

Beta Awards 2024

Guidelines & Regulations for carrying out the Awards

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General information

Beta - Timișoara Architecture Biennial is a cultural project of the **Timiș Territorial Branch** of the **Romanian Order of Architects**¹, organised by a dedicated team. Beta 2024 marks the fifth edition, celebrating ten years of activity.

Beta articulates a series of actions, projects, events and exhibitions around three pillars: **Education**, **Profession**, and **City**; it proposes an architecture of action, defined by the desire to be proactive, to collaborate, to engage in dialogue and to relate.

Beta aims to promote interaction between entities involved in architectural processes before discussing specific interventions; to propose dialogue instead of statements, collaboration instead of isolation and processes instead of individual moves.

Beta holds two main components: the **Curatorial Exhibition** and the **Beta Awards**.

The Curatorial Exhibition

The theme for each edition is strongly reflected in the curatorial exhibition, which represents the result of an in-depth research that explores a subject relevant to the relationship between architecture, city and society.

The curatorial approach of each edition aims to set a discourse connected to relevant international themes, interpreting them through and for the uniqueness of the local and hyperlocal context. For more information about the current edition's theme - *cover me softly*, with the Main Exhibition curated by Oana Stănescu, visit the website <https://betacity.eu/>.

The Beta Awards

The Beta Awards 2024 is the event that rewards the **Profession** pillar, supporting and promoting good architectural practice and the professionals dedicated to improving the built environment; it is developed as a networking interface within the profession and between the profession and the socio-cultural environment where it operates.

The Beta Awards will happen between **April 30th and October 19th 2024** and will have an euro-regional character, opening towards **Romania, Serbia, and Hungary**.

The openness of the competition is based on the context similarities among these three neighbouring countries, encouraging large scale participation and thus contributing to the development of a multilateral dialogue about the future of the profession.

The competition is carried out through the betacity.eu platform accessible in Romanian and English that contains all the necessary materials for registration for each section.

¹ The Timiș Territorial Branch of the Romanian Order of Architects aims to communicate to society that architecture is an act of culture of public interest, with urban, economic, social and ecological implications. The objectives of the Branch are to promote quality architecture in all its forms and manifestations, to create and support an environment of interaction between the professional body, the administration, civil society and various stakeholders, to adapt architectural education to the trends of the socio-economic and cultural environment, and to promote the Euroregional cultural identity in the national and international context;

Calendar

1. Questions: June 7 - 14, 2024
2. Submissions open: June 12, 2024
3. Answers: June 18, 2024
4. **Project submissions deadline: July 19, 2024 - 16:00***
5. Preliminary results. Publishing of the submitted projects: July 24, 2024
6. Appeals submission: July 25 - 30, 2024
7. Publishing of the selected projects: August 6, 2024
8. **Beta Awards Exhibition Opening: September 11, 2024**
9. **Beta Curatorial Exhibition Opening: September 13, 2024**
10. Closing date for Texts. Phase II: September 30, 2024
11. Physical/online project presentations: October 17 - 18, 2024
12. Jury conferences: October 18 - 19, 2024
13. **Beta Awards Gala: October 19, 2024**

*For Text section phase I, only the abstract will be submitted.



Categories

All submissions will be done entirely through our website forms available at betacity.eu.

Participants will submit their work in the following sections:

- 1. Built space**
 - 1.1. Residential
 - S
 - M
 - L
 - 1.2. Non-residential
 - New
 - Interventions on existing buildings
- 2. Interior space**
 - 2.1. Interior Design
 - 2.2. Temporary Design
- 3. Public space**
 - 3.1. Urban design
 - 3.2. Urban studies
 - 3.3. Temporary installations/art in public space
- 4. Graduation projects**
- 5. Endeavours**
- 6. Text**
- 7. Photography**

General terms & conditions

Works² that fall into the seven sections and that meet the following conditions are eligible:

- For sections: **Built Space, Interior Space, Public Space, Graduation Projects and Endeavours** - works completed between July 2022 and July 2024 may be entered, either completed in Romania, Hungary and Serbia or belonging to authors/collectives who have a permanent residence or have completed their studies at a university in one of the three countries;
- For the **Text** section, writings may be submitted by an individual author who has their permanent residence in Romania, Hungary or Serbia or has completed their studies at a specialised university in one of the three countries. Texts submitted in this section will address the biennial general theme - *cover me softly*;
- For the **Photography** section, a series of four photographs may be submitted by an individual author who is a permanent resident of Romania, Hungary or Serbia or has completed their studies at a specialised university in one of the three countries and will respond to the biennial general theme - *cover me softly*.

The same project cannot be submitted into multiple sections, except for works where different intervention areas can be defined, belonging to different authors (for example: an individual residence entered in **Built space **cannot** be entered in **Interior space** if both were created by the same author/collective). If a work is submitted into multiple sections, the decision regarding its classification (keeping it in all the submitted sections OR excluding it from some of them) belongs to the organisers/jury.*

By entering the competition, the participant implicitly declares that he/she is the copyright holder of the projects and assumes all legal consequences if it is found out that he/she does not hold the intellectual rights to all the materials submitted. Furthermore, if it is found out within one year of the reward of a prize that the holder of the prize does not own the copyright to the winning work, the prize money will be returned to the organiser.

The copyright of the materials entered in the competition belongs to their authors, who expressly agree that the organisers of the competition may store, publish, and distribute the materials entered in the competition, as well as the information concerning their authors, without any restriction of substance or form, both within the biennial and during future events or demonstrations, to support and promote the work, the author and the creative act.

In order to be included in the Beta Awards 2024, all entries must comply with the terms & conditions mentioned in the chapter for each category. The organisers have the right to disqualify any entries that do not comply.

All the submitted texts must be written bilingually (in English and in the applicant's native language: Romanian-English, Hungarian-English, Serbian-English).

The competition organisers take no responsibility whatsoever if third parties download/use material from the competition website or other sources.

² by works we mean projects (realised or speculative) / texts / photographs



Jury members and their associates, employees, or first-degree relatives may enter the competition only within sections they are not jurying.

Members of the Beta Team (the team that drafted these Guidelines & Regulations and organises the Beta Awards 2024), members of the secretary and members of the appeals committee may not enter the competition (see Organisers chapter).

The competition organisers reserve their rights to make changes to these Regulations if necessary (particularly to clarify certain aspects) and will announce any changes in the News section of the website (betacity.eu).

Built space

In the **Built Space** section we are seeking outstanding individual/collective (*housing, restoration, extension, intervention on existing buildings, commercial, industrial, service, institutional or cultural*) projects completed in the last two years (July 2022 - July 2024).

This section will be divided into three subsections, as follows:

1. Residential

In this subsection, newly built (finalised between July 2022 and July 2024) single-family or collective housing projects are eligible, according to the following surfaces:

S - buildings with a usable area of **up to 500 sqm**;

M - buildings with a usable area **between 500 sqm and 1500 sqm**;

L - buildings with a usable area **over 1500 sqm**.

2. Non-residential

Non-residential projects can be submitted in this section, according to the following criteria:

- **New** - new buildings completed between July 2022 and July 2024 within commercial³, services⁴, institutional⁵, cultural⁶ or industrial programmes;
- **Interventions on existing buildings** - restoration projects, extensions or interventions⁷ with or without heritage value within commercial³, services⁴, institutional⁵, cultural⁶ or industrial programmes.

Terms & conditions

This section is open to architects and conductor architects who have the right to practise their profession according to the legislation in place in the country where they practise their profession, as well as to the collectives coordinated by them;

Works are eligible either from **Romania, Hungary, and Serbia** or from authors who have a permanent residence or who have completed their studies at a university in one of the three countries. By entering the competition, the participant will declare on his/her responsibility that the work is located in Romania, Hungary, or Serbia, that he/she has a permanent residence in Romania, Hungary, or Serbia, or that he/she has completed his/her studies at a specialised University in one of the three countries. In case of doubt, or if the author will receive a prize in the competition, the organiser will request proof of residence/studies completed. Also, if found out within one year after the award of a prize that the winner does not comply with the conditions set out in these regulations, the prize money will be refunded to the organiser.

³ commercial buildings / offices / mixed functions / industrial;

⁴ hotels, restaurants, bars, clubs, wellness/recreation buildings;

⁵ public institutions or institutions of public interest belonging to the following fields: socio-cultural (education / health / social assistance / sport and youth), national defence (military units / specialised educational units), public order (police units / fire brigade units), public authority (central public administration institutions / local institutions (town halls, prefectures, judicial institutions), tourism (tourist information centres / tourism institutions), other fields (environmental protection institutions, water management institutions, specialised research institutions);

⁶ libraries, museums, theatres, cinemas, churches;

⁷ restoration, rehabilitation, extension.

Project Submission

All registrations will be done through an online form on our website.

The following will be required:

- the exhibition panel;
- content for promoting the author/collective and the project;
- filling in the online application form - [see application guide](#).

Exhibition panel

The exhibition panel will be completed following the layout provided by the organisers on the [website](#). For the Built space, Interior space, Public space, Graduation projects, and Endeavours, the layout is identical and will be named **Layout_01**. Failure to comply with the layout will result in disqualification.

To simplify the application process, the exhibition panel will be automatically generated based on the information submitted in the application form.

The exhibition panel will contain the following visual content:

- site plan;
- floor plans with notes;
- sections;
- images (photographs of the work, photographs of the model, etc.)
**Photo-realistic representations or collages of the project will not be accepted instead of photographs.*
- optional: facades, details, isometries, perspectives, concept sketches, analysis etc.

The exhibition panel will be uploaded to the online application form with the following specifications:

- format .jpeg, .jpg, .png;
- the panel will have the same dimensions as the provided layout;
- 300 dpi preferred resolution (minimum 150 dpi);
- 20 MB maximum file size.

The exhibition panels will be printed by us and displayed in the Awards Exhibition.

While preparing the exhibition board, participants will ensure that they provide all the information necessary to understand the work as a whole, thus facilitating the jurying process.

Particularities of the project not present on the panels or specifically requested by the organisers will not be considered.

Content for promoting the author/collective and the project

In order to promote and publish the authors/collectives and their works on our as well as our partner's networks, we request the following materials:

- bilingual text (in English and in the applicant's native language - RO/HU/SRB) describing the author/studio/collective (maximum 1500 characters including spaces; will be filled in the online application form).
- one photo of the author/studio/collective that will be displayed on the website and on other promotional material (.jpeg/ .jpg/ .png format; 440 x 440 px, 72 dpi resolution, file size: maximum 1.5 MB).
- 3 - 10 documents (.jpeg, .jpg, .png format, size: minimum height 960 px, resolution: 72 dpi, file size: maximum 1.5 MB for each image).
Images can be either **landscape or portrait; we recommend using mainly **landscape**. These images will be used to present the project on the website, for public display and for jurying.*
**To control the order in which the images are displayed on the website, we recommend that you number the names of the pictures as follows (the first one being the cover):
01.picture.jpeg, 02.picture.jpeg, 03.picture.jpeg etc.*
- bilingual short text describing the work (in English and in the applicant's native language - RO/HU/SRB; maximum 2500 characters including spaces) that will be uploaded on the website via the application form.

We recommend preparing all materials and texts in a separate document before starting the registration in order to avoid errors or the form getting blocked during registration.

If you encounter problems with the application procedure, you can ask the organiser for assistance using the contact details: e-mail awards@betacity.eu / tel. +40 724 583 737.

For more details regarding the competition phases and the jurying process, see the Jury chapter.

Interior space

For the Interior space section we are seeking outstanding (residential, commercial, services, institutional, cultural, industrial, temporary, lighting, exhibition) indoor projects completed within the last two years (July 2022 - July 2024).

This category will be divided into two subsections, as follows:

1. Interior design

In this subsection, permanent interior design projects (residential buildings, commercial⁸, services⁹, institutional¹⁰, cultural¹¹, industrial) are eligible.

2. Temporary design

In this subsection temporary (ongoing or already dismantled) interior lighting installations, scenography (performance spaces), exhibitions, interior architectural installations are eligible.

Terms & conditions

This section is open to professionals in the fields of architecture, interior design, design, furniture, decorative arts, scenography, lighting, with diplomas or certificates recognised in their countries of origin and by the relevant professional organisations, who have the right to practise in accordance with the legislation in force in the country in which they practise their profession, as well as the groups they coordinate.

Works are eligible either from **Romania, Hungary, and Serbia** or from authors who have a permanent residence or who have completed their studies at a university in one of the three countries. By entering the competition, the participant will declare on his/her responsibility that the work is located in Romania, Hungary, or Serbia, that he/she has a permanent residence in Romania, Hungary, or Serbia, or that he/she has completed his/her studies at a specialised University in one of the three countries. In case of doubt, or if the author will receive a prize in the competition, the organiser will request proof of residence/studies completed. Also, if it is found out within one year after the award of a prize that the winner does not comply with the conditions set out in these regulations, the prize money will be refunded to the organiser.

Project submission

All registrations will be done through an online form on our website.

The following will be required:

- the exhibition panel;
- content for promoting the author/collective and the project;

⁸commercial / office / mixed use / industrial buildings;

⁹hotels, restaurants, bars, clubs, wellness/leisure buildings;

¹⁰public institutions or institutions of public interest belonging to the following areas: socio-cultural (education / health / social assistance / sport and youth), national defence (military units / specialised educational units), public order (police units / fire brigade units), public authority (central public administration institutions / local institutions (town halls, prefectures, judicial institutions), tourism (tourist information centres / tourism institutions), other areas (environmental protection institutions, water management, specialised research institutions);

¹¹libraries, museums, theatres, cinemas, churches;

- filling in the online application form - [see application guide](#).

Exhibition panel

The exhibition panel will be completed according to a layout provided by the organisers on the [website](#). For the categories Built space, Interior space, Public space, Graduation projects, and Endeavours, the layout is identical, and will be named **Layout_01**. Failure to comply with the layout will result in disqualification of the paper by the organisers.

To simplify the application process, the exhibition panel will be automatically generated based on the information entered in the application form.

The exhibition panel will contain the following visual pieces:

- site plan *optional - if necessary;
- floor plan/s with legends;
- sections;
- images (photographs, details, models etc.)
Photo-realistic representations or collages of the project will not be accepted instead of photographs.
- optional: facades, details, isometries, perspectives, concept sketches, analysis etc.

The exhibition panel will be uploaded to the online application form with the following specifications:

- format .jpeg, .jpg, .png;
- dimension 1:1 with the one from the layout;
- resolution 300 dpi preferably, minimum 150 dpi;
- file size: maximum 20MB.

The exhibition panels will be printed by us and displayed in the Awards Exhibition.

While preparing the exhibition board, participants will ensure that they provide all the information necessary to understand the work as a whole, thus facilitating the jurying process.

Particularities of the project not present on the panels or specifically requested by the organisers will not be considered.

Content for promoting the author/collective and the project

In order to promote and publish the authors/collectives and their works on our as well as our partner's networks, we request the following materials:

- bilingual text (in English and in the applicant's mother tongue - RO/HU/SRB) presenting the author/blog/collective, maximum 1500 characters including spaces/language variation, to be filled in the online application form.
- a photo of the author/blog/collective, format: .jpeg, .jpg, .png, minimum size 440 x 440 px - the photo will be displayed on the website and related materials in **square format**, resolution: 72 dpi, file size: maximum 1.5 MB.
- 3 - 10 documents (.jpeg/.jpg/.png format, size: minimum height 960 px, resolution: 72 dpi, file size: maximum 1.5 MB/image).

Images can be either **landscape or portrait; we recommend using mainly **landscape**. These images will be used to present the project on the website, for exhibiting and jurying.*
**To control the order in which the images are displayed on the website, we recommend that you number the names of the pictures as follows (the first picture being the project cover):*
01.picture.jpeg, 02.picture.jpeg, 03.picture.jpeg etc.

- bilingual short text describing the work (in English and in the applicant's native language - RO/HU/SRB), maximum 2500 characters including spaces). This will be uploaded on the website via the application form.

We recommend preparing all materials and texts in a separate document before starting the registration in order to avoid errors or the form getting blocked during registration.

If you encounter problems with the application procedure, you can ask the organiser for assistance using the contact details: e-mail awards@betacity.eu / tel. +40 724 583 737.

For more details on the competition stages and the judging process, see the Judging chapter.

Public space

In the Public space section we are seeking outstanding urban design projects, urban studies or temporary installations in the public space.

This section will be divided into three subsections, as follows:

1. Urban design

This subsection is open to urban and landscape developments, restructuring of urban/rural areas, squares, pedestrian areas, parks, accessibility works, technological infrastructure, transport networks (including depots and garages), road networks (streets and road profiles, bridges, road passages, footbridges). This section is open for works completed between **July 2022 and July 2024**.

2. Urban studies

We accept submissions of urban strategies, masterplans, general urban plans, territorial planning, urban revitalizations, urban strategies **completed or under implementation/approval from July 2022 to July 2024**.

3. Temporary installations/art in public space

This subsection is open to projects of tactical urban planning, temporary urban installations, pavilions, works of art in public spaces in the field of fine arts, visual arts, decorative arts, lighting installations in public spaces.

Terms & conditions

The **Urban design and Urban studies** subsections are open to architects, architectural, urban planning or landscape architects, representatives of the public administration who have the right to practise in accordance with the legislation in force in the country in which they practise their profession, as well as collectives coordinated by them;

In **Temporary installations / art in public space** works by architects, designers, artists, public administration, civil societies can be submitted.

Works are eligible either from **Romania, Hungary, and Serbia** or from authors who have a permanent residence or who have completed their studies at a university in one of the three countries. By entering the competition, the participant will declare on his/her responsibility that the work is located in Romania, Hungary, or Serbia, that he/she has a permanent residence in Romania, Hungary, or Serbia, or that he/she has completed his/her studies at a specialised University in one of the three countries. In case of doubt, or if the author will receive a prize in the competition, the organiser will request proof of residence/studies completed. Also, if it is found out within one year after the award of a prize that the winner does not comply with the conditions set out in these regulations, the prize money will be refunded to the organiser.

Project submission

All registrations will be done through an online form on our website.

The following will be required:

- the exhibition panel;
- content for promoting the author/collective and the project;
- filling in the online application form - [see application guide](#).

Exhibition panel

The exhibition panel will be completed according to a layout provided by the organisers on the [website](#). For the categories Built space, Interior space, Public space, Graduation projects, and Endeavours, the layout is identical, and will be named **Layout_01**.

Failure to comply with the layout will result in disqualification.

To simplify the application process, the exhibition panel will be automatically generated based on the information submitted in the application form.

The exhibition panel will contain the following visual pieces:

- site plan;
- floor plans with notes - if necessary;
- sections optional- if necessary;
- images (photographs of the work, photographs of the model, etc.)
For the subcategories **Urban design and **Temporary installations/Art in public space**, photo-realistic representations or collages of the project will not be accepted instead of photographs.*
- optional: facades, details, isometries, perspectives, conceptual sketches, analysis etc.

The exhibition panel will be uploaded to the online application form with the following specifications:

- format .jpeg, .jpg, .png;
- dimension 1:1 with the one from the layout;
- resolution 300 dpi preferably, minimum 150 dpi;
- file size: maximum 20MB.

The exhibition panels will be printed by us and displayed in the Awards Exhibition.

While preparing the exhibition board, participants will ensure that they provide all the information necessary to understand the work as a whole, thus facilitating the jurying process.

Particularities of the project not present on the panels or specifically requested by the organisers will not be considered.

Content for promoting the author/collective and the project

In order to promote and publish the authors/collectives and their works on our as well as our partner's networks, we request the following materials:

- bilingual text (in English and in the applicant's mother tongue - RO/HU/SRB) presenting the author/blog/collective, maximum 1500 characters including spaces/language variation, to be filled in the online application form.
- a photo of the author/blog/collective, format: .jpeg, .jpg, .png, minimum size 440 x 440 px - the photo will be displayed on the website and related materials in **square format**, resolution: 72 dpi, file size: maximum 1.5 MB.
- 3 - 10 documents (.jpeg/.jpg/.png format, size: minimum height 960 px, resolution: 72 dpi, file size: maximum 1.5 MB/image).
Images can be either **landscape or portrait; we recommend using mainly **landscape**. These images will be used to present the project on the website, for exhibiting and jurying.*
**To control the order in which the images are displayed on the website, we recommend that you number the names of the pictures as follows (the first picture being the project cover): 01.picture.jpeg, 02.picture.jpeg, 03.picture.jpeg etc.*
- bilingual short text describing the work (in English and in the applicant's native language - RO/HU/SRB), maximum 2500 characters including spaces). This will be uploaded on the website via the application form.

Registration will be made through an online form on the website (betacity.eu). We recommend preparing all materials and texts in a separate document before starting the registration in order to avoid errors or the form getting blocked during registration.

Please consult the [application guide](#) to make your application process easier.

If you encounter problems with the application procedure, you can ask the organiser for assistance using the contact details: e-mail awards@betacity.eu / tel. +40 724 583 737.

For more details on the competition stages and the judging process, see the Judging chapter.

Graduation projects

In this category we are looking for graduation projects in the field of architecture, urban planning, landscape design, interior design or restoration, completed between July 2022 and July 2024.

Terms & conditions

Graduates of higher education institutions, universities/faculties/departments of architecture, urban planning, interior design or arts are eligible for this category (provided that the bachelor or master thesis is related to the built or urban environment).

This section is open for students/recent graduates of higher education institutions in **Romania, Hungary, Serbia**. The participant will declare on his/her own responsibility that the work was guided in a higher education institution located in Romania, Hungary, Serbia. In case of doubt, or if the author will receive a prize in the competition, the organiser will request proof of residence/studies completed. Also, if it is proved within one year after the award that the winner does not comply with the conditions set out in these regulations, the prize money will be refunded to the organiser.

Project submission

The applications will be made on the website.

The following will be required:

- the exhibition panel;
- content for promoting the author/collective and the project;
- filling in the online application form - [see application guide](#).

Exhibition panel

The exhibition panel will be completed according to a layout provided by the organisers on the [website](#). For the categories Built space, Interior space, Public space, Graduation projects, and Endeavours, the layout is identical, and will be named **Layout_01**. Failure to comply with the layout will result in disqualification.

To simplify the application process, the panel will be automatically generated based on the information entered in the application form.

The exhibition panel will contain the following visuals:

- the site plan for architectural, urban planning, landscape and restoration projects is compulsory, for interior design projects it is optional;
- level plans with legends, if applicable;
- characteristic sections;
- images (photographs or views of the work, photographs of the model, etc.)
- optional: facades, details, isometries, perspectives, conceptual sketches, collages, analysis etc.

The exhibition panel will be uploaded to the online application form with the following specifications:

- format .jpeg, .jpg, .png;
- dimension 1:1 with the one from the layout;
- resolution 300 dpi preferably, minimum 150 dpi;
- file size: maximum 20MB.

The exhibition panels will be printed by us and displayed in the Awards Exhibition.

While preparing the exhibition board, participants will ensure that they provide all the information necessary to understand the work as a whole, thus facilitating the jurying process. Particularities of the project not present on the panels or specifically requested by the organisers will not be considered.

Content for promoting the author/collective and the project

In order to promote and publish the authors/collectives and their works on our as well as our partner's networks, we request the following materials:

- bilingual text (in English and in the applicant's mother tongue - RO/HU/SRB) presenting the author/collective, maximum 1500 characters including spaces/language variation, to be filled in the online application form.
- a photo of the author/collective, format: .jpeg, .jpg, .png, minimum size 440 x 440 px - the photo will be displayed on the website and related materials in **square format**, resolution: 72 dpi, file size: maximum 1.5 MB.
- 3 - 10 documents (.jpeg/.jpg/.png format, size: minimum height 960 px, resolution: 72 dpi, file size: maximum 1.5 MB/image).
Images can be either **landscape or portrait; we recommend using mainly **landscape**. These images will be used to present the project on the website, for exhibiting and jurying.*
**To control the order in which the images are displayed on the website, we recommend that you number the names of the pictures as follows (the first picture being the project cover): 01.picture.jpeg, 02.picture.jpeg, 03.picture.jpeg etc.*
- bilingual short text describing the work (in English and in the applicant's native language - RO/HU/SRB), maximum 2500 characters including spaces). This will be uploaded on the website via the application form.

We recommend preparing all materials and texts in a separate document before starting the registration in order to avoid errors or the form getting blocked during registration.

If you encounter problems with the application procedure, you can ask the organiser for assistance using the contact details: e-mail awards@betacity.eu / tel. +40 724 583 737.

For more details on the competition stages and the judging process, see the Judging chapter.

Endeavours

In the Endeavours category we want to promote visions, initiatives and experiments in architecture and related fields that, through their activities, contribute to the quality and understanding of the object/practice of architecture.

Projects realised or speculative from July 2022 to July 2024 can be entered (projects started before July 2022 but which are still in the process of implementation can also be entered), among which cultural projects/architecture education/participatory initiatives/public policies/new materials/material studies/object design/guided tours/summer schools/creative workshops/research projects.

Terms & conditions

This section is open to projects that are carried out or initiated by professional organisations¹², government¹³ or civil societies¹⁴.

It is not possible to submit commissioned and unrealised works or architecture, design or public space created for the purpose of participating in other competitions (for example: a non-winning European project cannot be submitted as an initiative for Beta Awards).

Submissions can be made by authors who are based in **Romania, Hungary, Serbia** or who are permanent residents or have completed their studies at a university in one of the three countries. The participant will declare on his/her own responsibility that the work is located in Romania, Hungary, Serbia, that he/she has a permanent residence in Romania, Hungary, Serbia or that he/she has completed his/her studies at a specialised University in one of the three countries. In case of doubt, or if the author will receive a prize in the competition, the organiser will request proof of residence/studies completed. Also, if it is found, within one year of the award of a prize, that the holder of the prize does not comply with the conditions set out in the rules, the prize money will be returned to the organiser.

Project submission

The applications will be made on the website.

The following will be required:

- the exhibition panel;
- content for promoting the author/collective and the project;

¹² by professional body we are referring to a range of professions responsible for the design, construction and proper maintenance of the built environment: architects, urban planners, landscape architects, engineers (structural, plumbing, electrical, traffic, etc.), restorers, builders, including IT specialists, who are entitled to practise in accordance with the legislation in force in the country in which they exercise their profession;

¹³ by administration we mean all those members of the community, employed by the state, who are responsible for managing the present and future built environment;

¹⁴ by civil society we mean members of the society who do not belong to either the professional or the administrative body and who influence and are influenced on a daily basis by the built environment (non-political associative forms constituted according to the legislation in force in their country of origin, which intervene with decision-makers, with the institutions of the state based on the rule of law in order to influence them, in order to defend the rights and interests of groups of citizens they represent).

- filling in the online application form - [see application guide](#).

The exhibition panel

The exhibition panel will be completed according to a layout provided by the organisers on the [website](#). For the categories Built space, Interior space, Public space, Graduation projects, and Endeavours, the layout is identical, and will be named **Layout_01**.

Failure to comply with the layout will result in disqualification.

To simplify the application process, the exhibition panel will be automatically generated based on the information submitted in the application form.

The exhibition panel will contain the following items:

- site plan *if applicable;
- floor plans with labels *if necessary;
- photographs of the work, during the events, of the results of the project;
- any other diagrams, analysis pieces, or specific details needed to understand the project.

The exhibition panel will be attached to the online application form with the following mentions:

- .jpeg, .jpg, .png format;
- size 1:1 with the provided layout;
- 300 dpi preferred resolution (no less than 150 dpi);
- no more than 20MB file size.

The exhibition panels will be printed by the organisers and displayed in the Awards Exhibition.

While preparing the exhibition board, participants will ensure that they provide all the information necessary to understand the work as a whole, thus facilitating the jurying process.

Particularities of the project not present on the panels or specifically requested by the organisers will not be considered.

Content for promoting the author/collective and the project

In order to promote and publish the authors/collectives and their works on our as well as our partner's networks, we request the following materials:

- bilingual text (in English and in the applicant's mother tongue - RO/HU/SRB) presenting the author/studio/collective, maximum 1500 characters including spaces/language variation, to be filled in the online application form.
- a photo of the author/studio/collective, format: .jpeg, .jpg, .png, minimum size 440 x 440 px - the photo will be displayed on the website and related materials in **square format**, resolution: 72 dpi, file size: maximum 1.5 MB.
- 3 - 10 documents (.jpeg/.jpg/.png format, size: minimum height 960 px, resolution: 72 dpi, file size: maximum 1.5 MB/image).

Images can be either **landscape or portrait; we recommend using mainly **landscape**.*

These images will be used to present the project on the website, for exhibiting and jurying.

**To control the order in which the images are displayed on the website, we recommend that you number the names of the pictures as follows (the first picture being the project cover):*

01.picture.jpeg, 02.picture.jpeg, 03.picture.jpeg etc.

- bilingual short text describing the work (in English and in the applicant's native language - RO/HU/SRB), maximum 2500 characters including spaces). This will be uploaded on the website via the application form.

We recommend preparing all materials and texts in a separate document before starting the registration to avoid errors or the form getting blocked during registration.

If participants have any problems during the registration process, they can ask for assistance using the following contact details: e-mail awards@betacity.eu / tel. +40 724 583 737.

For more information about the competition phases and the jurying process, consult the Jury chapter.

Text

In the Text category we are seeking works that question, critically analyse, document or investigate, starting from this year's biennial theme *cover me softly*.

This year's theme is based on the idea of cover and questions the concept of originality. A cover is a musical interpretation based on an existing recording. Cover also means shelter. To protect or hide. To conceal or disguise, to extend in time or space. To run for cover, to cover oneself. At best, a cover is an authentic piece based on a previous authentic work. A unique form of dialogue, ranging from homage to parody, from interpretation to allusion, from imitation to transformation. The more you think about it, the harder it is to define: there are no set rules, no instructions, but many unique exceptions. The theme questions creative processes and originality, what is the boundary between a copy and an original product when you start from an existing one.

We invite you to see the "cover" not only as a replica or a reinterpretation, but also as a gesture of protection, concealment or connectivity, a theme that opens new horizons for understanding contemporary cultural dynamics. We encourage you to reflect on the meaning of the act of 'covering' in different artistic, spatial and cultural contexts, exploring complex notions such as authenticity, originality and the creative process.

The exhibition "cover me softly" will be structured around the following five broad themes: *shelter - literally cover, transformation (reuse), repeat adapt process, identity (masking; rendition), labor / mimic*.

We invite you to interpret these themes in your writings, to look for examples to analyse through these perspectives, to critically observe them.

Terms & conditions

This category is open to anyone interested in theoretical, critical, documentary discourse, regardless of their field of work. In this category only individual writings are allowed.

No submissions written using AI tools such as ChatGPT are allowed.

The use of digital tools such as Grammarly for correcting grammatical errors or for translating work from the native language such as DeepL or Google Translate is acceptable.

Submissions may be received from authors who have a permanent residence or who have completed their studies / are enrolled at a university in **Romania, Hungary or Serbia**. The participant must declare on his/her own behalf that he/she has a permanent residence in Romania, Hungary or Serbia or that he/she has completed his/her studies at a specialised university in one of the three countries. In case of doubt, or if the author will receive a prize in the competition, the organiser will ask for proof of residence/studies completed. Also, if it is proved within one year after the award of a prize that the holder does not comply with the conditions set out in the rules, the prize money will be returned to the organiser.

Text submissions

Registrations will be done through an online form on our website.

For the Text category, the competition will consist of two phases (see the Awards Calendar).

Phase I - pre-qualification based on abstracts

Registration will require:

- abstract;
- content for promoting the text and the author.

The abstract

The abstract must be filled in according to a layout, provided by the organisers on the website, under the name **Layout_03_TEXT**, which can be downloaded from the Application Guide section (betacity.eu) Failure to follow the layout will result in the paper being disqualified by the organisers.

It is mandatory for all participants to use the presentation layout specific to the Text section.

The abstract will be uploaded on the website through the specific form as a PDF document and will comply with the following:

- will be up to 2500 characters with spaces - please keep the text formatting in the layout;
- contain an illustrative image of the work;
- contain the name of the author and the title of the work;
- the text must be written in English;
- use the "Oxford" citation system - reference to the source with footnote option (the rules of this citation system can be found [here](#)).

Content for promoting the author/collective and the project

In order to promote and publish the authors/collectives and their works on our as well as our partner's networks, we request the following materials:

- bilingual (English and in the applicant's native language - RO/HU/SRB) text of **maximum 1500 characters including spaces** - to be filled in the online application form.
- author photo (format: .jpeg, .jpg, .png, minimum size 440 x 440 px) - the photo will be displayed on the website and in related materials in square format, resolution: 72 dpi, file size: maximum 1.5 MB.
- one representative image for your text with source (.jpeg/ .jpg/ .png format, size: minimum height 960 px, resolution: 72 dpi, file size: maximum 1.5 MB).
The image can be either landscape or portrait; we recommend landscape.

We recommend preparing all materials and texts in a separate document before starting the registration to avoid errors or the form getting blocked during registration.

If participants have any problems during the registration process, they can ask for assistance using the following contact details: e-mail awards@betacity.eu / tel. +40 724 583 737.

For more information about the competition phases and the jurying process, consult the Jury chapter.

Phase II - after abstracts selection

*Only authors selected by the jury in the first phase of the competition are eligible to participate in this phase.

The results of the first phase of jurying will be sent to the email address of each selected participant.

The submission of the text will be done on the betacity.eu website using the registration form provided. The following documents are required:

- the text;
- other documents.

The text

The text will be written according to the layout of the first stage called **Layout 03_TEXT**, which will be downloaded from the betacity.eu website. It is mandatory for all participants to use the layout specific to the Text category. Failure to comply with the layout will lead to disqualification of the entry by the organisers.

The text will be sent to the organiser's email address both as a PDF and editable Word document named according to the template NAME_TEXT II with a maximum size of 5MB and will comply with the following:

- the first page will contain the name of the author, the title of the text (which can be the same as the abstract or it can be different, but we recommend keeping the title);
- the body of the text should be 20,000 characters with spaces (approximately 3,000 words) - please keep the text formatting in the layout;
- the text must be written in English;
- the text may be accompanied by images (illustrations, diagrams, photographs); each image will have the source indicated; all copyright of the images will be managed by the participants.
- the "Oxford" citation system will be used - reference to the source with footnote option (the rules of this citation system can be found [here](#)).

We recommend preparing all materials and texts in a separate document before starting the registration to avoid errors or the form getting blocked during registration.

If participants have any problems during the registration process, they can ask for assistance using the following contact details: e-mail awards@betacity.eu / tel. +40 724 583 737.

For more information about the competition phases and the jurying process, consult the Jury chapter.

Photography

In this category we are seeking photographic essays that address through critical observation the theme of this year's biennial *cover me softly*.

In the 3 editions held between 2015-2017, the Octavian Radu Topai Award (PORT) aimed to pay homage to the young architect and to question aspects of modern and contemporary Romanian architecture. Octavian Radu Topai was a young architect and photographer who died in 2014 in a tragic mountain accident. In 2020, the Photography section was introduced in his memory.

Starting now, this section dedicated to architectural photography is open to Romania, Hungary and Serbia.

This year's theme is based on the idea of the cover, questioning the concept of originality, but also the polyvalence of the word cover - from musical reinterpretation to the idea of covering, hiding, protecting. This spills over into how a photograph comes to express its own vision of the subject, how coverage is captured in everyday life or in a particular instance, in an object, in a spatial suite or even in the way people populate a space. We want the subject matter to be interpreted through the lens of photography in a way that is as free and diverse as possible.

Terms & Conditions

This section is open to anyone with an interest in photography, regardless of their field of work.

Entries may be submitted by authors who are permanent residents or who have completed their studies at a university in **Romania, Hungary or Serbia**. The participant must declare on his/her own behalf that he/she has a permanent residence in Romania, Hungary or Serbia or that he/she has completed his/her studies at a specialised university in one of the three countries. In case of doubt, or if the author will receive a prize in the competition, the organiser will ask for proof of residence/studies completed. Also, if it is found, within one year of the award of a prize, that the holder of the prize does not comply with the conditions set out in the rules, the prize money will be returned to the organiser.

Only photographic essays consisting of four photographs and exploring the theme of this year's biennial will be accepted.

Project submission

The applications will be made on the website.

The following will be required:

- the exhibition panel;
- content for promoting the author and the project;
- filling in the online application form - [see application guide](#).

The exhibition panel

The exhibition panel will be created following a layout provided on betacity.eu/.

The exhibition panel will be completed according to a layout, provided by the organisers on betacity.eu/, called **Layout_02_PHOTOGRAPHY**. Failure to comply with the layout will result in the work being disqualified by the organisers. The panel will contain a series of four photographs.

Content for promoting the author/collective and the project

In order to promote and publish the authors/collectives and their works on our as well as our partner's networks, we request the following materials:

- bilingual (English and in the applicant's native language - RO/HU/SRB) text of **maximum 1500 characters including spaces** - to be filled in the online application form.
- author photo (format: .jpeg, .jpg, .png, minimum size 440 x 440 px) - the photo will be displayed on the website and in related materials in square format, resolution: 72 dpi, file size: maximum 1.5 MB.
- the 4 photographs in the exhibition panel (.jpeg, .jpg, .png format, size: minimum height 960 px, for good image quality on HD monitors, resolution: 72 dpi, file size: maximum 1.5 MB/image). Images can be either landscape or portrait; we recommend 1a - these images will be used on our website, for viewing and jury.
In order to control the sequence in which the images are displayed on our website, we recommend naming pictures as follows (first one being the cover photo): 01.picture.jpeg, 02.picture.jpeg, 03.picture.jpeg
- short bilingual text describing the work (English and in the applicant's native language - RO/HU/SRB) - maximum 2500 characters with spaces/language variation). This will be uploaded on the website via the application form.

We recommend preparing all materials and texts in a separate document before starting the registration to avoid errors or the form getting blocked during registration.

If participants have any problems during the registration process, they can ask for assistance using the following contact details: e-mail awards@betacity.eu / tel. +40 724 583 737.

For more information about the competition phases and the jurying process, consult the Jury chapter.

Appeals

Submitting appeals

Applicants may only submit appeals regarding the preliminary analysis.

The preliminary analysis concerns the competition secretary's management of the materials entered (checking attachments, registering errors, drawing up a report, publishing the report on the competition website).

Please refer to the Calendar for the deadline for submitting an appeal.

Appeals concerning the preliminary analysis by the competition secretary's office should be submitted online to awards@betacity.eu.

Appeals should be submitted in the form of an A4 PDF document, which can be written in English or Romanian.

In addition to the reason for submitting the appeal, the name of the contestant must be specified in the appeal form.

Resolution of appeals

Appeals submitted within the timeline specified by the organisers (see Awards Calendar) will be examined by a committee of three members.

The final results of the appeals will be published on the competition website in the News section on the date set in the calendar (Awards Calendar).

For the composition of the secretary's office and the appeals committee, please refer to the section on the organiser.

Jury

Submissions will be judged by 3 jury teams, distributed according to the 7 competition categories.

The composition of the juries has been determined by the Beta 2024 Awards organising team, taking into account professional orientation and experience in the fields listed by category.

The jury process

The jurying process will be carried out with the participation of all full members for each of the 3 juries.

The timetable for the deliberations and the evaluation criterias will be determined by each jury.

Each jury will elect a chairman from among its members and will evaluate the entries according to agreed criteria and methodology.

Each jury will be assisted throughout the judging process by a non-voting secretary who will ensure the smooth running of the deliberations.

At the end of the deliberations, each jury will draw up and submit to the organisers a report containing the results of the competition in relation to the set of judging criteria.

The juries reserve the right not to award prizes or mentions in any of the categories if they do not meet the standard set by the judging requirements. The juries may also decide to divide the prize of a category among several competitors, to award more than one prize or to award only mentions.

Jury decisions are final and irrevocable and are not subject to appeal.

In exceptional circumstances, if one of the jury members is unable to fulfil his/her duties, for whatever reason, the organisers assume responsibility for finding a replacement.

Judging categories Built Space, Interior Space, Public Space, Graduation Projects and Endeavours

For **Built Space, Interior Space, Public Space, Graduation Projects and Endeavours**, the jury process will take place in two stages.

The first stage involves online judging according to the decided criterias. The jury will produce a list of selected works, which will be exhibited in the public space during the biennial. The second stage consists of a public presentation in front of the jury and the public in Timișoara. Following this, the final selection will be made. For the jury deadlines, please refer to the Calendar.

The presentation of the selected submissions is intended to facilitate their understanding as a whole (in terms of process, decisions, etc.) by the jury (for the final evaluation) and the public audience. Details regarding the presentation format will be communicated later on the competition website (in the News section) and by e-mail to the authors of the selected works.

In order to facilitate the presentation of the selected works, the organisers will cover travel expenses for representatives of the project teams who do not live in Timișoara, but travel to Timișoara for their presentations.

It is not mandatory for the authors to physically present their projects. If the representatives of the selected entries cannot physically attend the presentation, they may also participate by videoconference.

In case the participants, whose works have been selected following the online judging, are unable to attend the public presentation of their works (neither physical nor online) for various reasons, they assume all consequences that may arise in the judging process.

For **Built Space, Interior Space, Public Space, Graduation Projects and Endeavours**, in the online jurying phase, the jury will judge based on the subcategories presented.

The jury also has a curating role, having the possibility to place the works in other subcategories or to merge the categories indicated in the rules, to evaluate them based on specific criteria (which they will present), and to award them accordingly.

Text section jury

For **Text**, the two jury stages refer to the two phases of the competition (see the calendar for category 6. Text in Chapter 2. Calendar).

Both jurying phases for the Text section will take place online. In the first phase, the jury will select the abstracts to be developed by the authors into essays, and in the second phase, the jury will choose the winners based on the submitted essays.

Photography section jury

For **Photography**, there will be two phases of jurying.

The first phase will be an online jurying, which will result in a selection of photographic essays to be exhibited in the public space during the biennial.

The second jurying phase will be held in Timișoara, where the jury will meet to select the section's winner/s.

Rewards

Beta Awards 2024's rewards are worth a total of €26,600*.

The total sum can be distributed as follows:

The Jury will ultimately decide how to share these prizes and mentions, including their number, while respecting the total sum value.

Built space

Residential - 3 prizes worth €1000, 6 mentions worth €500 and 6 unpaid nominations. One prize, two mentions and two unpaid nominations are considered for the S/M/L subsections.

Interventions on existing buildings - 1 prize worth €1000, 2 mentions worth €500 and 2 unpaid nominations;

New - 1 prize worth €1000, 2 mentions worth €500 and 2 unpaid nominations;

Interior space

Interior design - 1 prize worth €1000, 2 mentions worth €500 and 2 unpaid nominations;

Temporary design - 1 prize worth €1000, 2 mentions worth €500 and 2 unpaid nominations;

Public space

Design urban - 1 prize worth €1000, 2 mentions worth €500 and 2 unpaid nominations;

Studii urbane - 1 prize worth €1000, 2 mentions worth €500 and 2 unpaid nominations;

Instalații temporare/artă în spațiul public - 1 prize worth €1000, 2 mentions worth €500 and 2 unpaid nominations;

Endeavours - 1 prize worth €1000, 2 mentions worth €500 and 2 unpaid nominations;

In this section, there will also be a prize for projects that excel in architectural education worth €1000.

Graduation projects - 1 prize worth €500, 2 mentions worth €250, 2 unpaid nominations.

Text - 1 prize worth €800, 2 mentions worth €400, 2 unpaid nominations.

Photography - 1 prize worth €500, 2 mentions worth €250, 2 unpaid nominations.

This year, during the Beta Awards, the public will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite projects and a Public Prize Award will be handed at the Awards Gala.

* All prize amounts are gross value. Romanian residents will be offered the prize equivalent in RON.

Organisers

The organisers of the Awards is the Timiș Territorial Branch of the Order of Architects of Romania, through the organising team of Beta - Timișoara Architecture Biennial.

The organiser's contact details are:

Address: str. Diaconu Coresi 12, 300558, Timișoara

Mobile: +40 724 583 737

e-mail: awards@betacity.eu

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COMMITTEE FOR SETTLEMENT OF APPEALS:

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Alexandru Naghiu

Miruna Baraitaru

Processing and protection of personal data

By entering the Beta Awards, the participants agree to the processing of their personal data as provided to the organiser.

The organiser assures participants that it will process their data honestly and transparently, solely in the professional interests of both parties, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 679/2016 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union (GDPR).

Images/photos containing or inciting any form of violence or of an offensive, abusive, indecent, defamatory or obscene nature will not be accepted in the competition. Photos containing advertising, promotional material or visible logos/brands will not be accepted if they occupy more than 50% of the photo.

Images/photographs that capture people in public space are acceptable, but only if the people are a detail of an overall scene. In this respect, photographs depicting portraits of people in public spaces are not accepted.

Photography of all buildings in the public space is allowed, except for military and strategic objectives regulated as such by the Office of the National Register of State Secret Information. In the case of the latter, photographs may only be taken with prior authorisation and under the supervision of a MAPN or correspondent foreign organisation representative.

By entering the competition, the participant declares that he/she/them/they has read and agrees with all the contents of these Regulations.