

UNI

Aid

Mental therapy and rehabilitation centre design challenge





Fig: 1 - Due to fast-paced lifestyle mental issues in most people are increasing day by day

Needs for mental health and care

A significant proportion of the population is affected by some mental or intellectual disorder.

The disorders are characterised by abnormal thoughts, emotions, perceptions, behaviour and relationship with other people.

Widespread recognition of these intellectual disorders has led to the development of safe spaces for accommodation, therapy and treatment of this affected populace.

People with mental illness require care and shelter, along with support in education and employment, so that they can become a part of society.

Can we create a safe and nurturing environment for these populations?





Fig: 2 Nature helps deal with pain/traumas or issues in an effective way, how can we induce this element in existing rehab institutes?

Nature as a medium for better healing

Institutes that are built for psychiatric patients are built with a high level of amenity and forethought. Spending time in nature is one of the most effective ways of helping with common mental disorders. Outdoor activities have the potential to contribute to the physical, emotional and psychological well-being of humans. **Biomimetic architecture works on the principle of imitating the systems operating in nature**, not just in aesthetics but in the construction of the structure. It is an effective way of creating sustainable environments that contribute positively to people. Nature has always been able to create a nurturing environment for all its inhabitants, the same way institutes intend to work for their patients. **Can imitation of natural habitats ensure the creation of a calm, stress-free environment that is free of manmade interventions and judgement? Through architecture, can we provide a clean slate for people to start their journey towards recovery and a normalised way of living?**





Fig: 3 - How can we use human touch and architecture to improve spatial qualities in a rehabilitation centre?

Can biomimetic spaces act as healing agents during rehabilitation?

Intellectually disabled people are at their core, humans, and have similar social needs that can be fulfilled by creating a supportive environment for all people going through similar experiences.

Brief: The challenge is to design a mental therapy and psychosocial rehabilitation centre that caters to people affected by mental disorders, not requiring hospitalisation.

The design of the centre must be inspired by biomimetic architecture principles. Natural systems must be used in the healing spaces part of the centre. The layout of spaces must enable easy wayfinding and navigation in and around the centre.

The centre will be an independent institute that will not include elaborate hospital amenities. It will act as a safe space for inhabiting patients and treating people with temporary intellectual disabilities. Safety, security and visibility over the institute will be a design priority.



Objectives

Access: The layout must be barrier-free so that it is accessible to every type of user.

Safe: A safe and secure environment must be created for the occupants at the centre.

Balance: Privacy and interaction must be guided in the layout as per the nature of the activity. The balance between aesthetics and functionality, as well as open, semi-open and closed spaces.

Context: The design must respond to the (existing) site conditions. The wider socio-cultural, economic and environmental settings are to be considered in the design approach.

Site



Seoul, South Korea

While South Korea has a successful and progressive economy, the society is plagued with **social issues, of which, mental health is a concern**. The infrastructure for **mental health care is underfunded** and the **social stigma in society has rendered the remaining institutes underutilised**.

The site is located in Seoul, South Korea. The city has many institutions that offer assistance to distressed individuals. **The promotion of safe ways to deal with psychological disorders** is actively being done by the authorities and this typology will flourish in the city.



The site is on open land in the neighbourhood of Name Balsan-dong in Gangseo-gu, Seoul. It is surrounded by educational institutes and residential settlements creating a supportive and sustaining community.

Site area = 3157 sq.m

Height restriction = 12 metres

Ground coverage = 30%

Max FAR = 0.9

Setbacks (as per CAD plan)

Coordinates = 37°33'21.2"N 126°49'47.4"E

Area Programme

The centre must be able to accommodate **100 patients**. The following programmatic outline is the point to begin your design at. You can add more functions and activities in relevance or modify the below design programme.

Living quarters ~ 45% of built area

Care and medical services, Material supply and storage ~ 20% of built area

Catering facilities ~ 5% of built area

Entrance, reception and waiting spaces ~ 5% of built area

Administration offices ~ 10% of built area

Open green areas with play equipment, fitness facilities, and a gaming zone ~ 15% of built area



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 submission 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, High-Resolution Site Map, and CAD file of the Site plan.

Learn more on: <https://uni.xyz/competitions/aid/info/about>



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-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)

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.

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.



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.

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

Yearbook

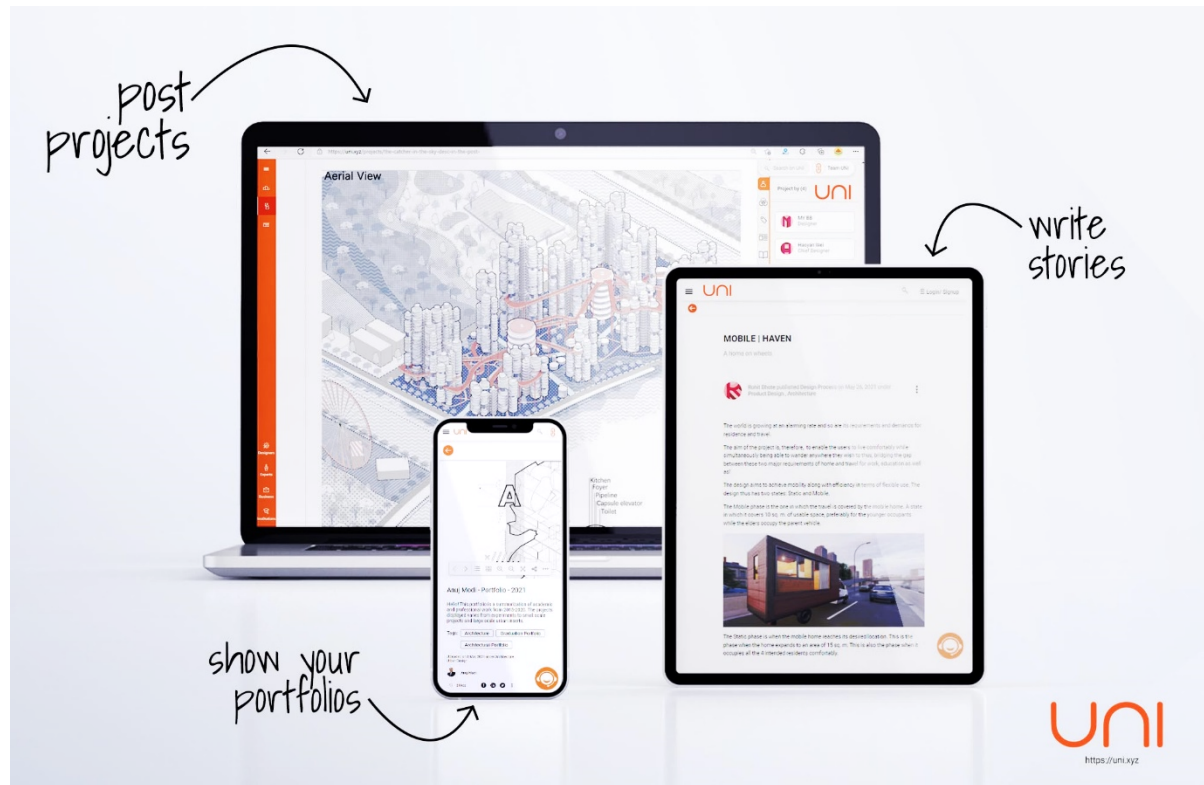


Winners of this competition will get published in our annual publication known as **UNI Design Explorer** which is released every year. This particular publication is one of the most important design resources released every year for the design community on UNI. Earn these bragging rights by participating in this competition. The project titles featured in this publication series are Winner, Runner-up*, Honorable Mention*, People's Choice and Editor's Choice.

*These titles vary from competition to competition. Please refer to the Award & Fees section for more information.



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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/aid/info/about>

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