

UNI

Squared up

Build a home using squares and squares only.



Fig: 1 – Squares as an element on a building façade – An illustration

Premise

Curves add a touch of excitement to anything static, but when it comes to functionality; straight elements are a crucial part of structures that are made anywhere.

Most buildings in ancient times used right angles in resonance with stable structures and were the only possible approach with the technology available back then.

Right angles have been attributed to efficiency in every aspect of our planet and this universe, right from laws of physics to human skeletal structures.

With times and technology shifting to curves as an aesthetic (Eg. Parametric Architecture), the power of rectilinear forms is overlooked with attribution to budget and mundane-ness.

What if squares are all we had? What if the only option to deliver a concept space for you was only rectilinear?



Fig: 2 - Squares as an element in a parametric design - An example seen in BIG's serpentine pavilion

Brief: Squaring

The qualm of using rectilinear forms usually come into the spotlight when we look at generic urban environments at large. It creates this uneasiness of delivering average forms in the name of functionality.

When we look at the flip side, parametricism or deconstructivism on the converse can dominate the function as well while implemented to serve the spaces – hence the bias is not entirely accurate.

The exercise is focused on getting back to the basics, **what if - all we had a single shape to design our buildings on? What if this shape's positives and negatives were balanced out to make things work spatially and architecturally?**

The challenge here would be constructing every element of a house to just one shape, a Square.

How would you as a designer interpret the qualities of the form in the physical realm of geometries translated into real forms?

How will the shape limitations help you shape a new experience through this form of limitation?

Objectives

User profile: Create a user profile/family profile first and then build the house for them.

Space-making: Building spaces using indoors and outdoors taking into design, climate and function into account.

Shape usage: Innovation in shape usage while playing with sizes and dimensions.

Furniture/Details: Finalizing select furniture and detail concepts.

Site



Fig: 3 – Site Plan

Site area - 1357 sqm

FAR - 1.0

Ground coverage - 40%

Setbacks as per CAD file.

Height Restriction - 12m

Coordinates - [Maps](#)

Design a villa that is all squares right from the furniture to windows. The square shape can be embodied at least in 2D to carve out the architectural concept. The forms necessarily do not require to be cubic and can take liberty in locking only two-dimensional square embodiment. The minimum requirements for the house must be three bedrooms, one kitchen and dining space, one living area and a swimming pool. Filleting edges are permitted.

The site for this project is located in the Encino precinct of Los Angeles, CA. The site is located amidst several other villas and recreational properties.

The design outcome is expected to take into account the presence of other villas and locations next to the site to arrive at the views and privacy.

The site is placed within a contour land but it's completely levelled flat.

How to submit?

Read all the competition rules and details from the sidebar, and hit **register**. You can pay the entry fee and book your registration right away. The additional resources directly unlock as soon as you register on your dashboard. Once you are ready with your project - begin uploading from the dashboard and follow this tutorial to submit. You can add your team members to your project while submitting it.

Discover the full submission tutorial here: <https://to.uni.xyz/uploadtutorial>

Submission Requirements

You have to deliver an architectural design outcome on the following site, based on the given outlines.

1. Recommended number of sheets/presentation images/boards:
3 (Three) of size [2800px x 3500px] in portrait digital format (JPEG only).
2. Minimum 3 (Three) & No maximum sheet limit. Each image should be less than 15MB.
(Do not submit PNG format)
3. Minimum requisite submissions are sheets/boards + Cover image containing:
 - a. Site plan
 - b. 1 x Key concept section
 - c. 3D views x 4
 - d. Additional cover image of 2000px x 1000px
 - e. Write an article/story in the Journal section# of the project (of about 700-1000 words) answering the questions given in the guide pdf.

#Journal Section appears midway in the project submission portal. More instructions in the additional resources.

Additional Resources

This competition contains additional resources that contain a set of files useful to complete the competition submission. This folder is made available on your profile dashboard automatically as soon as you register.

This additional resource folder of this competition contains:

Submission Format files in PSD | AI | InDD & Guide to Journal Section + Questions, CAD site plan and Site entrance/Aerial Images.

Learn more on <https://uni.xyz/competitions/squared-up/info/about>

Base Rules

- + The competitions are open for **students only** from all the disciplines of design.
- + The team limit for this competition is 4 members maximum per team.
- + You can register more than one team but they have to be registered separately.
- + Ensure that the final sheets submitted do not include your name or any other mark of identification.
- + Your submission is linked to your UNI user account which stands as your identification, we do not have any identification codes.
- + This is a design idea challenge only. There is no built commission/realization associated with the problem.
- + In case of publication in the yearbook we will reach out separately for selected entries.

Pro Tips

- + Use exploded views to discuss multi-levelled conceptual models better.
- + Mention sheet number on the corner of every sheet.
- + Plagiarism of any idea/form/design/image will be disqualified with a notice.
- + All the sheets or images will be viewed on a digital device. e.g. Laptop screen or projector. Uploaded sheets or images will not be physically printed for evaluation. The submission hence should be prepared for digital viewing only.
- + Submit JPEG images only. (PNG will not function)

Disqualification

The competition is protected by our [disqualification policy](#) to support fair play in a competitive environment like UNI. Participants are requested to stick to the details in the brief and connect with the curatorial committee on contact@uni.xyz in case of doubts or revisions.

The particular challenge has some special conditions (square led design) – hence, if any queries reach out to us for any information in place of assuming.

Please check the link above for details. Failure to adherence may lead to soft or hard disqualification based on the violation.

Judging Criteria

The entries will be judged by an international jury of the competition on the following criterions:

Presentation: The fundamental to a good entry is a visual delivery of ideas.

Concept/Idea: Quality of thought and intent in pre-design phase.

Programme/Spaces: How the spaces are conceived along with the programme.

Design Outcome: The final architectural outcome of the solution.

The judging panel can also add other criterions based on their internal discussions - which will be in line with the problem statement. Participants are advised to fulfil the above given criterions first in their design. Names of the jury panel will be announced soon.

Prizes / Deadlines / Registration

For complete information on active prizes and details on the entry fee, visit the Awards & Fees section of the competition here:- [Awards&Fees](#)

Learn more about this competition here: <https://uni.xyz/competitions/squared-up/info/about>

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