

**Estonian Centre of Architecture announces
the curatorial competition for the 5th international
Tallinn Architecture Biennale TAB 2019.**

DEADLINE 24 April 2018 at 4 pm

Tallinn Architecture Biennale (TAB) is an architecture festival with a diverse international programme that fosters synergies between architecture and the general public, introduces the local architecture culture, addresses relevant issues in architecture and delves into the future of the field. TAB 2019 will take place in September and October 2019, with the opening week in September.

The general goals of the Tallinn Architecture Biennale are:

- popularising quality built environments
- the internationalisation of Estonian architecture
- offering an international platform for architecture
- creating new value and vision in architecture

Throughout the previous four biennales, the core of TAB has been the curatorial exhibition, symposium, and the Tallinn Vision Competition. The best examples from previous years are moments when the curatorial exhibition and the symposium complemented each other and interwove into an integral whole. The target groups for the main events are somewhat different, making it possible to expand the curator's idea both in society as well as for a narrow group of professionals. The aim of the TAB 2019 curatorial competition is to find the best theme and team for organizing the fifth biennale.

Participation

The competition is public, open to all teams that have at least one Estonian speaking person who knows the local architectural field well. The competition is in two stages. Stage I consists of submitting the competition project in writing and stage II is an oral presentation of the project in front of a jury, in which at least one Estonian curator must participate. If the jury finds that a winner can be chosen in stage I, the jury is entitled to cancel stage II.

Questions may be submitted in Estonian and English, but the entries must be submitted in Estonian. The deadline for developing the concept of the biennale and submitting the corresponding draft in writing is 4 pm on 24 April 2018.

The project must be submitted digitally to maria@arhitektuurikeskus.ee.

The first meeting of the jury will be on 3 May 2018.

The stage II meeting will be held on 9 May 2018.

Chairman of the jury and jury members are not eligible to participate in the competition. Competition brief composer, organizers of the competition and people who are clearly in favorable position to have an effect on the jury decision are also not eligible

to participate. The family members, relatives and business partners of the people mentioned above are also not eligible.

Competition task

The task of the curator is to set up an innovative and responsive theme related to the context of Estonia and relevant in the contemporary world of architecture. It is important that the chosen subject has the potential to cross the international news threshold and raise interest in a wider cultural audience. The underlying topics should address issues that may become trending in the field of architecture. The main theme must be centred around architecture and/or urban planning.

In addition to setting the theme, the tasks of the main curator include curating three events that form the core of TAB:

- 1 Curating **the curatorial exhibition**. At the curatorial exhibition, at least half of the exhibits must be produced specifically for TAB 2019. At least one-third of the participants must be local architects practicing in Estonia. The curatorial exhibition takes place in the large hall at the Estonian Museum of Architecture.
- 2 Curating a two-day architectural **symposium** with presentations by architects invited to the curatorial exhibition. The symposium unpacks the background to the original productions presented at the curatorial exhibition with the aim of linking different events into an integral whole and introducing the curatorial theme to a wider audience. At least one-third of the symposium presenters must be local. The symposium takes place at the Creative Hub.
- 3 Curating the **Tallinn Vision Competition** in collaboration with the Tallinn City Planning Department and curating the exhibition of the selected works. The location of the exhibition will be confirmed at a later date.

In addition, the curator(s) will have to compile a catalogue accompanying the events of TAB, which will be completed by the opening week of TAB and will be a guide for visitors to the biennale to understand the events taking place throughout TAB. The function of the catalogue is to provide an overview of the TAB events and locations. If the curatorial team does not include a professional editor, a competent editor must be involved in the preparation of the catalogue.

The curator's fee for the described competition tasks is estimated at 23 000 EUR.

TAB satellite programme

In addition to the main programme curated by the curator(s), the biennale plans to include satellite events, which are subordinated to the theme set by the main curator and organized by the ECA. The biennale satellite programme in 2019 includes:

- International installation competition and the erection of the winning work in front of the Estonian Museum of Architecture. The curators of the programme are Sille Pihlak and Siim Tuksam. An exhibition of the works submitted to the installation competition will also be organised.

- An exhibition of work by international architectural schools related to the theme of the curatorial exhibition. The location of the exhibition is yet to be confirmed. The programme will be co-ordinated by Veronika Valk-Siska and Merilin Kaup.
- TAB Club at the premises of the first floor of the Estonian Centre of Architecture (Culture Hub). In addition to a café, the club features workshops and a spontaneous programme of short lectures.
- International Architecture Exhibitions Programme. The exhibition programme will have a separate coordinator in 2019.
- TAB Film Programme, consisting of both local and international films on architecture. The film programme will have a separate coordinator in 2019.
- Programme of guided tours.

The coordinators of the satellite programmes do not set conditions for the main curator and will cooperate with the curator.

The competition entry must include:

- 1 The title for the 2019 Tallinn Architecture Biennale in Estonian and English.
- 2 A summary synopsis (up to 300 characters).
- 3 The subject of the curatorial exhibition (up to 5,000 characters) and a preliminary list of exhibitors and symposium participants on a separate page.
- 4 A list of exhibitors and symposium participants, of which at least 50% must overlap.
- 5 The theme for the two-day symposium.
- 6 The subject for the Tallinn Vision Competition.
- 7 The concept for the content of the catalogue.
- 8 The list of team members and/or co-curators, the distribution of roles within the team and CVs. Each event at the biennale has to be assigned to a responsible person, including the editor of the catalogue. The name(s) of the main curator(s) must be indicated.

Award fund

- 1st place – 2,000 EUR
- two 2nd place prizes – of 1,000 EUR

The whole prize will be paid out regardless of the number of participants in the competition and the outcome of the competition.

Assessment criteria

- relevance of the theme
- compliance of the project to the competition conditions
- feasibility of implementing the curator's vision
- team's experience, capability and professionalism

