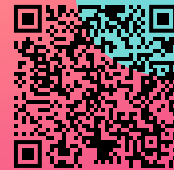


GATHER

TxA 2026 STUDENT DESIGN CHALLENGE

Calling future architects, designers,
and innovators: share ideas and
express your creativity through design!

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2026



**Texas
Society of
Architects**

DESIGN CHALLENGE BRIEF: GATHER

As architects, our job is to not only design buildings, but to create spaces. Spaces for business, spaces for housing, spaces for learning, and spaces for gathering. Poorly designed gathering spaces discourage engagement, erode trust, and diminish the shared experiences that are vital to our well-being. When spaces fail to serve communities, they can stifle connectivity and reinforce inequity. We need strong places that allow people to gather. What does it mean for people to gather? Why is it important for communities to gather?

Spark Your Creativity

- » Third space (a welcoming social space beyond home and work, where everyday life unfolds and people come together to connect and interact): Consider a site in your community where a third space does not exist but would benefit the community.
- » Decommissioned/non-functional spaces: Was there a previous space that historically activated your community? Why does it no longer meet the community's needs?

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

- » Projects can be submitted by either an individual student or a group of students (maximum 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 2026:
 - » 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.
- » Do not identify the entrant(s) or school on the slides, images, or in any text in your presentation so judges can remain impartial.