

FIRST INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION ON SUSTAINABILITY AND THE FUTURE FOR **YOUNG ARCHITECTS/ENGINEERS** UNDER 30s

Preamble

"To preserve the fourfold, to save the earth, to receive the sky, to await the divinities, to escort mortals – this fourfold preserving is the simple nature, the presencing, of dwelling." Heidegger.

To occupy the earth is not simply to make use of its resources through farming the land and building on it. It is to poetically dwell – to live out one's humanity. Architects have the responsibility of creating spaces that respect the earth and the sky, fulfill humanity's mortal and spiritual nature and can contribute to the global challenge of tackling climate change. They have the responsibility of sustaining earth's gift to them, of enhancing it not depleting it. Are they up to it? Are you up to it? This is our challenge to you.

Scope

We are quickly depleting the earth's resources, not just in the northern hemisphere but also in the southern one. Our pollution levels are eating away at our protective ozone layer promising to send us through another climatic disaster of the kind that changes the structure of whole ecosystems. This is why we have become so concerned with sustainability lately. However, in our do-good zeal, we quite often forget the real meanings behind the word. Sustainable living is what nature already had. It is not a technological solution that man will now discover. It is a way of living and not a solution. It only becomes a solution when we create a problem that puts this way of living in jeopardy.

The problems we create today will leave our children to deal with their consequences. This is why we believe that the notion of sustainable living should be owned by the young generations, those who are going to pay the price of our present misbehaviours. The urban communities we have created for ourselves have been shaped by an aggressive drive towards human comfort and control, which is now backfiring because the price that it extolled from the environment has exceeded the acceptable limits. There are two ways to address the emerging dangers. One is to immediately begin changing our ways to slow down the steep decline and the other is to begin envisioning new communities for a better more sustainable future.

Challenge

Egypt is an emerging economy. What that means in today's language is that it has been speeding up to emulate the lives and economies of its northern neighbours, and in the process depleting the very resources that we need for a sustainable living. Major environmental challenges are being faced by Egypt: Our cities are over congested; our air is one of the most polluted in the world; and our infamous Nile is losing its clarity and life, and the Nile Delta is under growing threat of sinking due to climate change. More so than ever, this is the time to take serious action towards ensuring that the future is different for the youth of today.

The assumptions adopted by this competition are those that call for the development of new communities outside the narrow Nile Valley; communities representing new visions and new ways of living, and not replicas of the concrete jungles which are eating up the arable land that feeds us. But what are these new visions? What gives rise to a new community? What is it that actually makes a community? We are assuming that simply building housing units is not enough. But it is not only a new community that we have to create. It has to be a sustainable one. Can you think of one? Can you think outside the (concrete) box?

This competition challenges young architects, urban planning, and civil engineering from all over the world to face the challenges of a changing climate and come up with new visions and solutions for sustainable intermediate cities. Under the potential threat of Nile Delta sinking, these cities are to be planned outside the Nile Valley. For possible locations, we offer the maps provided by Dr. Farouk el Baz who has studied Egypt's deserts extensively; looking for life sustaining potentials.

Choose one of the proposed locations, and formulate a vision, a concept for why a community can emerge there, and what interventions are needed to catalyze its emergence and growth, and most of all how can it be self-sustaining. Besides this vision, you are also asked to design the first building that needs to be built in this new community, as if it is the seed that if planted in its soil, the community will grow. You will decide the function and program of the building to fit the conceptual vision you created for that new city.

Your concept for the community might see that transportation is a key player hence making the train station the core of the concept, or it might present the youth as the first builders of the community and hence the youth hostel becomes the core building; you decide based on your vision for the community.

Location

The young architect or the group will plan only one area/location for the possible visionary strategic planning. The principles of Intermediate cities will be the size for population and area coverage for these settlements. The three proposed locations are:

1. Cairo with its New capital
2. Al-Alemein (New Alexandria), and
3. Luxor with the heritage identity

Eligibility

This is an open competition with limited restrictions. It is intended to challenge young architects/engineers worldwide, working individually or in teams, to explore a variety of design issues related to sustainability principles in an urban context. To be eligible, **participants should not have completed 30 years before December 2010**. Those who are related to the jury or Technical Committee members may not participate in the competition either directly or through an intermediary. Participation under the supervision of a teacher is recommended and encouraged, but is not mandatory. There is no limit to the number of entries from each participant.

The Jury

The constitution of the jury will be announced at a later date on: www.bue.edu.eg/fisc2010
All entries will be reviewed by an international jury and their election of the winners shall be based upon the following criteria:

- Addressing sustainability conditions in the project.
- Project level of innovation and originality.
- Project eco-technology approach.
- The study of human conditions.
- Addressing values of sustainable urban design and architectural heritage.
- Meeting the challenges of a changing climate.
- Presentation methodology and clarity.



FUTURE-INTERMEDIATE SUSTAINABLE CITIES...
A MESSAGE TO THE FUTURE



Competition Brief



Schedule

15 April 2010:	Registration opens
15 September 2010:	Submission deadline; (projects upload no later than 12:00 pm midnight)
20 September 2010:	Early Bird Registration Deadline
October 2010:	Jury commences and evaluation
23-25 November 2010:	Awards Ceremony, official announcement of winners and exhibition of all submitted projects.

How to participate

To participate, registration must be done at <http://research.bue.edu.eg/fisc2010/> www.bue.edu.eg/fisc2010 before 1st September 2010. Only online registration is accepted.

Required registration information shall include the following information:

- Complete names of all entrants and advisors if applicable
- School/university name and department of entrant (or each team member)
- Degree program and graduation date for entrant (or each team member)
- Contact information including E-mail, telephone (including international prefixes), and mailing address for the entrant. In the case of a team project, a primary contact shall be selected by the team who shall provide this information and remain responsible for communication with the competition organizers.

After filling out the registration form (link), a receipt will be received via e-mail; which must be kept as proof for later submission validation. The email shall include a registration number to be used with the submission material. (if you do not receive the registration confirmation please send inquiry to fisc2010competition@bue.edu.eg)

Required Drawings

For the Sustainable Intermediate Community: layout, conceptual perspectives, analytical drawings, sections, or any drawings representing your vision for the sustainable intermediate community.

For the Nucleus Building: Site Plan 1:400, Plans 1:200, Elevations 1:200, Sections 1:200, Perspective and/or 3D models.

Submission

Entries shall conform to the following formatting requirements. The competition organizers reserve the right to recognize ONLY properly formatted entries for review by the jury. Entrants shall submit their competition entries as a single, **multiple-page PDF document** formatted to be printed at the required size at high resolution, consisting of the following pages or sheets:

Page 1 – Title Sheet, including only the following:

- Project Title
- Registration Number (received with registration confirmation)
- 250 word project description, identifying the project concept and relationship to sustainability.
- No other information relating to the names or identity of the entrants can be included in this or any of the submitted sheets.

Page 2, 3 & 4 – Project Presentation Boards:

- Project Title
- Project graphics at discretion of designer
- Note that NO information which identifies the project entrants/designers or academic affiliation shall appear on this page, other than the project title & registration number.

Page Size and Orientation

- Page 1 will not be reproduced and therefore may be included at a size convenient to the entrants
- Page 2, 3 & 4 shall be sized for printing as a single A2 sheet each, oriented horizontally and designed to be read vertically.

Questions & Inquiries

Entrants are invited to submit any questions or inquiries for clarifications by email to fisc2010competition@bue.edu.eg Replies to ALL questions shall be posted on the special competition webpage starting July 1st 2010, and will be updated regularly until September 2nd 2010.

Exhibition/Publicity

All winning projects will be exhibited at the awards ceremony during the activities of the conference. (Dates and times will be announced later on the website). All submitted projects will be displayed online at <http://research.bue.edu.eg/fisc2010/> after the award ceremony. By signing the registration form, entrants authorize the organizers to use the submitted material for publications in magazine or book forms as they deem appropriate.

Anonymity

The works will be presented and judged anonymously. The anonymity of the projects will be kept until the end of the selection and the drawing up of the final list of winners. Further to the announcement of the winners, the names of all the participants can be announced.

Registration Fees

Registration fees include attending all competition ceremonies and conference sessions.

Early Bird Registration (until September 20th 2010):

Egyptian:	LE300
International:	\$300

Late Registration (After September 20th 2010):

Egyptian:	LE400
International:	\$400

Prizes

First Prize:	\$3000
Second Prize:	\$2000
Third Prize:	\$1500
Honorable Mentions:	\$1000 each

Awards Ceremony

The winners of the competition will be announced and celebrated at an awards ceremony in November 2010 as part of the proceedings of the conference at the British University in Egypt. The prize winners and one team member from the honorable mentions will be invited to the ceremony where prizes and trophies will be presented.

Official Language

The official Language of the conference, and students and young architects competitions is English.

Venue

The conference will be held at the British University in Egypt (BUE), located in the Sherouk City, about 40km from Cairo, Egypt Capital. The University will provide free shuttles to and from designated areas.

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Please check website for updates:
<http://research.bue.edu.eg/fisc2010>
www.bue.edu.eg/fisc2010

Contact Us

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Award Ceremony
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SNÖHETTA



MENASHDA
Middle Eastern North African Sustainable
Habitat Development Association

