

LAGOS ARCHITECTS FORUM (LAF) 17.0
STUDENTS COMPETITION

LAGOS ARCHITECTURE

THE MOVIE

COMPETITION CONDITIONS



THE NIGERIAN
INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS
LAGOS STATE CHAPTER



Igniting architectural innovation

LAGOS ARCHITECTS FORUM (LAF) is Lagos State's leading platform for architectural excellence and the empowerment of emerging talent. We invite architecture students across Lagos to embark on a transformative journey of design excellence.

With our unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of Nigerian architects, pushing creative boundaries, and confronting the real urban, cultural, and climatic challenges of Africa's most dynamic metropolis.

LAF 17.0 provides a dedicated stage for visionary students to showcase their ideas and actively shape the future of Lagos and Nigeria's built environment.

Join us as we unlock extraordinary possibilities and set new standards in culturally rooted, climate-responsive, and socially impactful architectural innovation.



17+

years of the Lagos Architects Forum

100+

student design proposals presented at LAF

50+

distinguished jurors and mentors

Introduction

Reimagining the Cultural Landscape:
Activating Residual Spaces Around the Wole Soyinka Centre for Culture and the Creative Arts.

The Wole Soyinka Centre for Culture and the Creative Arts (formerly the National Theatre, built in 1976 for FESTAC '77) stands as a revitalized national landmark in Iganmu, Surulere, Lagos.

Recently renovated and renamed in honour of Nigeria's Nobel Laureate Prof. Wole Soyinka, its distinctive circular form and world-class facilities now serve as the premier hub for performing arts, exhibitions, literature, and creative expression in Nigeria.



The competition

Reimagining the Cultural Landscape:
Activating Residual Spaces Around the Wole
Soyinka Centre for Culture and the Creative Arts.

LAGOS ARCHITECTS FORUM
LAGOS 17.0

While the Centre itself shines as a beacon of cultural renewal, its peripheral and residual spaces; surrounding grounds, transitional zones, parking areas, and underutilized edges remain largely untapped. These overlooked areas offer immense potential for architectural and urban interventions that can extend the Centre's ecosystem into vibrant, inclusive extensions.

The Lagos Architects Forum (LAF 17.0) 2026 Student Design Competition invites architecture students to transform these spaces through rigorous, context-responsive proposals that enhance cultural vitality, environmental responsibility, economic activation, and urban connectivity while respectfully complementing the Centre's architectural prominence.

Objectives

Participants are invited to propose innovative architectural and urban design interventions that transform underutilized spaces into functional, culturally responsive, and economically viable extensions of the Centre.

The core objectives are to:



- Transform residual spaces into vibrant, culturally meaningful extensions that amplify the Centre's role as a living hub for Nigerian creativity.
-



- Create environmentally responsible, inclusive, and economically catalytic interventions that foster community engagement, creative economy growth, and enhanced urban connectivity.
-



- Demonstrate respectful integration with the Centre's architectural heritage while addressing Lagos' contemporary challenges of density, climate, accessibility, and social vitality.

Design Scope

These interventions should activate the residual and peripheral spaces around the Wole Soyinka Centre. Transforming underutilized grounds, parking edges, transitional zones, and open areas into dynamic extensions of the Centre's cultural ecosystem.

Proposals for the Lagos Architects Forum (LAF) 2026 Student Design Competition may include, but are not limited to:



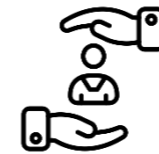
- Cultural pavilions, outdoor galleries, and performance spill-out spaces that extend the Centre's programming into the open air.



- Creative hubs and maker spaces for artists, digital practitioners, craftsmen, and emerging creatives.



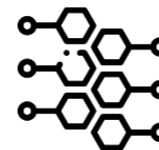
- Public plazas, landscaped gardens, and green interventions that create welcoming gathering points.



- Visitor support facilities including information centres, retail kiosks, food courts, and leisure amenities.



- Educational and community engagement spaces such as workshops, youth programmes, and interactive learning zones.



- Temporary, modular, or permanent architectural strategies that allow flexibility, low-impact construction, and future adaptability.

Site

The design challenge targets the residual and peripheral spaces surrounding the building: These often-overlooked peripheries encircle the Centre within a larger precinct bordered by water features, access roads, and urban infrastructure that offers high potential for activation while respecting the main structure's architectural prominence.

Coordinates: 6.47646, 3.36931



Key Design Considerations

Submissions should demonstrate strong alignment with the following priorities:

- Clear articulation of Nigerian and Lagos cultural narratives, embedding local heritage, creativity, and identity into every intervention.
- Respectful integration with the architectural prominence of the Wole Soyinka Centre, ensuring new elements complement rather than compete with its iconic form and heritage value.
- Universal accessibility and inclusive spatial planning, creating equitable spaces for diverse users including people with disabilities, families, youth, and elders.
- Environmental sustainability and climate responsiveness, incorporating passive cooling, shading, flood-resilient design, native greenery, and low-impact materials suited to Lagos' tropical conditions.
- Economic activation potential within the creative sector, fostering opportunities for artists, makers, vendors, and small enterprises to thrive.
- Enhanced urban connectivity and pedestrian legibility, improving linkages, wayfinding, and flow between the Centre, surrounding neighbourhoods, and public transport.

These considerations guide the evaluation of proposals, rewarding depth in contextual intelligence, social impact, and practical innovation.

Prizes

Monetary awards



**THE NIGERIAN
INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS**
LAGOS STATE CHAPTER



TOTAL PRIZE FUND

N 1,750,000

Three winning proposals and two special award winners will be selected.

NIALSC will award a total of N 1,750,000 NAIRA in prize money to competition winners as follows:

1ST PRIZE

N 1,000,000

2ND PRIZE

N 500,000

3RD PRIZE

N 250,000

In addition, several honourable mentions will be recognized and published.

Evaluation criteria

Entries will be evaluated by the distinguished jury panel based on the following key dimensions. These criteria ensure a balanced assessment of intellectual depth, contextual sensitivity, design innovation, technical quality, and real-world impact.

- Contextual intelligence and urban integration.
- Cultural and creative relevance.
- Functional and spatial innovation.
- Sustainability strategy and climate responsiveness.
- Technical resolution, feasibility, and constructability.
- Inclusivity, accessibility, and social impact.
- Clarity, creativity, and quality of graphic.

The jury will prioritize proposals that demonstrate rigorous thinking, spatial sensitivity, and genuine contribution to one of Nigeria's most significant cultural precincts.

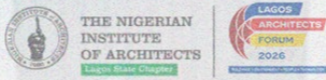


Certificates

All participants who successfully submit a valid entry to the Lagos Architects Forum (LAF) 2026 Student Design Competition will receive an official Certificate of Participation.

Shortlisted entrants, Honorable Mentions, and prize winners will be awarded enhanced certificates reflecting their level of achievement:

- Honorable Mention Certificate
- 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Place Certificates



CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

This certificate is presented to

For participating in the Students Design Competition

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Chairman NIALSC



THE NIGERIAN
INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS
LAGOS STATE CHAPTER



Publicity campaign

Media

The Lagos Architects Forum (LAF 17.0) 2026 Student Design Competition will benefit from a targeted, multi-channel publicity effort to maximize reach, engagement, and long-term visibility for participants, shortlisted projects, and winners.



**THE NIGERIAN
INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS**
LAGOS STATE CHAPTER



LAF digital platforms

Full announcement, live updates, and winner features on the official NIALSC website, social media channels (Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter/X, Facebook), and publications from the chapter.


Social media amplification


Students can use the campaign hashtags (#LAF2026 #ReimagineSoyinkaCentre #LagosArchitecture), teaser graphics, student testimonials, and live stories during registration, submission, jury review, and award presentation. Tag NIALSC social media channels on these post.


Post-competition legacy

Ongoing archiving of winning entries on LAF platforms, mentorship features, and potential inclusion in future LAF yearbooks and NIA-LSC-ASCY (Architecture Students Competitions Yearbook) publications to build participants' professional portfolios and recognition.

Competition Schedule

 Competition Launch & Registration Opens
26TH FEBRUARY 2026

 Registration Deadline
25TH MARCH 2026

 Submission Deadline
24TH APRIL 2026 (23:59 WAT)

 Jury Review Period
27TH APRIL – 4TH MAY 2026



Announcement & Award Presentation
**DURING LAGOS ARCHITECTS FORUM
(LAF 17.0) 2026**

Submission



HOW TO REGISTER

Submit your details via the official registration link:

<https://nialsc.org/laf/competition>



SUBMISSION EMAIL

secretariat@nialsc.org

NOTE

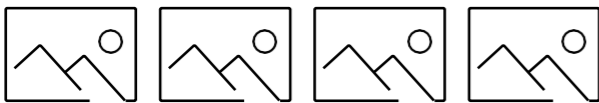
- *The competition is free to enter for eligible LAF-registered students.*
- *Early registration and submission is strongly recommended.*
- *Once registered, you will receive confirmation and further instructions via email.*

Submission requirements

Participants are required to upload **four** (4) A2 landscape-orientated **presentation boards** (must not exceed 20 MB per board) with sketches, renderings, plans, sections, elevations, diagrams, and/or other presentation tools to explain their proposal.

- No video files are accepted.
- All submissions must be uploaded via the mail; secretariat@nialsc.org
- Presentation boards must not indicate any information related to an individual's/team's identity.

up to 4 panels



Participants who do not comply with the requirements will be disqualified

Your project in the media

Winners and honourable mentions might be required to submit a cover image and a project description of the project on request. These will be used for publication purposes and will not be seen by the jury.

Cover image

Participants can choose and upload one project preview image from their presentation that best describes their project.

- The project preview image would need to be at least 2000x1680 pixels large, orientated horizontally, no more than 15 MB in size, and in jpg/jpeg format.
- Please note: the competition jury will not see the selected project preview image.

Project description

Participants will be asked to add their project description. Please note that this will not be seen by the jury but will be used mainly for publication purposes. In the project description, please include the following:

- **Project overview:**
Provide a brief summary of the project.
- **Assignment:**
Explain the task or problem you were assigned to solve.
- **Objectives:**
Outline the main goals and objectives of the project.
- **Design concept:**
Describe the design concept and the inspiration behind it.

- **Approach and strategy:**
Detail the approach and strategy you used to tackle the project.
- **Key features:**
Highlight the key features and unique aspects of the design.
- **Materials and techniques:**
Mention the materials and techniques used in the project.
- **Challenges:**
Discuss any challenges you faced and how you overcame them.
- **Results:**
Share the outcomes and results of the project.

Required Deliverables

Participants must submit a complete, cohesive package that clearly communicates their vision for activating the residual spaces around the Wole Soyinka Centre for Culture and the Creative Arts. Focus on professional presentation, contextual depth, and graphic excellence. The jury values strong visual storytelling alongside innovative ideas.

All materials must be submitted digitally. Late entries will not be considered. Prioritize clarity, coherence, and impact. Let your visuals powerfully support the conceptual rigor.

Required submissions include:

- Concept statement.
- Site analysis.
- Masterplan / site layout.
- Architectural drawings (plans, sections, elevations as required).
- 3D visualizations.
- Sustainability strategy summary

Please note that the PRESENTATION DELIVERABLES SET listed above is a suggestion only. Participants can choose to use a selection from it, or propose a completely different set that would explain their design in the most efficient manner.

Eligibility

The Lagos Architects Forum (LAF) 2026 Student Design Competition is exclusively open to architecture students currently enrolled in accredited higher institutions within Lagos State. Eligible participants must meet the following criteria:

- Enrolled in accredited Higher Institutions within Lagos State (Undergraduate or Postgraduate)
- Registered as eligible participants for the Lagos Architects Forum (LAF) event (student registration for LAF 17.0 required)
- This competition welcomes individual entries or team submissions.
- All participants must register before the registration deadline.



THE NIGERIAN
INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS
LAGOS STATE CHAPTER



www.nialsc.org
secretariat@nialsc.org