

Entries Open: August 12

Deadline to Submit: September 16

The Texas Society of Architects and the Education Outreach Committee are excited to continue, for the fourth year, the TxA Student Design Challenge. This challenge is designed to recognize the incredible work done at the middle and high school levels and to showcase our industry's future leaders and designers. Designs of all types are acceptable, including buildings, structures, community centers, temporary housing, and transportation. Theoretical design solutions such as cell phone apps, events or festivals, and any other non-traditional design solutions are acceptable. Design solutions that go beyond the boundaries of architecture to address the challenge's theme of "The Bridge: Community + Connector" are highly encouraged.

Finalists and winners will be announced and recognized at the Texas Society of Architects' 85th Annual Conference and Design Expo, which will take place in Houston on October 3–5, 2024. Winning submissions will then be published on our website.

Entry Checklist

Entries must be **submitted online via Submittable** (open August 12).

Each entry must contain the following:

- PDF Presentation (13 slides max)
- Project Description (250 words max, to be included on the second slide)
- Completed **submission form** online with permission from all participants

Entry Deadline

All entries must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. CT on Monday, September 16, 2024.**

About the Challenge

See past projects and learn more about the program on our website at texasarchitects.org/student-design-challenge



Design Challenge Brief

Theme: **The Bridge: Community + Connector**

A bridge is often identified as a physical element tying two places together, often overcoming an impassable pathway. As designers, we have the rare opportunity to create something unexpected. While bridges can be recognized as a physical connector, it can also be a metaphorical bridge connecting communities, cultures, or persons. Students are encouraged to explore ideas to reimagine an existing bridge in or near the place of their choosing.

Sparking Your Creativity

- » Can you activate an existing bridge in your community and make it a destination in addition to a connector — park, sporting field, dog park, farmers market, etc.?
- » Can you change the use of the bridge and reimagine new connections — public park, shopping mall, animal crossing, pedestrian crossing, sky bridge between buildings, etc.?
- » What is a gap in your community that could be redefined by the design of a "bridge"?
- » Study a particular environment or culture in your community and use those elements to influence your design for a built intervention to bring communities closer together.

Project Eligibility

To be considered for a 2024 Texas Society of Architects Student Design Challenge finalist, projects must be submitted in accordance with the following requirements:

- » Projects can be submitted by either an individual student or a group of students (no more than four) currently in either middle school or high school in the state of Texas.
- » Projects must be submitted in their appropriate category based upon their current grade as of August 2024:
 - » Middle School Category (Grades 6 – 8)
 - » High School Category (Grades 9 – 12)
- » If a group of students that contains multiple grades submits, they must submit into the category of their oldest (by grade) student.
- » Each project must have a supervisor, such as a teacher, counselor, parent, etc. Supervisors are encouraged to support and engage with students about their submissions, but cannot submit the project on the student's behalf.
- » Students may enter the challenge as both an individual entrant and also in a student group submission. No student may be included in more than one group submission.

Awards

- » Middle School | Most Outstanding Individual
- » Middle School | Most Outstanding Group
- » High School | Most Outstanding Individual
- » High School | Most Outstanding Group
- » Either Category | Honorable Mention

Selection & Criteria

All submissions will be reviewed and evaluated by the Education Outreach Committee, which will select the finalists in each category for final review by jurors using the following criteria:

- » Meets Submission Criteria (5 pts)
- » Design & Process (5 pts)
- » Quality & Craftsmanship (5 pts)
- » Meets Design Challenge Brief (5 pts)

The finalists will be asked to submit a pre-recorded video which will be shared live at the TxA Annual Conference in October. Jurors will base their decisions on the entrants' design submissions and final presentations. Jurors will deliberate at the conference and announce the winners at the live session. Once the final selections have been made, winners will be notified and then announced publicly.

Specifications

All entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. CT on September 16, 2024.

Presentation Tips

- » Order your presentation pages/slides so that they tell a clear, concise story.
- » Use drawings and graphics to support the story. Show simplified, clean plans, sketches, or other drawings that allow for quick comprehension. Drawings should support and complement the graphics.
- » Select only the best graphics (renderings, sketches, images, or drawings) to represent your project. You may not need all 13 slides (pages) to illustrate the design solution.
- » Edit your images for screen presentation. Process and size images accordingly.
- » Show images as large as possible on each slide. You may group multiple images on one slide.
- » Brief captions or labels will help jurors quickly grasp important information.
- » Adhere to the digital requirements, checking to be sure your PDF presentation is no larger than 15 MB.
- » Test your files prior to submitting your entry.

Examples

See these projects below to help spark ideas. Remember, this competition is open to your interpretation of the theme and your own creative design solution.

- » [Ponte Vecchio | Florence, Italy](https://tinyurl.com/txastudent1)
tinyurl.com/txastudent1
- » [High Line | New York City](https://tinyurl.com/txastudent2)
tinyurl.com/txastudent2
- » [Wildlife Bridge | Houston](https://tinyurl.com/txastudent3)
tinyurl.com/txastudent3
- » [Ronald Kirk Bridge | Dallas](https://tinyurl.com/txastudent4)
tinyurl.com/txastudent4
- » [WaveDecks | Toronto, Canada](https://tinyurl.com/txastudent5)
tinyurl.com/txastudent5

Submission Requirements

The following are requirements for preparing your entry, which should be **submitted online**. (portal opens August 12)

PDF Presentation

- » Do not identify the entrant(s) or school on the slides, images, or in any text.
- » Provide one presentation in PDF format with no more than 13 pages/slides, sized 11 x 8.5 inches (landscape). The file name should be the same as the project name (for example, "JonesHouse.pdf").
- » The first slide should include one image that best showcases the project (can be a rendering, sketch, etc.).
- » The second slide should include the project's title and proposed location (if the solution has no physical location, such as an app, then a link or code to the digital solution is required.) This slide should also include a project description with bullet points and/or a brief paragraph describing the project, all on a white background. The narrative must describe the project in no more than 250 words. Include programmed elements (ex. community events, etc.) and design solutions, and briefly detail information supporting objectives such as community impact, sustainability, how the solution provides or supports "Community + Connector," etc. This slide should include the project name; it may also include an image.
- » Font sizes should be 9 pt or larger.
- » Presentations should be concise and of high graphic quality. They may not contain sound, animation, video clips, or panorama movies. HOWEVER, you can submit any of those items as additional elements to support your project by including either links in the PDF Presentation, and/or in your submission.
- » Each PDF presentation file should not exceed 15 MB.

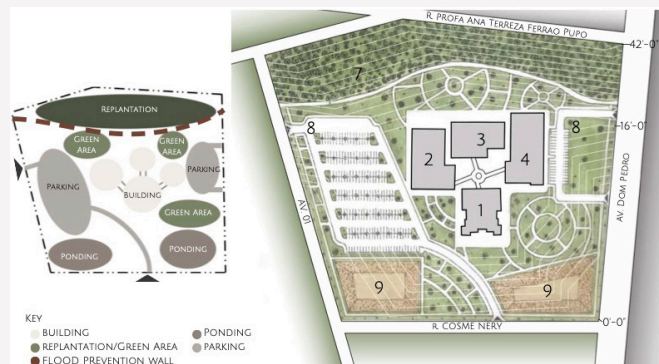
Completed Entry Form

- » Each entry must include a fully completed submission form approved by all participants.
- » Submit your entry through the **online form via Submittable** (open August 12).

2023 High School Student Design Challenge Winning Projects



Outstanding Individual:
Children's Healing Project
Mayar Badi
The Guthrie Center
11th Grade
Houston



Outstanding Group:
Veru Asilo
Andrea Rodriguez,
Joanna Rubio,
Miranda Serrano, Jonas Zamora
El Dorado High School
12th Grade
El Paso