

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

# ICELAND LAKE MÝVATN COMMUNITY HOUSE

COMPETITION CONDITIONS

*Partners:*

Skútustaðahreppur council



Skútustaðahreppur

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Buildner (Bee Breeders) Architecture Competition Organisers,  
in partnership with the  
**Skútustaðahreppur council,**  
have prepared this document for the  
**Iceland Lake Mývatn Community House**  
architecture competition.

Full Competition Terms & Conditions:  
[architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse/terms](https://architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse/terms)

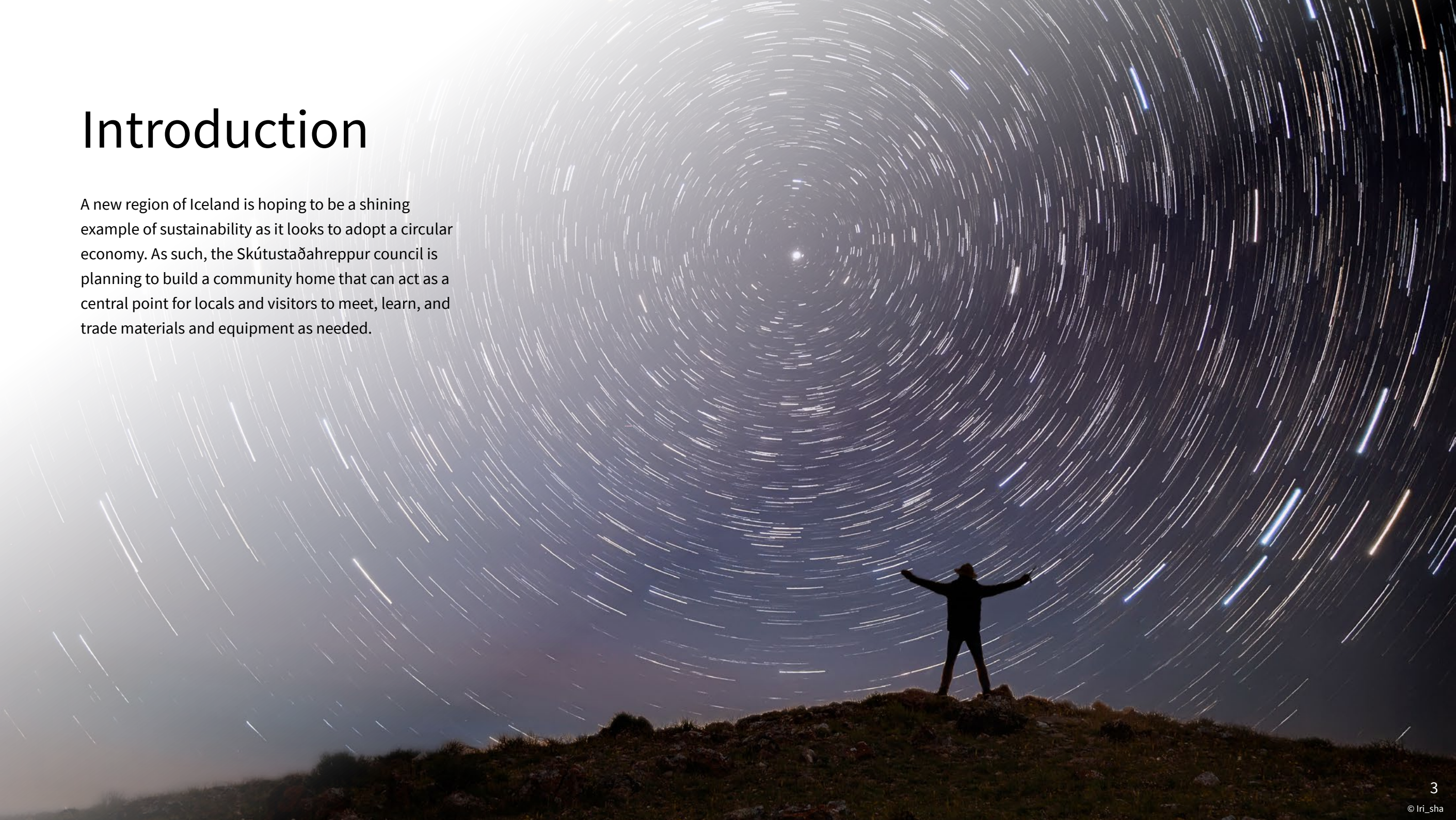
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# Introduction

A new region of Iceland is hoping to be a shining example of sustainability as it looks to adopt a circular economy. As such, the Skútustaðahreppur council is planning to build a community home that can act as a central point for locals and visitors to meet, learn, and trade materials and equipment as needed.





# Iceland

Iceland is a small Nordic island country situated between the North Atlantic and the Arctic Ocean. With a population of less than 333,000, it is the most sparsely populated country in Europe, with the majority of that population living in the capital Reykjavík and the surrounding areas.

Iceland was first settled on in the year 874 AD, when Norwegian chieftain Ingólfr Arnarson became the first permanent settler on the island. In the centuries to come, many more Norwegian settlers followed, as well as settlers from a few other Scandinavian countries. Iceland was under Norwegian and Danish rule from 1262 to 1814, and finally became a republic in 1944.

Iceland has comparatively low taxes and yet maintains a Nordic social welfare system, which provides universal health care and tertiary education for its citizens. Iceland runs almost entirely on renewable energy, and its main industries are fishing, agriculture, and tourism.





# Iceland's culture

Centuries of isolation have helped make Icelandic culture distinct from other Scandinavian countries, even though Icelandic culture is founded upon the nation's Scandinavian heritage. A prominent example of this is the Icelandic language, which remains the closest to Old Norse of all the Scandinavian languages. Since most Icelanders are descendants of Germanic and Gaelic settlers, Icelandic is a North Germanic language which is also closely related to Faroese and West Norwegian dialects.

Iceland's cultural heritage includes classical works of literature, such as the Icelanders' sagas which are medieval sagas set in Iceland's age of settlement. The most famous of these are the Njáls saga about an epic blood feud, and the Grænlendinga saga and Eiríks saga, describing the discovery and settlement of Greenland and Vinland (modern Newfoundland).





# Iceland's geography

Iceland's geography is both varied and extraordinary. The island is volcanically and geologically active, and the entire country is 103,000 km<sup>2</sup> in size, 62.7% of which are tundra. Iceland's coastline is punctuated with many fjords, around which most of the country's settlements are situated. The interior of Iceland is cold and uninhabitable, consisting of a combination of sand and lava fields, mountains and glaciers, with many glacial rivers flowing to the sea through the lowlands on the exterior of the island.

Despite being just outside the Arctic Circle, Iceland has a temperate climate, as it is warmed by the Gulf Stream. Being closer to continental Europe than it is to mainland North America, Iceland is considered part of Europe, despite its closest land mass actually being Greenland. Geologically, Iceland is situated on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a ridge along which the oceanic crust spreads and forms a new oceanic crust. Iceland was created by rifting and accretion through volcanism along the ridge.



# Mývatn region

Mývatn is the spectacular region in the north of Iceland that is home to some of the country's most awe-inspiring natural wonders and is considered the Northern Lights Capital of Iceland. The lake region is home to Iceland's fourth largest body of water, Lake Mývatn, which is 36.5 square kilometers in size and is home to a wealth of natural wonders and wildlife.

Making up part of the Diamond Circle – a popular travel route in the north of Iceland – Lake Mývatn and the surrounding region are an idyllic location to go birdwatching or fishing, or to relax in the natural hot springs and explore the eerily beautiful lava fortress of Dimmuborgir. Of course, one of the most spectacular sights to see are the Northern Lights themselves, which are spotted more often in the northern region of Iceland.





# A new municipality

There are plans to merge two of the local municipalities, Skútustaðahreppur and Thingeyarsveit, which are currently home to 399 and 852 people respectively. The new combined municipality will then be the largest in Iceland, covering 12,000 of Iceland's 103,000 square kilometers.

As the area develops, there will be an increasing need for a sustainable community technical center that can store and lend out tools and equipment. The center would function as a storehouse, depot, and tool shed and would be located near Lake Mývatn. It's the vision of the Mývatnssveit to become a world-renowned example of sustainability, creating a circular economy and CO2 neutral area.

The Skútustaðahreppur council is looking to be an example to other Iceland municipalities, demonstrating how its actions impact the reduction of carbon emissions.





# Circular economy

The concept of a circular economy is an alternative model to the traditional linear economy that most countries and societies operate within. Unlike in a linear economy – in which natural resources are harvested and turned into products that are inevitably thrown away as waste – a circular economy focuses on reusing materials as long as possible.

A circular economy puts emphasis on sharing, leasing, and trading resources within a community, with the goal of reusing, repairing, and recycling materials and products for as long as possible. In this model, waste materials and energy are used as inputs for other processes, improving the productivity of these resources.

While a traditional, linear economy is often referred to as "take, make, waste", the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF) defines the circular economy as an industrial economy that is restorative or regenerative by design and aims. A circular economy model could be one of the most effective means of tackling serious global environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.





# The competition

## Iceland Lake Mývatn Community House

The Iceland Lake Mývatn Community House competition is launched in partnership with Sveinn Margeirsson, mayor of Skútustaðahreppur. **Participants are asked to submit designs for a community house that would serve as a prime example of the positive impact of a circular economy in the region and across Iceland.** The community house would therefore be the region's main location for trading, sharing and recycling materials and resources in order to exemplify how a circular economy operates.

The new building would need to serve as a community center, providing enough space for 30 visitors at a time. Participants are asked to design a community room that would be highly versatile and able to run different events, like community meetings, workshops and educational seminars. It would also need to include a small kitchen, toilets and shower facilities.

The building should also include a kids zone/room where up to five children can play or take lessons depending on the setup of the space, as well as an information area for tourists. As the new building will have amazing views of the nearby lake, it would be an ideal location for guests of the area to stop, rest, and learn more about this part of Iceland.

Another important aspect of the building is waste management. Upcoming changes to local policies will mean that the municipality needs to find a way to recycle nearly 100 tonnes of organic waste per year, preferably into fertilizer and other forms of soil which are desperately needed. There should also be a point for locals to exchange secondhand resources, such as timber, clothes, furniture, etc.

Finally, there would need to be additional space for storage – roughly 100–200 square meters for tools, paints, traps, etc. – and a shared public space for a greenhouse or community garden that can make use of the recycled organic waste. Projects should also include plans for a depot that can house five trucks, one car for firefighters, two or three cars for a rescue squad, and space for two snow plow trucks.

Participants are asked to focus their designs around the concept of circular economy – sustainability and the reuse of materials should be at the core of submitted project designs.



# Building programme



**Multipurpose community room** (30 people)



**Kids room/zone** (5 children)



**Waste / resource collection zone**

(8 large containers for oversized waste: iron, plastic, paper, timber, mixed oversized, general, batteries, household electronic appliances)



**Organic waste collection and management zone** (area for collecting, recycling, storage, and redistribution)



**Secondhand resource exchange point** (area for locals to exchange secondhand resources – timber, clothes, furniture, etc.)



**Storage room** (area for tools, paints, traps, etc. (100–200 m<sup>2</sup>))



**Depo** (parking area for 5 trucks; fireman zone (one car); rescue squad (2–3 cars); two snow cleaning trucks)



**Public/shared greenhouse or garden using recycled organic waste for the soil**



**Information zone/room for tourists** (educational/informative spot for the guests of area; flyers, posters)



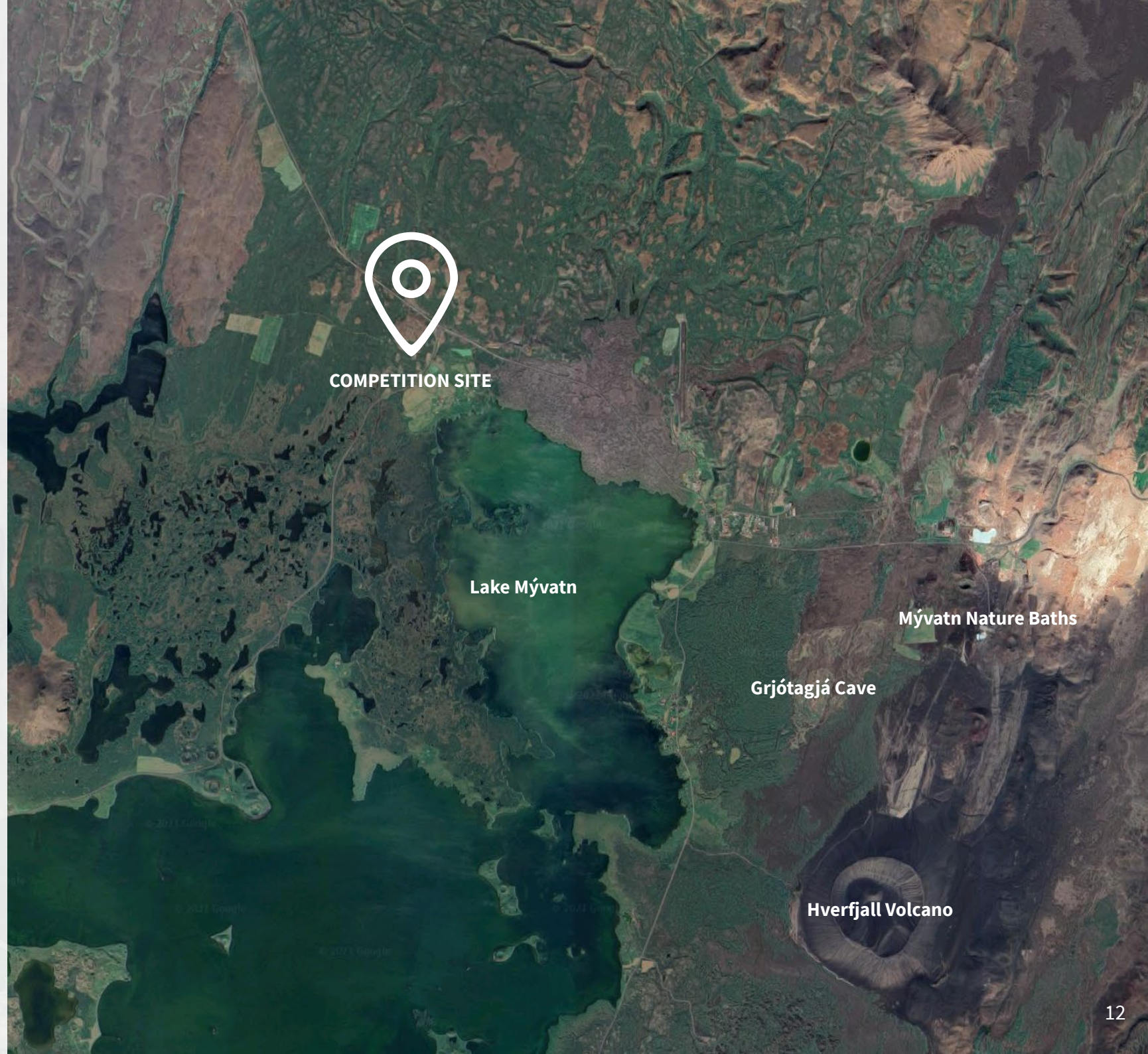
# The competition site

The competition site is located in the Mývatn region, one of the most-visited areas in North Iceland, which is home to incredible natural wonders, such as volcanic activity, natural hot springs, salmon and trout fishing, breathtaking landscapes, and incredible trekking routes.

**SITE COORDINATES:**

@65.6581574,-16.9818999

CAD, PDF SITE PLAN, PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO ARE AVAILABLE  
FOR DOWNLOAD AT  
[ARCHITECTURECOMPETITIONS.COM/IcelandCommunityHouse](https://ARCHITECTURECOMPETITIONS.COM/IcelandCommunityHouse)

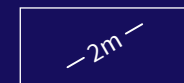






COMPETITION SITE

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0m 50m 100m







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# Prizes

## Monetary awards

Total prize fund

10,000 €

3 winning proposals, 3 special award recipients and 6 honourable mentions will be selected. Buildner (Bee Breeders) will award a total of 10,000 € in prize money to competition winners as

1st Prize  
5,000 €

2nd Prize  
2,000 €

3rd Prize  
1,000 €

**ARCHHIVE STUDENT AWARD**

500 € Cash prize +  
50 € ARCHHIVEBOOKS.com gift card

**“SKÚTUSTAÐAHREPPUR COUNCIL FAVOURITE” AWARD**

1,000 €

**AAPPAREL SUSTAINABILITY AWARD**

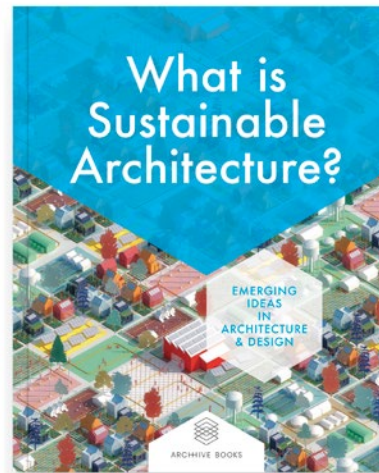
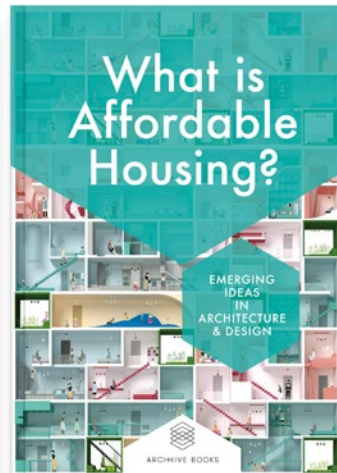
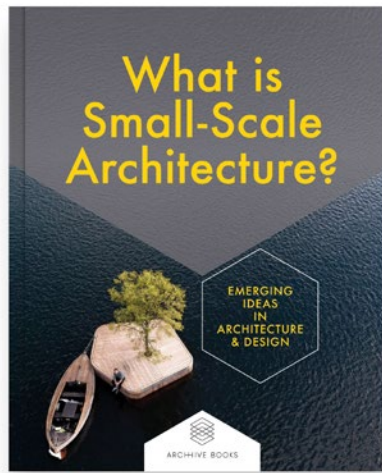
500 € Cash prize +  
50 € AAPPAREL.com gift card

+ 6 honorable mentions



# Prizes

## Special awards



### ARCHIVE STUDENT AWARD

500 € Cash prize +  
50 € ARCHHIVEBOOKS.com gift card



### AAPPAREL SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

500 € Cash prize +  
50 € AAPPAREL.com gift card



aapparel.com

*More information about the special awards at  
[architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse](https://architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse)*



# Prizes

## Construction

As the Skútustaðahreppur council is planning the construction of this building, winning projects will need to be unique, creative and practical, while fully embracing the ethos of a circular economy.



Skútustaðahreppur

## Publications

The winners will get international art and design media coverage and will be featured on the Buildner (Bee Breeders) website.

A full list of media partners who have committed to present the competition winners in their publications can be found at [architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse](https://architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse)

## Certificates

Buildner (Bee Breeders) will acknowledge the outstanding performance of all winners and honourable mentions with Certificates of Achievement.





# Competition schedule

## Preliminary registration deadlines

🚩 Early Bird Registration  
**NOVEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 8**

🚩 Advance Registration  
**DECEMBER 9 – JANUARY 27**

🚩 Last Minute Registration  
**JANUARY 28 – APRIL 21**

It is still possible to participate in this competition after the preliminary deadlines, however, a higher late registration fee will be charged.

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🗨️ Closing date for questions & answers  
**APRIL 28, 2022**

In order to guarantee equal opportunities to all competition participants, no new questions will be answered after this deadline!



Closing date for registration  
**APRIL 21, 2022**



Closing date for submission  
**MAY 26, 2022 (11:59 p.m. GMT)**



Announcement of the winners  
**JULY 7, 2022**



# Registration fees



Please find registration fees listed at  
the competition website  
[architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse](https://architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse)

## Discounts for architecture students

Buildner (Bee Breeders) Architecture Competition Organisers would like to hear from representatives of universities, schools, and colleges offering architecture/design studies.

Contact us to receive special student rates for group registration (discount applies for 3+ registrations from one university/school), as well as further information and support to get your students involved in architecture competitions.

Send us a request from your university email address along with basic information about you and your university/school. Please note that only recognized university staff can apply for the reduced student rate.

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### Buildner (Bee Breeders) Architecture University rankings

Explore the Buildner's (Bee Breeder's) list of the world's 1000+ most competitive architecture universities –

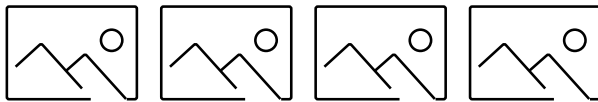
[architecturecompetitions.com/architecture-university-rankings](https://architecturecompetitions.com/architecture-university-rankings)



# Submission requirements

- Participants are required to upload **four (4) A2 landscape-orientated presentation boards** (must not exceed 5MB per jpg) with sketches, renderings, plans, sections, elevations, diagrams, and/or other presentation tools to explain their proposal.

up to 4 panels



- No video files are accepted.
- All information provided in writing must be in English.
- All submissions must be uploaded via the architecturecompetitions.com upload panel. Access information and instructions on how to upload the presentation boards will be issued to participants via email immediately after successful registration.
- Presentation boards must not indicate any information related to an individual's/team's identity.

*Participants who do not comply with the requirements will be disqualified without refund.*

# Recommended submission content

- Visualisations and artist impressions to illustrate how the proposal fits in with the quality, value, and significance of the Mývatn Region.
- Concept designs which highlight that all aspects of the design are of the highest quality and in keeping with the design brief and the proposed site.
- The main points of proposed plans and sections and multiple perspectives demonstrating the spatial quality of the structure, as well as operational needs and accessibility requirements.
- Demonstration of project feasibility in regards to environment, climate conditions, lifecycle, and responsible use of materials, embracing the concept of a circular economy.



# Presentation deliverables set

- Elevations (suggested scale 1:50)
- Primary sections (suggested scale 1:50)
- Primary plans (suggested scale 1:50)
- Enlarged sections and elevations highlighting key spaces or relationships (suggested scale 1:10)
- Axonometrics providing information on building systems or illustrating key architectural concepts
- Details (suggested scale 1:5):
  - Envelope
  - Key materials
  - Site or landscape
- Perspectives
  - Primary interior spaces
  - Primary site locations
- Diagrams
  - Circulation
  - Public versus private space
  - Lighting
  - Landscaping
  - Transportation
  - Energy systems

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



# Jury

The jury panel members list and biographies are published at **[architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse](https://architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse)**

Participants are advised to research both the working site and previous similar case studies as part of the design process. For each competition, 6–9 jury panel members are selected. Buildner (Bee Breeders) reserves the right to add/remove the jury panel members at any moment.

Jury members shall under no circumstances be contacted by competition participants or their representatives. Participants who attempt to contact jury members shall be disqualified.

All competition-related communications should be carried out solely with Buildner (Bee Breeders) staff. For any questions, please contact us at [contact@buildner.com](mailto:contact@buildner.com)

Iceland Lake Mývatn Community House is a competition which encourages participants to test or redefine the boundaries of architecture. The jury may choose to reward projects that show a high degree of creativity, even if they breach competition guidelines, as long as this is justified.

Buildner (Bee Breeders) is committed to selecting the most qualified industry professionals to comprise its jury panels. Jury panels consist of architects, in addition to professionals from other professional backgrounds that are relevant to the competition topic, to guarantee the most objective competition results.

*You may find the invited jury list from **previous** competitions [here](https://architecturecompetitions.com/guest-jury) – [architecturecompetitions.com/guest-jury](https://architecturecompetitions.com/guest-jury)*



# Tell the world your story!



## *Video and interview*

Shortly prior to the results announcement, selected competition winners and honorable mentions will be contacted and asked to answer a series of interview questions (**in writing**) and submit a video about themselves. These will be published with the competition results.

There is a tight deadline to announce the winners on time, therefore interview questions will need to be returned within **2 days**, and videos submitted within **2 weeks** of being requested. Hence, we advise participants to consider ideas for their video and answers to their questions in advance so that they are able to submit the relevant material on time.

**Please note** – both the interview and video submission is **OPTIONAL**. However, we do recommend that all participants submit as much material as possible in order to maximise the publicity and media attention their work will receive.

### Read more about:

-  The interview – [architecturecompetitions.com/interview](https://architecturecompetitions.com/interview)
-  The video submission – [architecturecompetitions.com/submit-movie](https://architecturecompetitions.com/submit-movie)

Explore the movies received from Buildner (Bee Breeders)' architecture competition winners and honourable mentions here - [vimeo.com/channels/1648488](https://vimeo.com/channels/1648488)



# Eligibility

The competition is open to all. No professional qualifications are required. Design proposals can be developed individually or by teams (4 team members maximum).

People who have direct personal or professional relationships with jury panel members or organisers may not participate in this competition.

# Competition documentation

The following information is available for download at [architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse](http://architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse) :

- Full competition brief
- Site and context photographs
- CAD and PDF site plan

All information can be downloaded as often as required; no additional information or materials will be provided after registration.

The brief and all associated documentation for this competition are created for the sole purpose of an academic exercise and are not legal documents.

The provided materials, or alternatives, can be used, created, or sourced at the participant's discretion

# Media partners

A full list of media partners who have committed to present the competition winners in their publications can be found at [architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse](http://architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse)

*For potential media partners who are also interested in covering the present competition and its winners, please contact us at [contact@buildner.com](mailto:contact@buildner.com)*

*Competition press kit (in English) and banners are available at [architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse/press](http://architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandCommunityHouse/press)*