

SINCE 2016

MIND RAIN

Presents

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

EDITION 07

THE ARCHITECTURE OF PLAY

A Kindergarten Design Challenge 2026-27

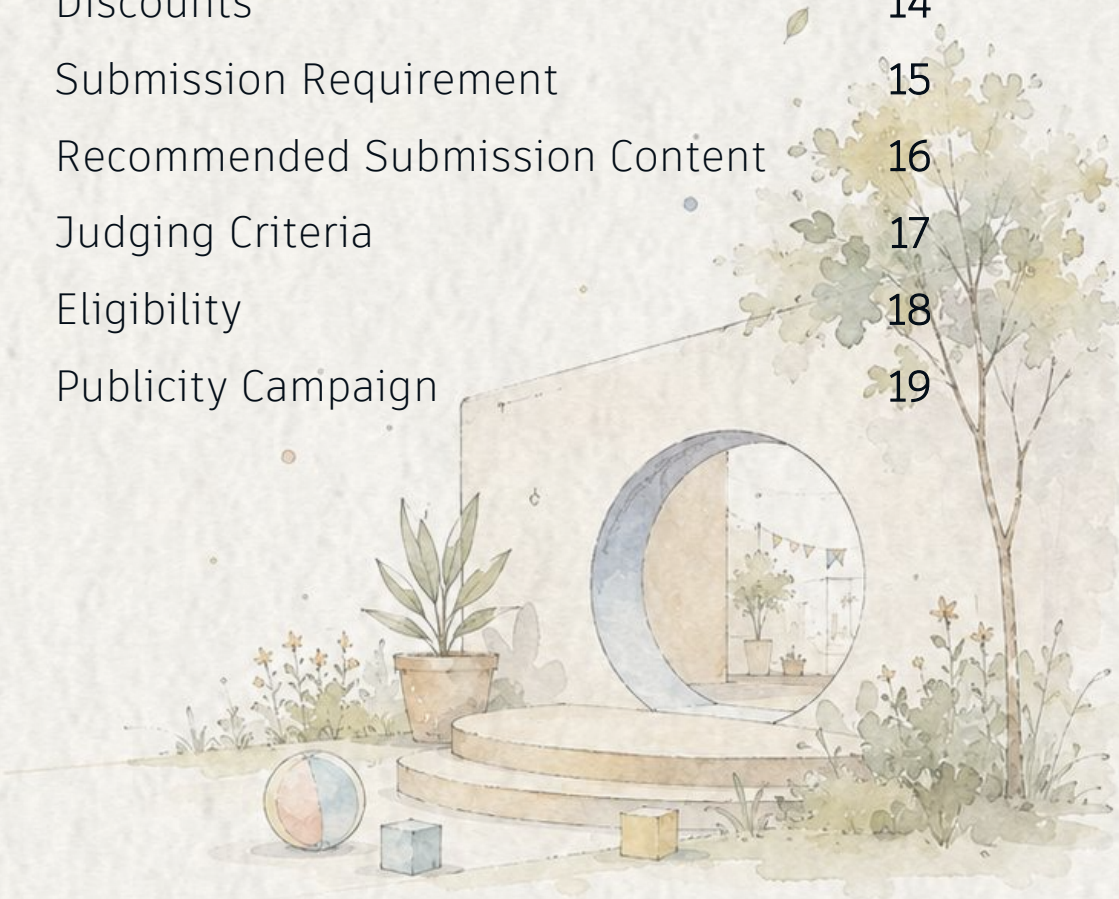
#DESIGN BRIEF



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Igniting Imagination in Architecture

MIND RAIN is a creative initiative that organizes architecture and photography competitions and workshops designed to **stimulate imagination** and sharpen the minds of emerging designers.

At our core, we believe that powerful design begins with **powerful thinking**. That's why **MIND RAIN** is more than a competition—it's a space to develop **conceptual thinking**, expand your **thought process**, and challenge conventional boundaries.

We aim to nurture the **imaginative potential** of students and young professionals—helping them transform raw ideas into bold, expressive solutions for the real and imagined world.

Join us as we cultivate visionary minds and celebrate the art of thinking beyond the obvious.

MINDRAIN.ORG

9+

Years of Experience

2.3K+

Participants

110+

Winners & Honorable Mentions
Announced

Introduction



A child's first learning environment plays an important role in shaping **imagination, curiosity, creativity, confidence, and social development.**

Yet many educational environments continue to follow rigid and standardized models that often overlook the individuality of every child.

Children experience space differently from adults. **Every wall becomes a canvas, every corridor becomes a journey, and every window becomes an opportunity to discover something new.**

The Architecture of Play challenges participants to rethink how architecture can support **exploration, interaction, creativity, and play** while creating a safe, engaging, and inspiring learning environment.

The objective is not simply to design a school. The objective is to design a place where **curiosity can grow through architecture.**

The competition

Competition Format & Categories



MIND RAIN offers two distinct competition categories to ensure fair and balanced participation across all academic levels. **Category 1** is designed specifically for students in **1st and 2nd year**, while **Category 2** caters to those in **3rd, 4th and 5th year**. **Category 1** submissions are to be **hand drafted**, while **Category 2** submissions **can be made digitally**. This division allows junior students to showcase their creativity and skills without being overshadowed by the experience and exposure of senior students, promoting a healthy and motivating environment where talent is recognized at every level.

The competition

EDITION 07: **The Architecture of Play**

Participants are encouraged to explore **how architecture can shape the way children learn, play, explore, and interact.** The challenge? To envision a kindergarten where learning extends beyond the classroom and architecture becomes an active part of a child's everyday experience.

A kindergarten is not simply a collection of classrooms. For a child, a corridor can become a journey, a courtyard can become a playground, and a wall can become a canvas for imagination. Participants are encouraged to rethink conventional educational spaces and explore how **scale, movement, light, material, nature, and play** can create meaningful learning experiences.



The design should cater to **children between three and six years of age.** Participants must craft an environment that responds not only to functional requirements but also to the **physical, emotional, social, and developmental needs of children.**

From spaces that encourage curiosity to environments that support collaboration, creativity, independence, and discovery, this is an opportunity to use architecture as a **medium for learning through experience.**

Design for curiosity. Build for play. Create spaces where learning comes naturally.

Building Program



Your design must include the following spaces:

-  **Learning spaces** – classrooms / learning studios and reading areas.
-  **Creative & play spaces** – activity, art, indoor play, and outdoor play areas.
-  **Interaction spaces** – multipurpose / community space.
-  **Support spaces** – administration, dining, health, washrooms, and storage.
-  **Outdoor learning space** – garden and nature-based play / learning areas.
-  **Any additional spaces may be added.**

 The focus of the design should be on originality, showcasing your ideation process, understanding of children, and the relationship between learning, play, and architecture.

Project Proposal Requirements



- The design proposal must focus on creating a safe, stimulating, and inspiring learning environment for children between three and six years of age.
- Participants are encouraged to explore child psychology, human scale, flexibility, play-based learning, safety, accessibility, natural lighting, ventilation, sustainability, and the relationship between indoor and outdoor spaces.
- The proposal should explore how architecture can encourage curiosity, exploration, creativity, interaction, discovery, and play as part of everyday learning.
- Spaces should not be treated as isolated rooms. Participants are encouraged to develop meaningful relationships between learning spaces, play areas, circulation, landscape, and shared spaces.
- Participants should consider the relationship between children, nature, materials, light, air, movement, and scale in creating an engaging learning environment.
- There are no stylistic restrictions. Participants are encouraged to develop their own architectural language and conceptual approach.
- Participants are encouraged to reinterpret conventional kindergarten typologies and explore new relationships between learning, play, and architecture.

The Competition Site



- 📍 Participants may choose any suitable site within their own city, state, or country.

The selected site should provide sufficient context to demonstrate an understanding of:

Site Location

Climate

Orientation

Dimensions

Access

Surrounding Context

Participants may select an urban, suburban, rural, coastal, mountainous, or other suitable setting, provided the chosen context supports the proposed kindergarten.

Prizes

Monetary awards



Total prize fund
₹ 50,000

Winners in each category will receive:

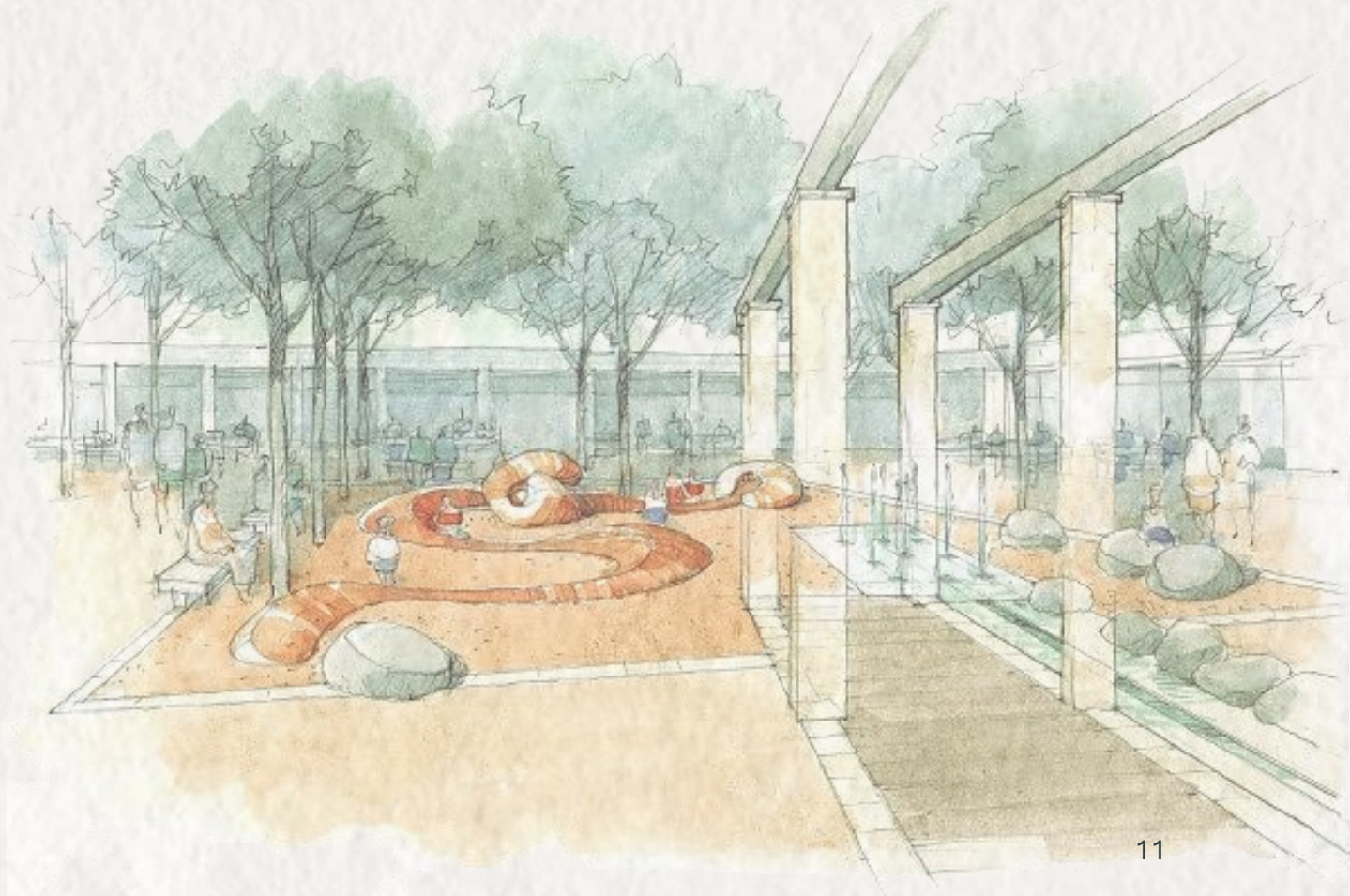
	1 st Prize	2 nd Prize	3 rd Prize	
Category - I	₹ 12,000	₹ 8,000	₹ 5,000	And 20+ Honorable Mentions
Category - II	₹ 12,000	₹ 8,000	₹ 5,000	

Monetary awards are distributed category-wise among Group A participants; Results we be declared separately for both Group A and Group B.

Certificates



- All the winners will be awarded a **certificate of achievement**.
- All the honourable mentions will be awarded a **certificate of appreciation**.
- All the participants will be awarded a **certificate of participation**.



Competition Schedule

Preliminary registration deadlines

 Early Bird Registration
AUGUST 10 – SEPTEMBER 15

 Regular Registration
SEPTEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 15

 Last Minute Registration
DECEMBER 16 – JANUARY 05

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



Closing date for questions & answers
JANUARY 10, 2027

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



SINCE 2016
MIND RAIN
COMPETITIONS



Closing date for registration
JANUARY 05, 2027



Closing date for submission
JANUARY 20, 2027 (11:59 p.m. IST)



Announcement of the winners
MARCH 01, 2027

Registration Fees



DETAILS	INDIAN APPLICATIONS (Opting for Monetary awards)		INDIAN APPLICATIONS (NOT Opting for Monetary awards)		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS	
	SOLO	GROUP	SOLO	GROUP	SOLO	GROUP
Early Bird Registration	₹449	₹999	₹275	₹559	\$ 12	\$25
Regular Registration	₹699	₹1,499	₹275	₹559	\$ 18	\$35
Last Minute Registration	₹999	₹1,999	₹375	₹819	\$ 25	\$55

Maximum 3 participants in a group.

NOT Opting for Monetary awards is intended for participants who wish to compete for exposure only.

Late Registrations will be charged higher registration fees; Contact Support Team for Availability.

Discount



*Participate and avail discount **Flat 35%**.*

*The Mind Rain Competition Team welcomes participation from **universities, colleges, and design schools across the world.***

Students can avail exclusive discounts through group registration offers (valid for **30 or more** participants registering from the same institution).

This is a great opportunity for faculty and mentors to encourage students to think creatively and explore imaginative architecture.

To apply for student discounts:

- Email us from your official university e-mail ID
- Include your university name, your role, and number of participants
- Only recognized university representatives (professors/staff) are eligible to request discounted access on behalf of students

Submission Requirement



- Participants are required to **upload up-to six (6) A2 landscape-oriented presentation boards** (In single PDF format; Max. 35MB) with **sketches, renderings, conceptual diagrams, spatial representations, material imaginations, or other creative tools** to express their imaginary house design.
- Although this is a conceptual design competition, entries should present **clear and imaginative spatial logic, visual clarity, and speculative buildability**. Submissions must reflect a deep exploration of the theme, even if the idea defies real-world practicality.
- Each board must be **self-explanatory**, showcasing ideas such as environmental response, user experience, narrative essence, and design innovation.

Up to 6 panels



- No video submissions are permitted.
- All textual information must be in **English**.
- Write your **MIND ID on the lower right corner** (will be provided post registration) with panel number(s).
- **Do not include** any names, logos, or identifiable information of the participant/team on the boards.
- **Category 1** submissions are to be **hand-drafted**, while **Category 2** submissions **can be made digitally**.
- Submission path –
log in to mindrain.org > go to profile > click on participated competitions > click on submission button.
You will be redirected to google form, Enter your MIND ID and Upload PDF file.

Submissions that fail to meet the above requirements will be disqualified without refund.

Recommended Submission Content



1. Site Analysis

Understanding the selected site's **climate, orientation, access, surroundings, and opportunities.**

2. Design Narrative

Concept, ideation, educational philosophy, and the story behind the design.

3. Site Plan

Demonstrating the relationship between the kindergarten, landscape, access, and surrounding context.

4. Floor Plans

Clearly communicating **spatial organization, circulation, learning environments, and play areas.**

5. Elevations & Sections

Showing **scale, spatial relationships, environmental response, and architectural character.**

6. Views / Perspective Drawings

Communicating the **experience of the child** within the proposed environment.

7. Learning & Play Strategy

Demonstrating how architecture supports **curiosity, exploration, interaction, creativity, and play.**

8. Landscape / Environmental Strategy

Showing the relationship between **nature, outdoor learning, climate, light, ventilation, and the built environment.**

Judging Criteria



The submitted entries will be evaluated on the following criteria –

- Originality and creativity
- Understanding of children's needs, behaviour, and scale
- Clarity and quality of concept development
- Spatial quality and architectural experience
- Functionality and flexibility
- Integration of learning, play, exploration, and interaction
- Environmental responsiveness
- Integration of indoor and outdoor spaces
- Graphic presentation quality

Eligibility



The competition is open to all undergraduate design students.

Groups define prize eligibility, while categories define academic year levels.

Group A (Opting for **Monetary awards**) - For Indian Nationals and International Registrations Both

Category 1 - 1st & 2nd year students

Category 2 - 3rd, 4th & 5th year students

Group B (NOT Opting for **Monetary awards**) - Only for Indian Nationals

Category 1 - 1st & 2nd year students

Category 2 - 3rd, 4th & 5th year students

Publicity Campaign

Interview & Feature Film

After participants submit their entries, they will have the opportunity to upload a video link (uploaded on Google Drive OR YouTube) about their project and themselves on our official website mindrain.org till 10th of JANUARY

This video submission is **OPTIONAL** but highly encouraged – especially for winners – to boost exposure, celebrate creativity, and amplify work across media.

Videos will be featured for all selected participants on the competition's **official YouTube channel & Instagram page**.



Videos will be published for winners and honorable mentions on the competition website.

This videos will **NOT** be considered as part of submission.

