

UNI

# Shifting Horizons

Creating new havens



*Fig: 1 – Refugee camps inside the urban limits – Misfit that's far from being solved – An impression*

## Premise

Every 2 seconds, one person in the world is put in a situation, where they would have **to find refuge outside their country due to conflicts or fear of persecution**. These numbers have only been increasing over the years, ever since the 1960s, when the refugee crisis started in South Africa.

Most of the refugees from countries in the Asian continent, try to take refuge in Europe and **if they did not already have a 'housing crisis, they would not have to bear the additional load that comes with 'refugee housing crises'**.

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**UNHCR** is responsible for handling the global refugee crisis and sets up camps in places where needed. But even with 89% of their staff employed on the field, the situation is out of hand.

With more than half of the refugee population under 18 and with no support, **UN peacekeepers help manage camps that are set up temporarily on vacant grounds**, airports, and other public spaces. **But these camps are temporary and most of these people are in search of a permanent solution for provisions and even nationalization.**



*Fig: 2 – A considerable amount of citizen in urban areas who acknowledge rights of refugees in our countries – An impression*

## Crisis

Housing for refugees is mostly in camps, set up by the UN, but **refugees who seek citizenships, have very few options to do so**. The few that exist, come with challenges of their own. **To accommodate refugees within city limits, commercial or free spaces are to be converted to residential plots**. This increases the density in the area, putting a **strain on the land, resources, and infrastructure of the area**. It ultimately creates **tension between refugees and residents**.

Since the influx of these refugees is estimated to increase throughout the years, there will be a soon need for **permanent housing that will require answering real questions of migrant issues**.

This displaced population who are losing years away from their homes, at the same time completely detached ties from their origin may impair their connection with any economy in the future. With some degree of efficient housing, this vulnerable population can be brought back into the economy while giving them the required dignity to live on.

**How do we negotiate urban environments to accommodate the placeless?**



*Fig: 3 – A protest sign trying to fight for an inclusive future an impression – An impression*

## Brief

What if we could use compact and affordable housing technologies to house refugees inflowing into the city to give them a transient shelter until the chaos is stabilized? What if we could make use of sustainable technologies that can help us achieve efficient habitats that can be economically and socially sustainable in the long run?

**Brief: Create a community of tiny homes that can be inhabited by refugees from different regions around the world.**

A point to be kept in mind is that these spaces will be occupied by people with **diverse ethnicities** and backgrounds, so the design must generate a **neutral living space**. Although architecture and design cannot nullify the prejudices that refugees will face as they go through their everyday life, the community they live in must be a **safe and secure** haven for them, to live in with comfort.

Isolation, post-trauma depression, home-sickness are just some of the issues that refugees struggle with as they make the move from their homeland to a new place. **Social interaction and communal gatherings can help alleviate this feeling of loneliness and foster unity among these people.**



# Objectives

**Self-sufficient** - The community and its tiny home unit must be independent of city infrastructure to the maximum extent, with amenities requiring labor.

**Layout** - The access and layout must be planned carefully to enable easy navigation. A balance between private and communal spaces must be achieved.

**Community** - Spaces for social activities must be provided to foster a sense of community and outdoor experiences

**Sustainable** - The design must not negatively impact the surrounding site. Local material and resources must be used to ensure well-being.

**Harmony** - The design must take the conditions of the site into design consideration and this housing must be in harmony with other local developments.

# Site



**Utrecht** is a city, centrally located in the **Netherlands** and has an ancient core. It is supporting a population of more than 3.5 million on a land area of 90 square kilometers (approx.). The inflow of refugees in this part of Europe is one among the highest and they currently house about 400,000 from the central, southern and eastern parts of Europe itself. The city has always been associated with a religious and exclusive background, hence the diversity of the population here is faced by discrimination and polarization.

The site is around 2.5 kilometers outside the city of Utrecht. It is surrounded by industrial companies and offices that can aid in the employment of these refugees. The total area of the site is 32000 square meters and it will be developed in 4 housing modules of 8000 square meters each.

Site area – Phase 1 (8000sqm.)

The design challenge looks at building 100 x G+1 compact housing units which are easily replicable and manufactured off-site. One unit should house two families (2Adults+2Children) in two different levels.

The total built-up area of one dwelling inclusive of upper, lower, toilets and ancillary elements like balconies/staircases should not exceed more than 1500sqft. Shafts and terraces do not count under this regulation.

This particular module should be replicated around the Phase 1 site based on your planning. You can change or develop combinations of this single module to invent different uses. The remaining area for expansion does not require to be designed in detail but represented conceptually how the remaining site will be used in the future.

Height restrictions - 7m

Coordinates - [Maps](#)

## Area Programme

The housing should have basic facilities such as a living, a kitchenette, a bathroom, and other spaces that can be added creatively within limits.

## 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>

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# 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, Site images, and AutoCAD site plan.**

**Learn more on:** <https://uni.xyz/competitions/shifting-horizons/info/about>

<https://uni.xyz/competitions>

# Base Rules

- + The competitions are 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 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-leveled 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)

# 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 the pre-design phase.

**Program/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 fulfill the above-given criteria first in their design. Names of the jury panel will be announced soon.



# 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.

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

# 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/shifting-horizons/info/about>

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