

uni  
The  
White  
Lands

Rethinking the world's largest tent city of Mina

<https://uni.xyz/competitions>





[img\\_1](#): The Makkah Royal Clock Tower

## Premise

The city of **Mecca** is considered the birthplace of the Prophet and also the place where he received the message of Islam, which transformed Mecca into the holiest city in the Islamic world.

**Mecca** (present-day Saudi Arabia) has been **a sacred site** since ancient times, and it even serves as a **site of pilgrimage** for the Arabs tribes of central and North Arabia. The occurrence of recorded pilgrimage can be traced back to the Kaaba. Tradition holds that it was a simple unroofed rectangular sanctuary in pre-Islamic times.

**Hajj** is the pilgrimage to Mecca, which every believer is expected to attend at least once in their lifetime, if they can. It is a religious duty that is central to the religion and is one of the five important elements of this fraternity.





Imag\_2 Saudi Arabia of the Future - An impression

## Vision 2030

The **Saudi government** has an ambitious plan for the **Vision 2030 agenda**. The vision has several important thrust areas including making Saudi Arabia a major trade and cultural intersection between west and east worlds. This [document](#) details the entire vision.

This vision not only expands the lengths and breadths of inclusivity and advancement, but also looks at expanding the Hajj pilgrim bandwidth to more than 10 million pilgrims. The goals here are not only quantitative but qualitative as well. With rising pilgrims, a lot of Hajj facilities are being expanded to accommodate this new growth of visitors and provide them with clean, healthy experiences. Several upgrades have already rolled in (Like mosque expansion and transportation upgrades) to meet these expectations. **The question however is, are all parts of the journey ready for this growth?**





Ima3: Living conditions inside the tents of Mina

## Issue

Currently, more than **2 million pilgrims** from around the world are stated to attend the five-day Hajj in 2021. The **living tents in the Mina Tent City** are one of the places where people spend most of their pilgrimage time together. In the light of the pandemic these spaces are not only too confined but if not treated right, are capable of jeopardizing the entire experience of the pilgrimage. The tents were a great leap in the living challenges of Mina - but **they require a complete overhaul to continue serving the pilgrims in the years to come.**

The figure is speculated to grow to **5 - 10 million visitors** in the coming decades which is sure to push the design of current system to its limits. While increasing capacity is certainly the goal, what other solutions can offer better arrangements - how to unlock more space and give quality accommodation to pilgrims who spend their time here?





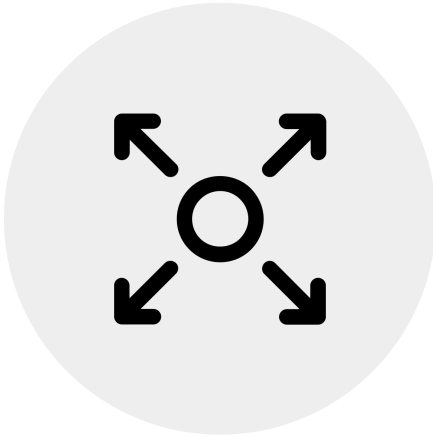
Img 4: Mina during Hajj active hours.

## Brief

Hajj is a predominant source of livelihood for the majority of the population of Mecca. The place serves 5 days of pilgrims that constitutes a lot of hospitality, tourism, transportation, food & beverage, retail and a lot of small businesses to begin with.

The Mina tent city hence an **important backbone of this entire industry and is the epitome of religious congregation from around the world.** How can we reinvent the modular tent city of Mina for the future?

**Brief: The design challenge is to conceive a modular solution for housing Hajj pilgrims in the city of Mina.** The stay duration is aimed to have air-conditioned living arrangement that is fireproof, hygienic, and incremental. The participant can try to elevate the pilgrim experience as possible, with any means they may find imperative.



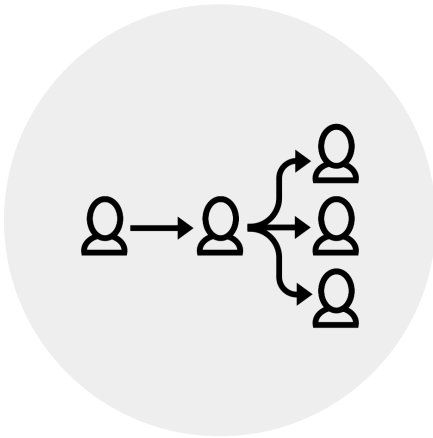
### **Capacity**

Quantitatively achieving 1.5x capacity atleast to justify proposition.



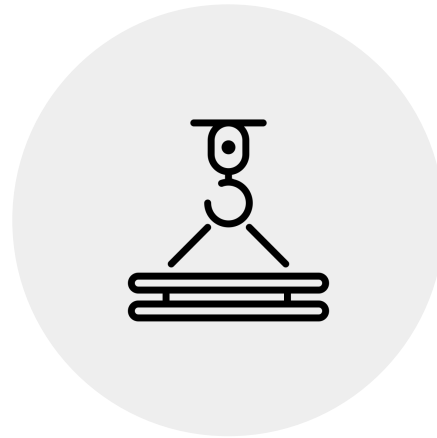
### **Hygiene**

Creating hygienic, comfortable and barrier free spaces that are inclusive.



### **Crowd Management**

Ability to handle crowd, services and anticipating future needs.



### **Executable**

A very realistic proposal that can be actually built.

## **Objectives**

The following objectives can be a point of beginning to conceive this design. Participants can recreate a situation as stated based on the following key points, before initiating design process.

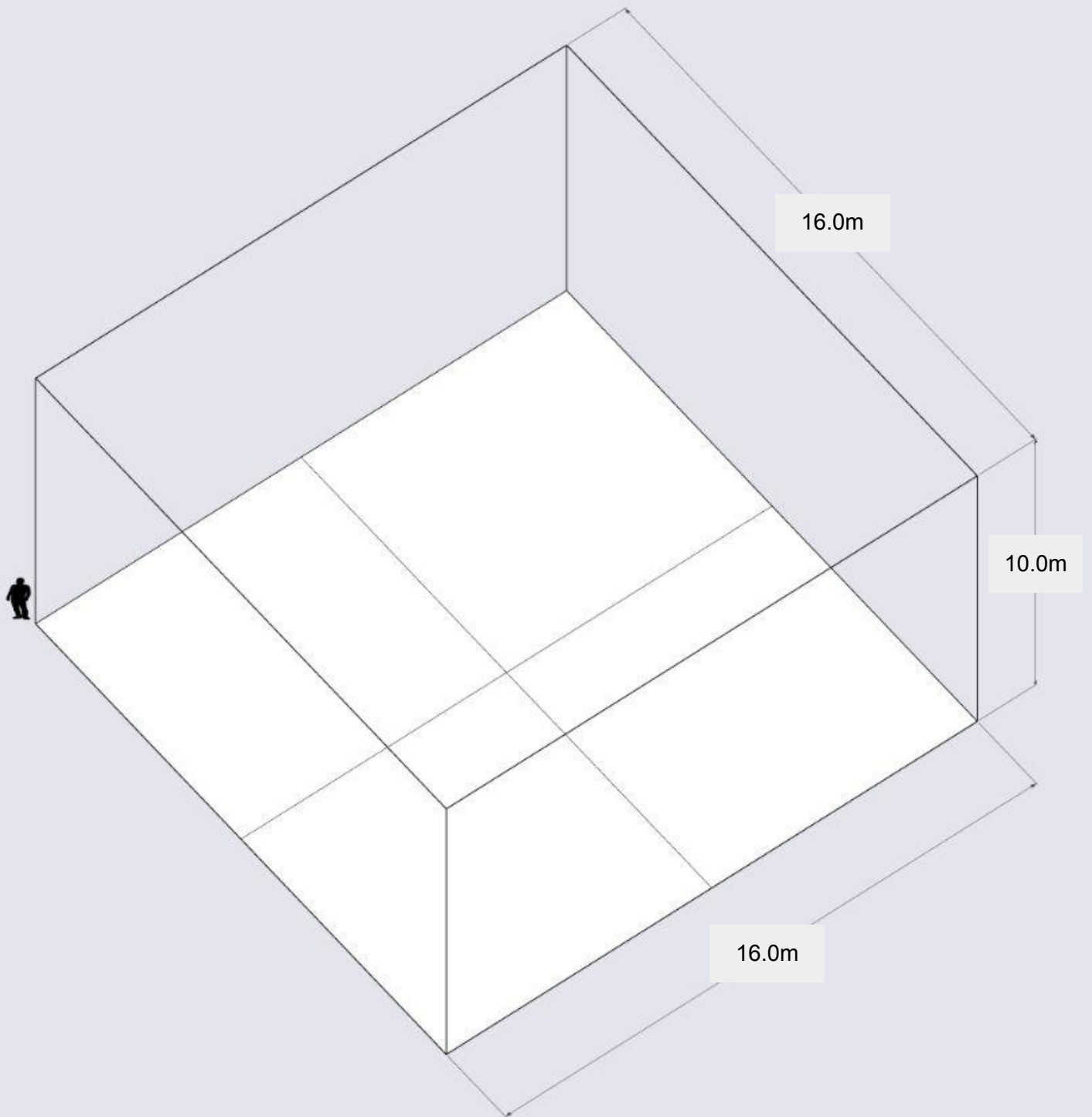




## Location

Mina (Arabic: منى, romanized: Minā), also transliterated as Muna, and commonly known as the City of Tents, is a valley and neighborhood located in the Masha'er district of Mecca. It is in the Makkah Province of Saudi Arabia, 8 kilometres (5 miles) southeast of Mecca, covering an area of dapproximately 20 km<sup>2</sup> (7.7 sq mi). Mina consist of the tents an the Jamarat area. The challenge is to reinvent a smaller element of this huge system with a new form of transient housing.



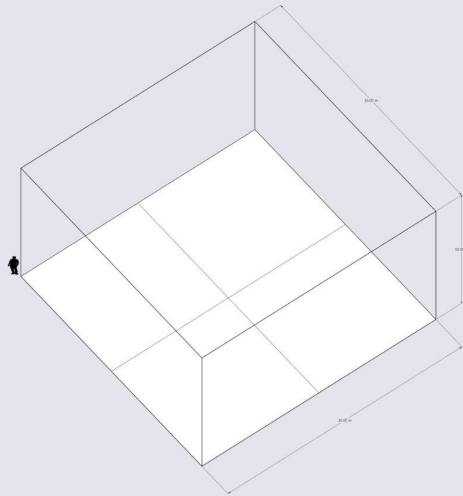


## Module Size

This **new module for this competition, is composed of 4 tent modules** of the **current tent unit of 8m x 8m in size** offering about **1.6 sqm per person** (40 people/64 sqm - Current ratio) person in the living areas at present. The vision is to take this figure to **2.4sqm per person** to give them hygienic spaces to live, while maximizing the capacity.

Participants can conceive custom module size as a square or rectangle while maintaining largest single side span at 16m. The size of module has to be explained through valid justification. Internal planning, structural form, thermal comfort and furniture is upto the participants to propose. Participants must also show how this entire system will grow and change based on different situations and over large areas where it is to be replicated. Max. height is capped at 10 meters.





Based on the standard module size you devise, conceive these 3 variants based on the following:

### 1. Living module

The living module will be one of the most used variants across the Mina City. A single living module will consist of sleeping areas, luggage storage units, space for worshipping, packed food storage, waste disposal and other services that might be needed to make the pilgrim experience convenient and sanitary. These have to be air conditioned or air cooled.

### 2. Toilet Module

Devising a **toilet module** based on the same configurations, that can contain at least 25 stalls (WC or Bathing) in 1 unit to demonstrate the use cases. Ensure the washrooms are serviceable - ventilated well - and ready to take the high amount of visitors from various regions.

### 3. Multifunctional Module

Devise a variant that can be used for multiple functions like storage, setting up shops or small offices. These units are usually found on edges of living quarters that have access to public movement on daily basis.

**You can change modify the standard module size, as long as they fit and work together well. As these are two storeyed modules now, the planning has to take into account vertical circulation and issues pertaining on different levels.**

*(Each module will incorporate **only one** of these uses. No hybrid use cases are expected. The size of respective module will be **uniform** for every function, be it living, toilets, commercial or any other purpose.)*



# Guidelines

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

- Recommended number of sheets/presentation images/boards:

**5 (Five)** of size [ **2800px x 3500px** ] in portrait digital format (**JPEG only**).

**Minimum 3 (Three) & No maximum sheet limit.** Each image should be less than **15MB**. (Do not submit PNG format)

**Minimum requisite submission** are sheets/boards + Cover image containing:

- Site plan (Compulsory)
- Key conceptual sections x 1 (Minimum)
- 3D views x 4
- Additional cover image of 2000px x 1000px
- Write a article/story in the **Journal section**<sup>#</sup> of the project (of about 700-1000 words) answering the questions given in the Additional Resources.

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

# Deadlines

Discover the competition schedule and deadlines on the [competitions page](#).

# Resources

This competition contains additional resources that contains 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 resources folder of this competition contains:** Submission Format files in PSD | AI | InDD, Guide to Journal Section + Questions, High Res maps, Sketchup Model of the site and CAD file of the site plan.

# Rules

+ The competitions is open for **students and professionals** 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 user account which stands as your identification.

+ This is a design **ideas challenge only**. There is no built commission/realization associated with the problem.

+ In case of publication in 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 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](mailto:contact@uni.xyz) in case of doubts or revisions.

The particular challenge has some special conditions (like replication of modules) – 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 violation.

# Submission Method

Refer to this upload tutorial to learn more about how to submit to this competition: <https://to.uni.xyz/tutorial>





## Awards

Grants of up to a total of **20,000\$** can be won on this challenge. Learn more about the full conditions on the competition page [here](#).

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



### **Presentation**

The fundamental to a good entry is a good presentation.



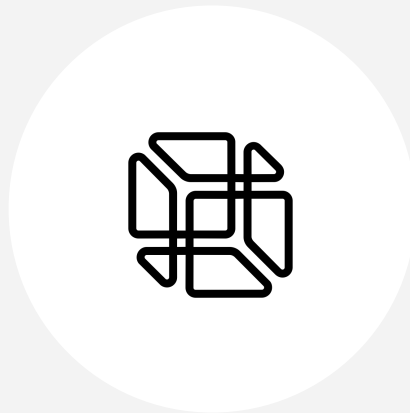
### **Concept/Idea**

Quality of thought and intent in pre-design phase.



### **Spaces/Programme**

How the spaces are calculated and ordered.



### **Design Outcome**

The final architectural outcome of the solution.

## **Judging Criteria**

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



## About



**Ibrahim Nawaf Joharji Architects (INJ)** is one of the fastest growing architecture offices from Saudi Arabia, working in the field of high-end interiors and architectural design across various typologies. They provide not only architecture consultancy but cutting-edge engineering supervisions that is one stop solution to getting projects done. This holistic approach, across multiple typologies allows them to create spaces that are ambitious, yet respond to their client's every single needs.

INJ's philosophy enables its team to think bold, creative and outside the box. Their works and design are thoroughly based on proper strategy, tried and tested formula and research analysis. The process they use while considering all of the above aspects also involves prioritizing for sustainability of the environment.

The practice is floating this challenge for **education/research purposes** to endorse ideas that can help towards building a positive dialogue towards Hajj restoration and growth in future. There's no built commission associated with the competition and is purely ideas only.

Website:

<https://injarch.com/>

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An aerial photograph of a massive Hajj terminal complex, likely King Abdul Aziz International Airport in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The terminal is a vast, rectangular structure with a repeating pattern of white, vaulted roof sections. It is surrounded by a complex network of roads and highways. In the background, a city skyline is visible against a hazy, sunset sky, with a prominent skyscraper (the Kingdom Tower) on the left. The overall scene is bathed in the soft, golden light of dusk.

Towards a more  
sustainable Hajj  
experience.

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