

APPENDIX E

FAQ

General FAQ

Q: How do we register for the competition?

A: Once you have formed your team and selected the case study you wish to tackle, go to the website www.thinkhousing.com. You will find on the main page a “register here” button that will take you to a form you will have to fill and submit. You should receive an automatic confirmation email if your registration has been successful. For instructors wishing to register their classes, there will be another button at the top of the registration form to log onto.

Q: How many team members do we have to have?

A: Minimum number of members per team is 1, maximum number of members per team is 10.

Q: Is there a preferred disciplinary composition of the participating teams?

A: We encourage multidisciplinary teams, but our main recommendation is that there at least one of the team members, have a background in urban planning/studies.

Q: Is there a registration fee for each team?

A: No, registration is free of charge.

Q: Can the team consist of both students and practitioners?

A: Yes. Teams can consist of students only, students and practitioners, or practitioners only. Students can work under the advisory/supervision of a faculty member.

Q: Is this a design competition?

A: No, it is an Ideas Competition that could include but is not limited to design.

Q: We’re interested in participating in the competition. What is expected from us to do?

A: You’re expected to first pick one of the five case studies listed on the competition website, and come up with a comprehensive, feasible and responsive scheme responding to the case problematic and the competition principles.

Q: How much time will we need to work on this competition?

A: You have about 3 months to work on the competition, and the earlier you register the more time you’ll have to work on it. It is enough time for practitioners with full-time jobs and students with semester coursework to be able to work on it outside their duty hours.

Q: Can we work on more than one case study?

A: No, each team can only pick one case study to work on.

Q: Can we propose another case study that we find equally interesting and want to work on?

A: No, the teams need to abide to the 5 case studies that are listed on the competition website and in the brief.

Q: Can one team submit multiple proposals for the same case study?

A: No, each team will submit one comprehensive proposal for the one case study they chose.

Q: We're facing an issue with the registration form.

A: Please email us on info@thinkhousing.org with details (including screenshots) of the problem you are facing and we'll do our best to resolve it in a timely manner.

Q: Can one proposal win more than one prize? For example 1st prize and honorable mention, honorable mention, etc.

A: Yes, it is possible, however that is up to the jury panel to decide.

Q: Do we have to have a member registered with the OEA to be able to participate?

A: No, membership with the OEA is not required.

Q: Is the competition open to international participants?

A: International entries are welcome, but knowledge of Arabic language will be needed, since most of the needed resources and official documents (laws, regulations, maps etc.) are in Arabic.

Competition Related FAQ

Q: On what basis did you select the case studies?

A: The case studies embody challenges that all city dwellers are facing, the complexity of the issues put forth in this competition and the housing crisis in Beirut. More specifically, these cases reflect the direct impact that the rent deregulation law had on the urban and social fabric of the city, and the repercussions on residents given other existing legal and economic challenges.

Q: Would our proposals be implemented? By who?

A: The winning schemes are meant to be tools to open a wider debate on the possibility of affordable housing in Beirut. They will be starting points to lobby with state institutions on the implementation of such schemes.

Q: What is the expected geographic scope of our interventions: the building, neighborhood or city scale?

A: Depending on your case study, the scope can be either at the building or at the neighborhood level. Sustainability and replicability of your proposal can take into consideration the city scale if applicable.

Q: Can we approach the topic from a broader perspective without necessarily limiting ourselves to the case studies subject of this competition?

A: No, it is important to respond to the case studies subject to this competition and stay limited within the perspective of affordable housing provision and access as the main theme of the competition. This topic is wide enough to encompass multiple disciplines, approaches and perspectives.

Q: To what extent do we need to take the current regulatory/legal system into account?

A: You should use all available resources within the existing legislature to develop realistic solutions. However, knowing the shortcomings of the existing legal framework, you could suggest innovative legal solutions and tools for the future that would enhance said framework and ensure the sustainability of your intervention, but in any case the proposed projects for this competition should abide by the existing laws and regulations.

Q: What do you mean by economic feasibility?

A: This implies the highest economic value per residential square meter i.e. the proportion of land value to built area is lowest.