildings or interventions on existing structures are submitted, the jury reserves the right to evaluate them under separate subsections.

04.

Buildings for Education, Culture, and Health

This section is dedicated to buildings serving fundamental areas of collective life: education and research, culture and worship, healthcare and social care. The projects within this category are indicative of the architecture's capacity to support formative processes, to create spaces for meeting and reflection, to care for, protect and bring together various categories of users.

Importance is placed on those interventions that genuinely contribute to improving the quality of life, offer inclusive, accessible, and socially responsive adapted solutions, build a harmonious relationship between function, architectural expression, and context. Here, aesthetics is understood not merely as a formal expression, but rather as the result of an ethical attitude towards the individual, space, and environment. The integration of sustainability principles – in terms of energy, material selection and social impact – is an essential evaluation criterion.

The section includes both new constructions and projects for the reconversion, extension, or rehabilitation of existing constructions, completed over the past two years.

The participating projects must be authored by architects who are members of the partner branches of the Order of Architects of Romania (OAR): OAR Transylvania, OAR Bihor, OAR Satu-Mare, OAR North-West, OAR Alba, and Romanian architects from the diaspora. Participation is also open to architects who are members of any territorial branch of OAR, provided that the submitted project is geographically located in Cluj County, Bistrița-Năsăud County, Sălaj County, Alba County, Bihor County, Maramureș County, or Satu Mare County.

Note: Considering that some mixed-use buildings may include components corresponding to both this section and the section dedicated to public functions (Section 3), it is the author's responsibility to decide under which section the project should be submitted based on the prevalence or dominant nature of the represented function.



Chapter IV. Sections

05.

Restoration and Revitalization of Cultural Heritage

This section is dedicated to projects that approach the existing built-up heritage with respect, discernment, and creativity, thereby contributing to the regeneration of a living collective memory. It encompasses interventions on historical monuments – individual buildings or classified ensembles protected under specific legislation – as well as on the broader architectural heritage, which, even if not formally protected, still holds cultural, contextual, or emotional value for the community.

The assessment will particularly commend projects that demonstrate a discerning engagement with historical contexts, successfully integrating the preservation of existing value with a new functionality, contemporary expressiveness and environmental and community responsibility. The aesthetic quality of the intervention, understood as the outcome of professional ethics and a subtle dialogue with the material, contextual, and temporal elements, will be an essential criterion in the assessment. Solutions that reflect adaptive use and demonstrate the potential to mobilize heritage as a community asset shall be highly valued.

The section includes projects for the restoration, conservation, rehabilitation, reconversion or extension of heritage buildings, completed over the past two years – regardless of whether the buildings are officially listed monuments or informally or locally recognized for their historical and cultural value.

The participating projects must be authored by architects who are members of the partner branches of the Order of Architects of Romania (OAR): OAR Transylvania, OAR Bihor, OAR Satu-Mare, OAR North-West, OAR Alba, and Romanian architects from the diaspora. Participation is also open to architects who are members of any territorial branch of OAR, provided that the submitted project is geographically located in Cluj County, Bistrița-Năsăud County, Sălaj County, Alba County, Bihor County, Maramureș County, or Satu Mare County.

Remark: *If more than five projects are submitted under the section aimed exclusively at interventions on officially listed monuments, the jury reserves the right to evaluate them separately in a dedicated subsection. This distinction is intended to reflect the specificity of the intervention on the monument – involving legal constraints, rigorous methodologies and increased responsibility for the authenticity and integrity of the protected heritage.*

06.

Shaping the Rural Space of Today

This section is devoted to projects that contribute to the transformation and revitalization of the contemporary rural landscape, regardless of the type of proposed function – housing, education, culture, healthcare, production, tourism, services, or infrastructure. Rural renewal is conceptualized as a process of reconnecting communities with their local resources and intrinsic identity, through carefully considered, sustainable, and deeply place-rooted architecture.

Projects will be awarded a high level of recognition if they demonstrate an ability to integrate contemporary functions in a harmonious and expressive manner within the rural context, thereby highlighting the local specificity – either through the use of traditional materials, the reinterpretation of vernacular techniques, the relationship with the landscape and the land plot patterns, or through subtle cultural references that ensure continuity of place-based memory. Interventions that address current challenges in a responsible manner while preserving the distinctiveness of the village environment shall be highly valued.

Rural architectural aesthetics is understood as an ethical relationship between human, space, and community. The projects selected must demonstrate balanced attention to functionality, sustainability, and expressiveness, while contributing to a coherent, inclusive rural development, while aligned with local values.

The section includes both new constructions and projects for the restoration, reconversion, extension, or rehabilitation of the existing constructions, completed over the past two years.

The participating projects must be authored by architects who are members of the partner branches of the Order of Architects of Romania (OAR): OAR Transylvania, OAR Bihor, OAR Satu-Mare, OAR North-West, OAR Alba, and Romanian architects from the diaspora. Participation is also open to architects who are members of any territorial branch of OAR, provided that the submitted project is geographically located in Cluj County, Bistrița-Năsăud County, Sălaj County, Alba County, Bihor County, Maramureș County, or Satu Mare County.



Chapter IV. Sections

07.

Public Space, Community Space

This section foregrounds interventions that have the potential to transform public spaces into a vibrant, accessible, and meaningful environment for the community - places that foster a sense of belonging, balance, and interaction. Urban design projects, landscape architecture and permanent interventions in public spaces, regardless of size, shall be targeted, which contribute to improving the quality of life, urban regeneration and reconnecting people with the built and natural environment.

Projects developed over the past two years, whether completed or nearing completion, involving the arrangement of markets, public squares, alleys, waterfronts, tourist trails, urban or rural gardens and parks, recreational areas and leisure zones, green areas, playgrounds, and open-air community infrastructures shall be included. Evaluation will favour projects that incorporate universal accessibility, functional diversity, social equity and ecological sustainability, in line with the values promoted by the New European Bauhaus initiative: beautiful, sustainable, and together.

Projects are required to demonstrate not only functional and aesthetic solutions, but also demonstrate the capacity to create inclusive, friendly and safe spaces for all users – children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, marginalized groups. Conversely, emphasis will be placed on the integration of landscape and vegetation as an active component of the architecture of the place, contributing to climate resilience, biodiversity, and the restoration of the human-nature relationship.

The quality of public space is indicative of urban life quality and social cohesion. Through this section, the Biennale seeks to emphasize sensitive, sustainable and deeply human models of interventions.

The participating projects must be authored by architects who are members of the partner branches of the Order of Architects of Romania (OAR): OAR Transylvania, OAR Bihor, OAR Satu-Mare, OAR North-West, OAR Alba, and Romanian architects from the diaspora. Participation is also open to architects who are members of any territorial branch of OAR, provided that the submitted project is geographically located in Cluj County, Bistrița-Năsăud County, Sălaj County, Alba County, Bihor County, Maramureș County, or Satu Mare County.

08.

Interior Space Aesthetics

This section is dedicated to interior design projects that enhance everyday spatial experiences – through attentiveness to materiality, light, rhythm, functionality, and, most importantly, the manner in which people inhabit, work, interact, or rest within these spaces. It promotes a profound comprehension of interior design as a manifestation of spatial culture, serving as a conduit between aesthetic vision, ethics and physical and emotional comfort.

Projects deemed eligible for participation include any type of interior space – either public (commercial, cultural, educational, administrative, healthcare, sports, service or recreational and leisure), or private (residential, collective or individual). Regardless of the building's function or the scale of the intervention, priority will be given to solutions that express the identity of the place, respond to the real needs of its users, integrate contemporary principles of spatial dynamics and perceptual psychology.

The value is placed on interiors that demonstrate a thoughtful, refined and responsible aesthetic quality, spatial compositions where proportion, detail, natural and artificial lighting, and surface textures contribute to an authentic, empathetic, and durable user experience.

Projects that have been completed over the past two years are eligible for submission.

The participating projects must be authored by architects who are members of the partner branches of the Order of Architects of Romania (OAR): OAR Transylvania, OAR Bihor, OAR Satu-Mare, OAR North-West, OAR Alba, and Romanian architects from the diaspora. Participation is also open to architects or interior designers who are members of any territorial branch of the Romanian Order of Architects (OAR) or recognized professional design associations, provided that the submitted project is geographically located in Cluj County, Bistrița-Năsăud County, Sălaj County, Alba County, Bihor County, Maramureș County, or Satu Mare County.



Chapter IV. Sections

09.

Temporary Architecture and Object Design

This section explores the potential of small-scale architecture and design forms with significant impact on the built environment, spatial perception, and everyday life. It brings together interventions under 100 square meters – whether temporary or permanent – that activate spaces, generate dialogue, and propose new modes of inhabiting, meeting, or representing public life.

A wide diversity of initiatives is encouraged: temporary amenities in public or private spaces, pavilions, exhibition stands, urban installations, ephemeral structures for events and festivals, scenography for theatrical performances, live art, or art installations. Despite their modest scale and transient nature, these interventions are recognized as catalysts for reflection, aesthetic awareness, and social belonging through what may be termed relational aesthetics.

This section also includes object design projects – furniture, lighting fixtures, decorative or functional objects – which propose a deliberate contemplation on the choice of material, the precision of detail, usability, and the object's relationship with its surrounding space. Objects and structures that embody formal clarity, innovation, accessibility, and an ethical sustainability with the environment – both in terms of production and in reuse – will be highly valued. Projects may be individual or collaborative, must have been created over the past two years, regardless of the institutional or artistic context.

Participation is open to member architects of the partner branches of the Order of Architects of Romania (OAR): OAR Transylvania, OAR Bihor, OAR Satu-Mare, OAR North-West, OAR Alba, and Romanian architects from the diaspora. Participation is also open to architects or interior designers who are members of any territorial branch of the Romanian Order of Architects (OR) or professionals from related fields (design, visual arts, scenography), provided that the project submitted is located in Cluj County, Bistrița-Năsăud County, Sălaj County, Alba County, Bihor County, Maramureș County, or Satu Mare County.

10.

Experiments, Research and Cultural Projects

This section is dedicated to initiatives that transcend the boundaries of architecture beyond the mere act of construction, exploring it as a cultural instrument, thought process, form of expression, and social mediation. It provides a platform for projects that build bridges across fields, disciplines, people and places, focusing on processes, ideas, and gestures that foster critical reflection and drive transformative change.

Projects that have been completed within the last two years are strongly encouraged. These projects may assume diverse forms:

- Professional, urban, or community-impact studies and research
- Installations, exhibitions, publications, visual or written essays
- Cultural events, hybrid formats, and collective experiments in which architecture serves as a means, subject, or context.

Special consideration will be given to projects exploring new forms of representation and collaboration, addressing contemporary topics such as sustainability, place memory, ecology, equitable access to space, the right to the city, and civic participation. Aesthetics is understood as the manifestation of an ethical and critical stance, capable of building real or symbolic bridges between people and spaces.

Interdisciplinary teams may participate, provided that the project includes at least one architect who is a member of one of the partner branches of the Order of Architects of Romania (OAR): OAR Transylvania, OAR Bihor, OAR Satu-Mare, OAR North-West, OAR Alba, as well as Romanian architects from the diaspora. Participation is also open to architects who are members of any territorial branch of the Order of Architects of Romania (OAR), provided that the submitted project is geographically carried out or implemented in: Cluj County, Bistrița-Năsăud County, Sălaj County, Alba County, Bihor County, Maramureș County, or Satu Mare County.



Chapter IV. Sections

Special Sections

11.

Architectural Photography

This section invites architects, professional or amateur photographers alike to submit photographic works that capture architecture in relation to place, time, and people. We are seeking for images that not only document but also interpret architecture in use – not merely as an object, but as a living presence in the urban or rural, public or private settings.

Eligible photographs may depict buildings, details, ambiances or scenes of the life of the constructed environments, with a focus on the quality of the architecture and its role in shaping everyday, responsible, and accessible aesthetic. Images that showcase architects, communities, or authorities who have managed to transform places through meaningful interventions will be highly valued, aligned with the thematic focus of the edition: *esth.etic* – Beauty, Meaning and Responsibility in Contemporary Architecture.

Participation is open to all individuals, without restrictions of age, profession or affiliation, provided that the photograph aligns with the topic of the Biennale, and reflects the relationship between architecture and its social, cultural, or natural context.

12.

Architecture and Habitation: A Verse by Verse Exploration

The concept of architecture is not confined to physical structures; it is also embodied in the written word. At times, poetry captures the essence of a space more accurately than any plane or image – through rhythm, silence, metaphor. This section is dedicated to poetry that mirrors the profound relationship between humans and the built environment, the intricate connections between thought, space, and material form.

We invite authors from any field – architects, writers, artists, and those with a general interest in poetry – to submit poems that explore architecture, urban or rural space, personal or public interiors, movement through the city, the fragility of dwelling or the potency of forms. We welcome texts that propose sensitive, critical, or intimate reflections about how we inhabit, how we observe and how we perceive the constructed world.

The texts will be evaluated in relation to the topics of the Biennale – *esth.etic* – and their ability to translate ideas about meaningful beauty, aesthetic responsibility, and the human dimension of space into poetic language.

Participation is open to all, without age or professional affiliation restrictions.



Chapter IV. Sections

Special Sections

13.

Partnerships that Build

Beyond drawing, idea or construction, architecture is essentially predicated on the notion of a collective practice – a continuous dialogue among people who share their skills, trust, and vision in order to shape a place. This section is dedicated to those remarkable professional relationships that underpin and play a pivotal role in the success of architectural projects: architect-client, architect-engineer, architect-builder, architect-craftsman, architect-artist, architect-supplier of materials. Relationships that work not just through contract, but through mutual trust, open dialogue, and respect for each other's contribution.

The purpose of this section is to bring to light the imperceptible values of architecture: authentic cooperation, active listening, co-created solutions, patiently negotiated decisions – all those moments that construct not only physical spaces but also models of best professional practice, worthy of being followed by the broader professional community.

The selection process will be based on the recommendation of an architect who has a project registered at BATRA 2025, and who deems that the partnership in that project was exemplary. Each proposal must be accompanied by a short narrative about the collaborative relationship, with particular emphasis on the context, challenges, key moments and the human and professional value of the partnership.

This section does not reward an aesthetic outcome but rather focuses on the cultivation of a professional ethos – an invisible yet essential structure, indispensable for bringing architectural projects to fruition.

14.

The Voice of Civic Space

This section is dedicated to those who choose to intervene, to take a stand, and to propose – architects, urban planners, artists, activists, organizations, or citizens – who support societal transformation through concrete actions. It concerns bold and persistent gestures that bring real needs, often disregarded or unarticulated, into public attention, thereby helping to shape a culture of engagement, collaboration, and responsibility.

The focus is on initiatives that signal dysfunctions, initiate necessary conversations, propose alternative solutions, or trigger change processes – whether through public campaigns, educational initiatives, forms of professional activism, civic initiatives, applied research, or interdisciplinary projects.

Eligible actions may address a range of topics: social equity, inclusion, the right to the city, i.e. equitable access to urban resources and spaces, heritage, access to education, the environment, best practices in architecture and construction, and will be evaluated based on the impact generated, the coherence of the approach, and the ability to mobilize people and resources around a shared goal.

This section places a greater importance on responsible attitude and long-term commitment rather than on the final form of a product or project. It is an invitation to acknowledge and celebrate architecture as an act of engagement – both ethical and aesthetic.

Participation is open to all, regardless of profession or affiliation, and is not geographically limited: initiatives carried out in any region of the country are eligible, provided they have been conducted or completed over the past two years.



Chapter V. General Conditions of Participation

- 1.**

Sections 1-10 of this exhibition are open to all members of the partner branches of the Romanian Order of Architects (OAR): OAR Transylvania, OAR Bihor, OAR Satu-Mare, OAR North-West, OAR Alba, including members from the diaspora, to participate in one or more sections, with one or more representative works, from both Romania and abroad. Participation implies the status of author, co-author with equal rights of the architectural project, or architect from the design team, who confirms the consent of the main author by entering the competition. Participation is also open to architects who are members or lead teams of members from any territorial branch of the Romanian Order of Architects (OAR), provided that the submitted work is geographically located within the BATRA territory, i.e. in one of Cluj County, Bistrița-Năsăud County, Sălaj County, Alba County, Bihor County, Maramureș County, and Satu Mare County.
- 2.**

Section 9 is open to collaborators of architects who are members of the partner branches of the Romanian Order of Architects (OAR), designers and producers. In this case, the completed object must be accompanied by the recommendation of an architect from the partner branches who has used or appreciated it in their work.
- 3.**

Sections 11, 12, 14, are open to unrestricted participation.
- 4.**

For Section 13, submission must be based on the recommendation of an architect who has entered the relevant project in BATRA 2025.
- 5.**

Participants in sections 1 to 10 must have paid their their Romanian Order of Architects (OAR) membership dues for 2025 or provide proof of up-to-date membership in professional organizations from their country of residence.
- 6.**

Each author or group of authors may submit works in one or more sections in the same edition. There is no limit to the number of works that an author or group can submit per section.
- 7.**

The same work may not be submitted in multiple sections, unless the different areas of intervention (urban operation and architectural object, object of architecture and object design) can be clearly delimited.
- 8.**

Architecture and interior design within the same object may not be submitted separately, unless the authors are different.
- 9.**

Works that have been submitted in previous editions may not be resubmitted in the same section, unless they form part of a subsequent phases that constitute a significant evolution within larger-scale projects.



Chapter V. General Conditions of Participation

10.

The term "completed work" refers to a work that is at least 90% finalized (architectural work, interior design, urban space planning, restoration and rehabilitation), completed research, products or prototypes (for the "object design" category).

11.

The term "completed over the past two years" refers to the period between September 2023 and September 2025.

12.

The registration of participants in the competition exhibition and the submission of projects shall be carried out under the conditions of this Regulation which shall be deemed to have been accepted in their entirety.

13.

Furthermore, architects who wish to participate in the Transylvania Architecture Biennale but require the assistance of volunteers in producing the exhibition panels, are asked to send an email with this request to [**contact@batra.ro**](mailto:contact@batra.ro). The intention is to foster a bridge between architecture students and professionals in the hope of cultivating a natural pathway for professional development.

14.

The exhibition panels of the works participating in the competition will be printed by a specialized company. The organizers disclaim any liability for the quality of the printed materials.



Chapter VI. Conditions for Admission and Presentation

Sections 1. Individual housing, 2. Collective housing, 3. Buildings for administration, sports, services, and production, 4. Buildings for education, culture, and health, 5. Restoration and revitalization of cultural heritage, 6. Shaping the rural space of today

Conditions for admission to the competition:

Compliance with this Regulation.

Filling in the registration form available on the www.batra.ro website, corresponding to each section, with the following information

- Title of the project
- Site location
- Lead author
- TNA (National Register of Architects) number
- Project registration number with the Romanian Order of Architects (OAR)
- Architecture Office
- Design team
- Structural engineer / Installations engineer / Other collaborators
- Year of design / completion
- Photographer
- Project description in Romanian and English, maximum 1,300 characters with spaces
- Presentation panel, TIFF / TIF file (Flatten image, no layers and editable text), 200 dpi resolution, CMYK; preferably under 500 MB

— Images for the publication in the official project catalogue

a. Main image (representative of the project)
215 x 215 mm TIFF/TIF, 300 DPI, CMYK

b. 2 landscape images - 90 x 47,5 mm TIFF/ TIF, 300 DPI, CMYK

c. 1 portrait image - 90 x 100 mm TIFF/ TIF, 300 DPI, CMYK

— Main image (representative of the project), for posting on the OART website and partner branches - with a minimum width of 3000 pixels / minimum resolution 100 dpi / RGB

The images submitted for catalogue publication must not be collages of multiple photographs / textures and must not include borders or lateral additions.

The information provided in the registration form and in the upper information box of the presentation panel must be identical.



Chapter VI. Conditions for Admission and Presentation

Sections 1. Individual housing, 2. Collective housing, 3. Buildings for administration, sports, services, and production, 4. Buildings for education, culture, and health, 5. Restoration and revitalization of cultural heritage, 6. Shaping the rural space of today

Presentation requirements:

The panel layout format of 82 x 217 cm, as made available by the organizers (accessible on the www.batra.ro website, under each section), must be strictly adhered to.

The layout provided by the organizers may not be modified. The background of the format must remain white. No colors, drawings, or photographs are allowed in the background (even in semi-transparent or blurred form).

Only one panel of size 82 x 217 cm must be submitted for each project enrolled in the competition, in TIFF/TIF format (Flatten image, with no layers or editable text), 200 dpi resolution, CMYK.

Contents of the panels:

- The identification box must be completed with the same project information as that in the online registration form
- A site plan that includes an extended view of the contextual environment in which the intervention was made
- Plans and sections in black and white, elevations / developed elevations accompanied with explanatory keys, where applicable
- The design concept - sketches, text in Romanian and English. There is no character limit for the content on the panels submitted for the competition.
- Photographs, both exterior and interior, in color or black and white
- It is recommended that you select a limited number of photographs and drawings so that the presentation is as concise and persuasive as possible.



Chapter VI. Conditions for Admission and Presentation

Secțiunea 7. Public Space, Community Space

Conditions for admission to the competition:

Compliance with this Regulation.

Filling in the registration form available on the www.batra.ro website for every section, with the following information

- Title of the project
- Site location
- Lead author
- TNA (National Register of Architects) number
- Project registration number with the Romanian Order of Architects (OAR)
- Architecture Office
- Design team
- Structural engineer / Installations engineer / Other collaborators
- Year of design / completion
- Project description in Romanian and English, maximum 1,300 characters with spaces
- Presentation panel, TIFF / TIF file (Flatten image, no layers and editable text), 200 dpi resolution, CMYK; preferably under 500 MB

— Images for the publication in the official project catalogue

a. Main image (representative of the project)
215 x 215 mm TIFF/TIF, 300 DPI, CMYK

b. 2 landscape images - 90 x 47,5 mm TIFF/ TIF, 300 DPI, CMYK

c. 1 portrait image - 90 x 100 mm TIFF/ TIF, 300 DPI, CMYK

— Main image (representative of the project), for posting on the OART website and partner branches - with a minimum width of 3000 pixels / minimum resolution 100 dpi / RGB

The images submitted for catalogue publication must not be collages of multiple photographs / textures and must not include borders or lateral additions.

The information provided in the registration form and in the upper information box of the presentation panel must be identical.



Chapter VI. Conditions for Admission and Presentation

Secțiunea 7. Public Space, Community Space

Presentation requirements:

The panel layout format of 82 x 217 cm, as made available by the organizers (accessible on the www.batra.ro website, under each section), must be strictly adhered to.

The layout provided by the organizers may not be modified. The background of the format must remain white. No colors, drawings, or photographs are allowed in the background (even in semi-transparent or blurred form).

Only one panel of size 82 x 217 cm must be submitted for each project enrolled in the competition, in TIFF/TIF format (Flatten image, with no layers or editable text), 200 dpi resolution, CMYK.

Contents of the panels:

- The identification box must be completed with the same project information as that in the online registration form
- Territorial / local integration plan / inclusion in other urban planning documentation
- Presentation of the context of intervention. Drawings or photographs illustrating the pre-intervention and post-intervention conditions
- Plans, sections, 3D images accompanied by keys where applicable
- Project concept – sketches, descriptive text in Romanian and English; there is no maximum character limit for this content as presented on the exhibition boards.
- Photographs, in color or black and white
- It is recommended that you select a limited number of photographs and drawings so that the presentation is as concise and persuasive as possible.



Chapter VI. Conditions for Admission and Presentation

Section 8. Interior Space Aesthetics 9. Temporary Architecture and Object Design, 10. Experiments, Research and Cultural Projects

Conditions for admission to the competition:

Compliance with this Regulation.

Filling in the registration form available on the www.batra.ro website corresponding to each section, with the following information:

- Title of the project
- Site location
- Lead author
- TNA (National Register of Architects) number
- Architecture Office
- Design team
- Other collaborators
- Year of design / completion
- Project description in Romanian and English, maximum 1,300 characters with spaces
- Presentation panel, TIFF / TIF file (Flatten image, no layers and editable text), 200 dpi resolution, CMYK; preferably under 500 MB

— Images for the publication in the official project catalogue

a. Main image (representative of the project)

215 x 215 mm TIFF/TIF, 300 DPI, CMYK

b. 2 landscape images - 90 x 47,5 mm TIFF/ TIF, 300 DPI, CMYK

c. 1 portrait image - 90 x 100 mm TIFF/ TIF, 300 DPI, CMYK

— Main image (representative of the project), for posting on the OART website and partner branches - with a minimum width of 3000 pixels / minimum resolution 100 dpi / RGB

The images submitted for catalogue publication must not be collages of multiple photographs / textures and must not include borders or lateral additions.

The information provided in the registration form and in the upper information box of the presentation panel must be identical.



Chapter VI. Conditions for Admission and Presentation

Section 8. Interior Space Aesthetics 9. Temporary Architecture and Object Design, 10. Experiments, Research and Cultural Projects

Presentation requirements:

The panel layout format of 82 x 217 cm, as made available by the organizers (accessible on the www.batra.ro website, under each section), must be strictly adhered to.

The layout provided by the organizers may not be modified. The background of the format must remain white. No colors, drawings, or photographs are allowed in the background (even in semi-transparent or blurred form).

Only one panel of size 82 x 217 cm must be submitted for each project enrolled in the competition, in TIFF/TIF format (Flatten image, with no layers or editable text), 200 dpi resolution, CMYK.

Contents of the panels:

- The identification box must be completed with the same project information as that in the online registration form
- Black-and-white floor plans and sections, elevations, execution details, all with explanatory keys where applicable.
- The design concept - sketches, text in Romanian and English. There is no character limit for the content on the panels submitted for the competition.
- Interior photos, mock-ups, in color or black and white
- It is recommended that you select a limited number of photographs and drawings so that the presentation is as concise and persuasive as possible.



Chapter VI. Conditions for Admission and Presentation

Section 11. Architectural Photography

Conditions for admission to the competition:

Compliance with this Regulation.

Filling in the registration form available on the www.batra.ro website, corresponding to each section, with the following information:

- Title of the work / series
- Author
- Location
- Year of completion
- Justification (optional), in PDF or Word format
- Files in TIFF / JPG format

Presentation requirements: Either a single photograph or a series of maximum four photographs may be submitted, in TIFF / JPG, RGB format. There are no restrictions on the dimensions or orientation.

Section 12. Architecture and Habitation: A Verse by Verse Exploration

Conditions for admission to the competition:

Compliance with this Regulation.

Filling in the registration form available on the www.batra.ro website, corresponding to each section, with the following information:

- Title
- Author
- File in PDF or Word format, in Romanian

Presentation requirements: The poem must be submitted in PDF or Word format, in both Romanian and English). There are no limitations regarding the file's length, though aesthetic composition is encouraged, suggesting a poetic layout or formatting that enhances artistic presentation.

Section 13. Partnerships that Build

Conditions for admission to the competition:

Compliance with this Regulation.

Filling in the registration form available on the www.batra.ro website, corresponding to each section, with the following information:

- Title of the project
- Lead author
- File in PDF format, in both Romanian and English

Presentation requirements: The initiative must be submitted in a PDF format and must include text (both in Romanian and English), photographs, collages, graphics illustrating the story of this collaboration to which we all aspire.

Section 14. The Voice of Civic Space

Conditions for admission to the competition:

Compliance with this Regulation.

Filling in the registration form available on the www.batra.ro website, corresponding to each section, with the following information:

- Title of the work / initiative
- Author / Team / Organization
- File in PDF format, in both Romanian and English
- Representative image of the project, 215 x 215 mm
JPG, 200 dpi, CMYK

Presentation requirements: The initiative must be submitted in a PDF format, containing text (both in Romanian and English), photographs, collages, graphic materials, illustrating the actions undertaken in support of the project up to that moment (presentation website, social media pages, petitions, presentations, projects submitted to various institutions/competitions, etc., and the impact of this approach).



Chapter VII. Transylvania Architecture

Biennale 2025 Awards

01. Individual housing	6000 RON Gross
02. Collective housing	6000 RON Gross
03. Buildings for administration, sports, services, and production	6000 RON Gross
04. Buildings for education, culture, and health	6000 RON Gross
05. Restoration and revitalization of cultural heritage	6000 RON Gross
06. Shaping the rural space of today	6000 RON Gross
07. Public space, community space	6000 RON Gross
08. Interior space aesthetics	6000 RON Gross
09. Temporary architecture and object design	6000 RON Gross
10. Experiments, research and cultural projects	6000 RON Gross
11. Architectural photography	2000 RON Gross
12. Architecture and habitation: a verse by verse exploration	2000 RON Gross
13. Partnerships that build	2000 RON Gross
14. The voice of civic space	2000 RON Gross



Chapter VIII. Jury Evaluation Criteria and Curatorial Vision

The 2025 edition of the Transylvania Architecture Biennale proposes a selection process that goes beyond formal or functional assessment, aiming to spotlight those projects that successfully articulate, in a coherent and profound manner, the esth.etic topic – an architecture in which beauty is inextricably bound to ethical responsibility, and where accountability becomes a constitutive part of expression.

The BATRA 2025 Awards seek to celebrate representative works for a contemporary architectural practice aware of the complexity of the world in which it inhabits – works that not only provide answers but also pose meaningful questions, that do not merely construct but also infuse space with significance.

The nomination and awarding process shall be guided by the following core evaluation criteria:

1. Dialogue with Context

(urban, cultural, natural or social)

The assessment will concentrate on the project's capacity to understand and respond to the site-specific characteristics and intrinsic values of the local context, as evidenced by:

- sensitive integration into the built or natural landscape;
- reinforcement of the cultural and identity continuity of the place;
- contribution to the regeneration of public space or local communities;
- building a coherent and nuanced relationship between the existing and the new.

Visual documentation and explanatory text must clearly highlight this insertion.

2. Innovation and Architectural Expressiveness

Projects will be evaluated for their degree of originality and the clarity of the architectural concept, reflected through:

- innovative spatial, functional, technological, or aesthetic proposals;
- compositional expressiveness and coherence, down to the detail level;
- balance between form, function and architectural message.

3. Sustainability

(ecological, social, economic)

In keeping with new European vision of architecture, emphasis will be placed on projects that:

- are developed in harmony with the natural and built environment;
- use sustainable materials and technologies;
- integrate principles of circular economy and energy efficiency;
- generate sustainable value for the community, that goes beyond immediate utility.

4. Accessibility and Inclusion

A responsible architecture is inclusive and universally accessible. Evaluation will consider:

- solutions that facilitate equal access for all users, regardless of age, mobility or social status;
- projects that reflect cultural diversity and foster social cohesion;
- attention to everyday user experience and empathetic design approaches



Chapter VIII. Jury Evaluation Criteria and Curatorial Vision

5. Integrated Approach

(sustainable – aesthetic – accessible)

Projects will be highly regarded if they manage to synthesize the fundamental dimensions of contemporary architecture within a unified vision:

- ecological and social sustainability;
- authentic and deep aesthetic expression;
- community openness and relevance to real-life spatial practices.

6. Adherence to the Curatorial Theme: *esth.etic*

The projects will also be evaluated based on how closely they align with the curatorial theme of the Biennale:

- through reflections on beauty as the outcome of an ethical stance;
- through the balance between utility, expression, and responsibility;
- through the ability to generate vibrant places with collective value and sustainable relevance.

The BATRA 2025 Awards do not merely celebrate exemplary built works, but also critical thinking, the courage to propose and the sensitivity to listen to the spirit of the place. In this vision, architecture is not merely an object, but rather a practice of dialogue, a form of engagement, and an opportunity for transformation.

Final Note:

The jury reserves the right to recognize and highlight specific merits of the projects (e.g. exemplary collaboration, heritage intervention, social impact, spatial quality, etc.) through special mentions, even outside the formal grid of the sections, whenever such works align exemplarily with the curatorial vision of BATRA 2025.



Chapter IX. Judging and Awards

The projects submitted will undergo a juried evaluation conducted by a panel of internationally recognized architects, as follows:

Sections 01-10

Architect Aglaée Degros (Austria)

Architect Nagy Csaba (Hungary)

Architect Radu Teacă (Romania)

Architect Alejandro Muñoz Miranda (Spain)

Architect Omniya Abdel Barr (Egypt / UK)

Section 11

The jury in this section will consist of 3 nationally acclaimed photographers:

Kalló Angéla

Dorel Găină

Szentes Zágon

Section 12

The jury in this section will consist of 3 Romanian writers:

Gabriel Bota

Remus Octavian Câmpean

Monica Columban

Section 13

The BATRA Jury will be supplemented in this section by 2 prestigious artists.

Section 14

The jury in this section will consist of representatives from the BATRA branches.

Judging

- All jury members for each section are required to participate fully in the evaluation and deliberation process until the final report is completed.
- Decisions of the jury are not subject to appeal.
- If the jury finds that a project aligns better with a different category than the one it was submitted under, they reserve the right to reassign it to a more appropriate section.
- If more than five projects are submitted in Section 3. Buildings for Administration, Sports, Services, and Production for new buildings or interventions on existing structures are submitted, the jury reserves the right to evaluate them under separate subsections.
- If more than five projects are submitted in Section 5. Restoration and Revitalization of Cultural Heritage aimed exclusively at interventions on officially listed monuments, the jury reserves the right to evaluate them separately in a dedicated subsection. This distinction is intended to reflect the specificity of the intervention on the monument – involving legal constraints, rigorous methodologies and increased responsibility for the authenticity and integrity of the protected heritage.

Awards

- Each section will have three nominees, who will be selected by the jury. The winner of each section will be awarded a prize.
- The jury will elect a chairperson and define its own working procedures.
- If a section receives fewer than three entries, the jury reserves the right to nominate, and award based on the intrinsic quality of the submitted project(s).

Special Situations

1. The organizing team reserves the right to exclude or refuse the registration of works that violate fundamental principles of composition, professional ethics, or applicable construction regulations.
2. Although the composition of the jury is defined above, the organizing team reserves the right to alter its membership in exceptional cases where one or more jurors are unable to participate.



Chapter X. Archiving, Copyright, and Publishing Rights

The partner branches of the Romanian Order of Architects (OAR): OAR Transylvania, OAR Bihor, OAR Satu-Mare, OAR North-West, OAR Alba process the personal data of architects who are members of the Romanian Order of Architects (OAR) - participating in the Transylvania Architecture Biennale, in accordance with the European Regulation 679/2016 for the purpose of organizing the cultural program and disclaim responsibility for the processing of personal data carried out by participating architects in relation to third parties.

The copyright for the works submitted for the remains with their respective authors, who, by participating in this event and in accordance with this regulation, consent to assign the rights of publication and public display of the materials submitted, both during the Biennale and at future related events. The information shall be archived electronically both on the official website as well as on other affiliated architecture-related platforms.

The organizers will print the catalogue of the Transylvania Architecture Biennale 2025, which will feature the projects presented in the exhibition.

The organizers will upload representative images of the projects presented in the exhibition on the OART website and partner branches.



Chapter XI. Transylvania Architecture

Biennale 2025 Team

Curator of the Transylvania Architecture Biennale 2025

Architect Daniela Maier, President of OART Transilvania

Financial Coordinator

Oana Bucea
Dorina Todici

Project Team

OAR Transylvania Branch

Architect Eleonora Dulău
Architect Dan Domșa
Architect Cosmin Morărescu
Architect Corina Caraba
Architect Monica Ratiu
Architect Adrian Niculas
Architect Ioana Aleseei
Architect Anca Virginaș
Architect Emilian Gavrilă
Architect Andrei Varga
Architect Camelia Sisak
Architect Silviu Aldea
Architect Cristina Iordache
Architect Melania Bahna
Architect Valentin Necula
Architect Gabriel Sevan
Architect Dana Julean

Communication

Anca Dinu
Ada Lenț

Graphic Design

Dan Dulău

Web design

Marius Rus

Volunteers

Architecture students & friends

Co-organizers / Collaborators

/ Presidents of the OAR Branches

OAR Alba Branch

Architect Iulian Ilie Mirea
Architect Adriana Gheorghescu
Alexandra Alina Hohoiu

OAR North-West Branch

Architect Ionuț Radu Filip
Architect Petru Mitru
Architect Mihai Radu
Anca Katona

OAR Bihor Branch

Architect Daniel Panait
Architect Amanda Lucan
Architect Mihai Parvulet
Architect Cristiana Nistor
Architect Dan Ghilea
Architect Coloman Dalya
Florin Bochiș

OAR Satu Mare Branch

Architect Florin Aniș
Architect Violeta Iuoras
Architect Alina Lazin
Dorina Marina Toduți

Contact

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OAR Transylvania Branch - Registry Office

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