

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

مجسم وطن

Mujassam Watan

URBAN SCULPTURE
CHALLENGE



EDITION #8

COMPETITION CONDITIONS

PARTNERS:

هيئة فنون العمارة والتصميم
Architecture and Design Commission



The Eastern
Province Municipality



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Buildner Architecture Competition Organisers
in partnership with
Mujassam Watan Initiative
have prepared this document for
the purpose of arranging the
**Mujassam Watan Urban Sculpture Challenge
Edition #8**
architecture competition.

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Architecture Competitions

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Mujassam Watan



هيئة فنون العمارة والتصميم
Architecture and Design Commission



The Eastern Province Municipality

Igniting architectural innovation

BUILDNER is the global leader in organising architecture competitions, we invite you to embark on a transformative journey of design excellence.

With our unwavering commitment to pushing boundaries and inspiring creativity, **BUILDNER** provides a platform for talented architects and designers to showcase their visionary ideas and shape the future of the built environment.

Join us as we unlock extraordinary possibilities and set new standards in architectural innovation.

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15+

years of experience

180+

successfully completed competitions

600+

guest jury members

Introduction

Saudi Arabia is undergoing a transformative journey, blending its rich heritage with innovation to shape a dynamic future. As part of this evolution, the Mujassam Watan Urban Sculpture Challenge Edition #8 invites designers to create iconic sculptures that reflect the Kingdom's identity and contribute to its cultural landscape.





Saudi Arabia: A nation redefining its future

Saudi Arabia stands on the threshold of a bold new era, redefining its future through innovation, creativity, and diversification. For decades, the Kingdom has been recognized as a cornerstone of the global energy industry, leveraging its oil wealth to build a modern nation. Now, under the ambitious framework of Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia is embarking on a transformative journey to diversify its economy, investing in tourism, technology, culture, and sustainability. This visionary approach is not merely about economic growth—it's about shaping a future that balances progress with heritage, embracing change while remaining deeply rooted in its unique identity.

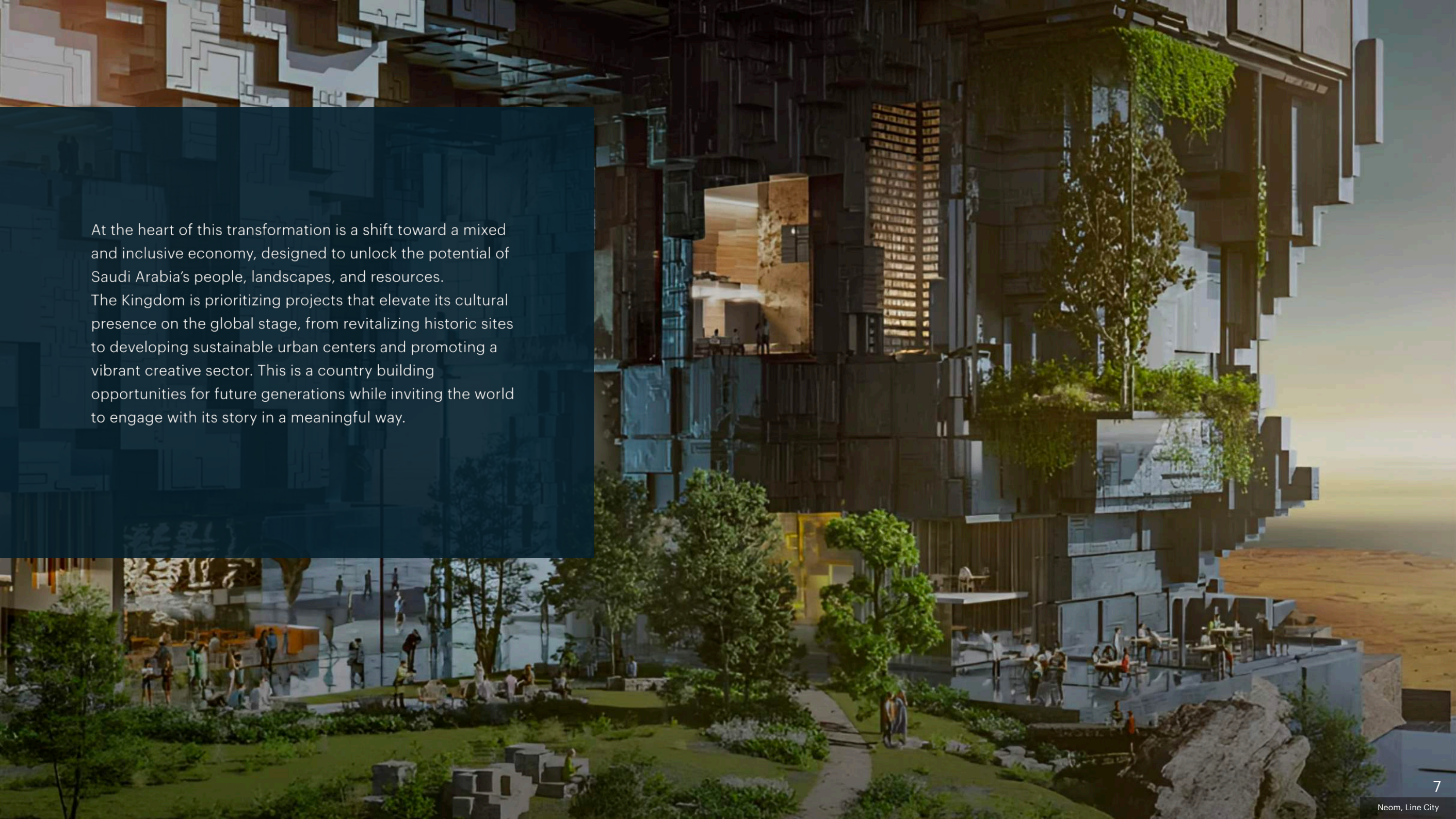


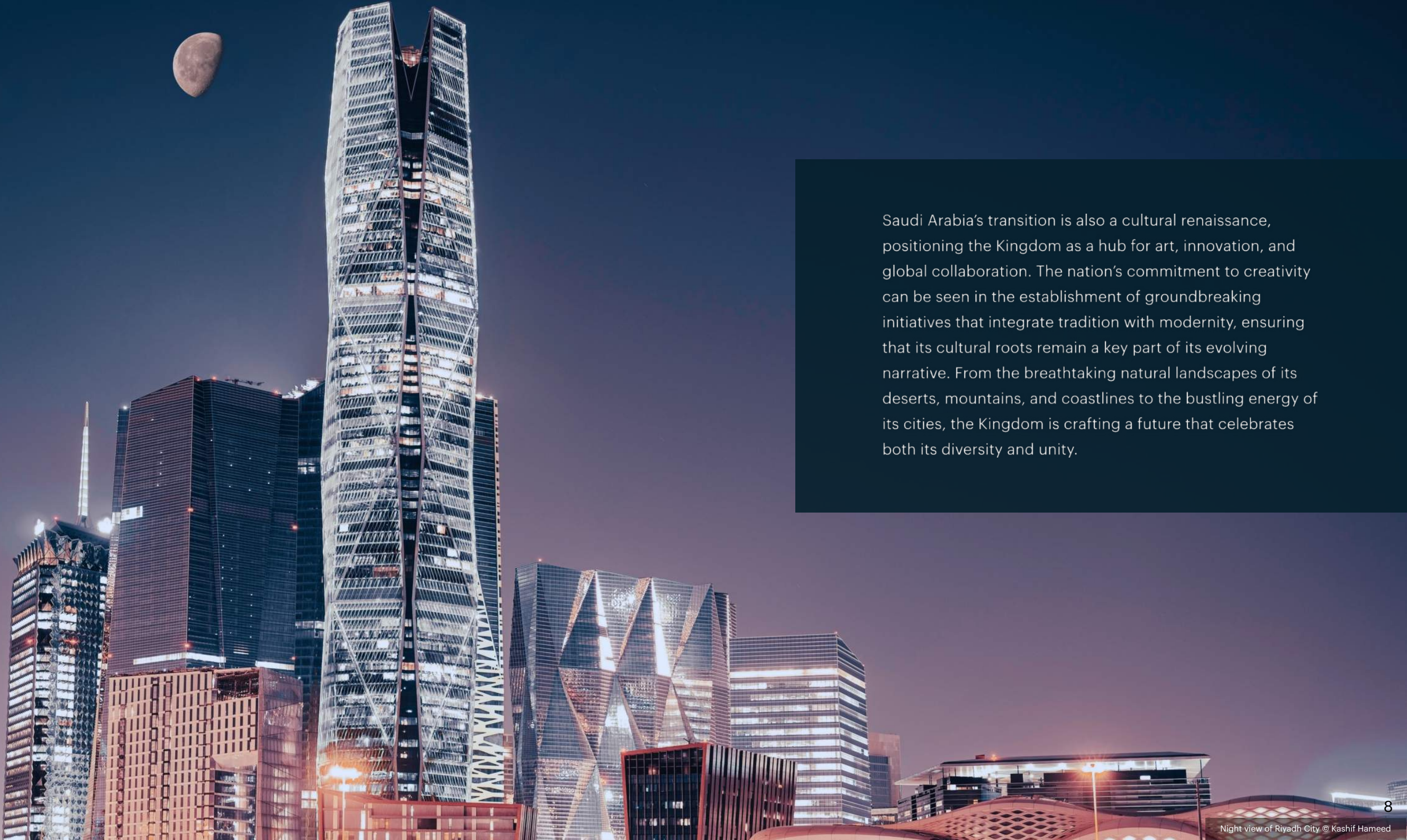
© Previous Mujassam Watan competition winners



© Previous competition winners - constructed project

At the heart of this transformation is a shift toward a mixed and inclusive economy, designed to unlock the potential of Saudi Arabia's people, landscapes, and resources. The Kingdom is prioritizing projects that elevate its cultural presence on the global stage, from revitalizing historic sites to developing sustainable urban centers and promoting a vibrant creative sector. This is a country building opportunities for future generations while inviting the world to engage with its story in a meaningful way.





Saudi Arabia's transition is also a cultural renaissance, positioning the Kingdom as a hub for art, innovation, and global collaboration. The nation's commitment to creativity can be seen in the establishment of groundbreaking initiatives that integrate tradition with modernity, ensuring that its cultural roots remain a key part of its evolving narrative. From the breathtaking natural landscapes of its deserts, mountains, and coastlines to the bustling energy of its cities, the Kingdom is crafting a future that celebrates both its diversity and unity.



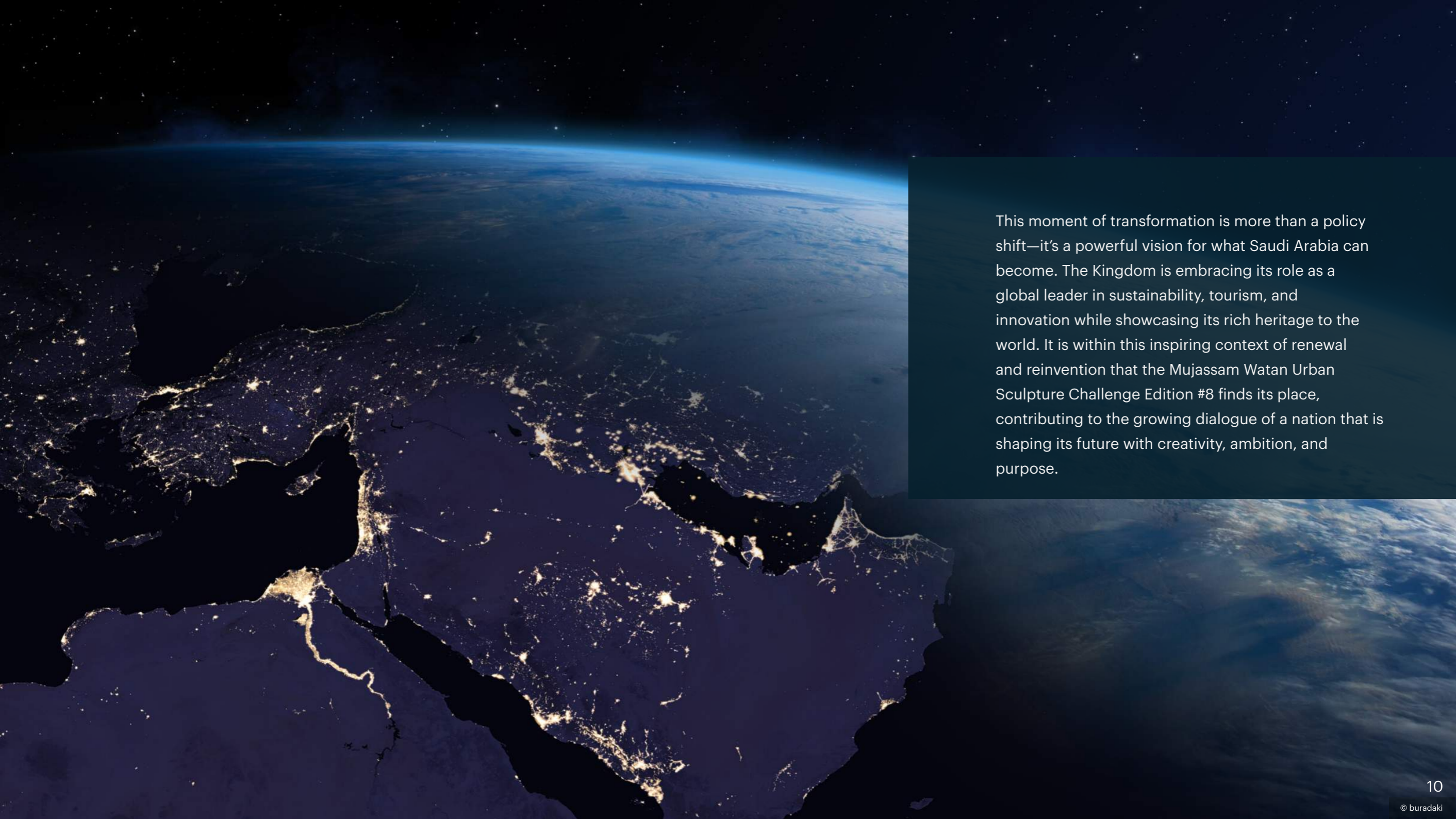
AlUla desert on a sunny day afternoon © Lubo Ivanko



Arab Man serving traditional arabic coffee from a traditional pot. © hussein farar



Dammam sea side Saudi Arabia © AFZAL KHAN MAHEEN



This moment of transformation is more than a policy shift—it's a powerful vision for what Saudi Arabia can become. The Kingdom is embracing its role as a global leader in sustainability, tourism, and innovation while showcasing its rich heritage to the world. It is within this inspiring context of renewal and reinvention that the Mujassam Watan Urban Sculpture Challenge Edition #8 finds its place, contributing to the growing dialogue of a nation that is shaping its future with creativity, ambition, and purpose.

The competition

MUJASSAM WATAN:

URBAN SCULPTURE CHALLENGE #8

As Saudi Arabia moves forward in its transformative journey, the **Mujassam Watan Urban Sculpture Challenge Edition #8** stands as a key platform for celebrating creativity and innovation. Organized by the Mujassam Watan Initiative (an initiative by Al Fozan Social Foundation), this prestigious competition invites architects and artists from around the world to contribute to the Kingdom's evolving cultural identity. By designing sculptures that reflect Saudi Arabia's heritage, values, and aspirations, participants have the opportunity to shape the nation's public spaces and leave a lasting impact.

This year's challenge focuses on two carefully selected locations: **Salwa Road**, a major highway serving as a gateway between Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neighbors, and **Tharwa Sea Front**, a dynamic urban district in Al-Khobar that merges modern city planning with natural coastal beauty. Each site offers a distinct environment, inspiring participants to create sculptures that not only enhance these spaces but also embody the Kingdom's identity, history, and ambitions.

Participants are encouraged to develop designs that are **innovative, meaningful, and environmentally conscious**, engaging with their surroundings to create a seamless connection between art and public space. Whether situated along a major transit route that welcomes travelers into the Eastern Province or within a waterfront district known for its contemporary urban character, these sculptures should inspire those who interact with them, sparking dialogue and fostering a sense of place. The challenge is to strike a balance between **creativity and functionality**, ensuring that each design makes a meaningful contribution to the urban fabric.

The competition will culminate in the selection of **three winners from each site**, with the potential for winning designs to be constructed. Through this initiative, participants are invited not only to showcase their creative talents but also to contribute to Saudi Arabia's broader transformation. By merging artistic excellence with a deep understanding of the Kingdom's vision, the **Mujassam Watan Urban Sculpture Challenge Edition #8** offers an extraordinary opportunity to shape the future of public art in Saudi Arabia, leaving a legacy that aligns with the nation's journey of growth, innovation, and renewal.

Building programme

The Mujassam Watan Urban Sculpture Challenge Edition #8 invites participants to design sculptures that reflect the cultural identity and aspirations of Saudi Arabia. Participants will select one of two designated sites, each offering a unique context for their designs, and craft a proposal that integrates seamlessly into its chosen environment.



Cultural and symbolic relevance

Sculptures should capture the essence of Saudi Arabia, drawing inspiration from its history, traditions, and future aspirations. Themes may include:

- National identity and heritage.
- The Kingdom's transition to a more diverse and innovative future.
- The harmony between tradition and modern progress.

The sculptures should tell a meaningful story or convey a message that resonates with both the local community and the broader audience.



Material selection

Participants are encouraged to:

- Use durable and climate-appropriate materials that can withstand Saudi Arabia's environmental conditions.
- Incorporate sustainable practices in design, construction, and maintenance.



Functionality and engagement

Sculptures should serve more than an aesthetic purpose, encouraging interaction and engagement. Depending on the site, they may offer opportunities for physical interaction, act as landmarks, or inspire community dialogue. Designs should prioritize safety, accessibility, and harmony with the surrounding environment.

The BUILDING PROGRAMME is flexible, open for modifications and improved development strategies.



Innovation and creativity

Participants are encouraged to push the boundaries of design and think beyond traditional forms. The competition seeks bold, forward-thinking ideas that bring a fresh perspective to public art while staying aligned with the cultural context of Saudi Arabia.



Scalability and feasibility

While the size of the sculpture is not strictly defined, participants should consider the practicalities of construction and implementation. Proposals must be realistic in terms of:

- Structural stability and engineering requirements.
- Flexible spaces that can adapt to future needs.
- Ease of construction, transportation, and assembly.
- Cost-effectiveness and alignment with potential budgets.

1. Salwa Road – A Gateway to the Gulf

Salwa Road is one of the most strategically important highways in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, connecting the Kingdom with the State of Qatar. Extending from the cities of Al-Khobar and Dhahran through the historic coastal area of Al Uqair and continuing toward the Salwa Border Crossing, the road plays a vital role in strengthening regional connectivity, trade, and tourism across the Gulf region.

Serving as a major southern gateway to the Dammam Metropolitan Area, Salwa Road accommodates both passenger and freight movement from Qatar and the southern coastal regions. It also contributes to improved traffic efficiency by diverting heavy truck traffic away from urban areas.



SITE COORDINATES:
@26°00'26.7"N 49°59'37.4"E



In addition, the road supports economic and tourism development by enhancing access to key coastal destinations such as Al Uqair Beach and Half Moon Bay. Its strategic role positions it as a significant transportation and logistics corridor within the regional network.

Given its importance and visibility, this site is well suited for a landmark architectural sculpture that reinforces the identity of Saudi Arabia and symbolizes regional connection. The proposed sculpture should establish a strong visual presence, representing themes of progress, movement, trade, and connectivity.



Key considerations for this site:

- **Visibility:**

The sculpture will be viewed primarily by fast-moving traffic, requiring bold, clear, and memorable forms.

- **Symbolism:**

The design should reflect the role of Salwa Road as a gateway, expressing ideas of progress, trade, and regional connectivity.

- **Durability:**

Materials must withstand Saudi Arabia's demanding climate, including high temperatures, dust, and wind.

- **Regulatory constraints:**

Construction above the roadway is not permitted; all sculptural elements must be located along the sides of the road.





2. Tharwa Sea Front – A Waterfront Urban Setting

The second site is located in the Tharwa District of Al-Khobar in the Eastern Province, strategically positioned between the cities of Dammam and Al-Khobar. The area is surrounded by prominent landmarks, including King Abdulaziz Port and Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, and features the Tharwa Corniche running along its main road, attracting both residents and visitors.

Tharwa District is characterized by its contemporary urban planning and refined waterfront environment. With direct views of the Arabian Gulf and convenient access to major regional destinations, the district represents a balance between natural coastal landscapes and modern urban development, reflecting the steady growth of the Eastern Province.



SITE COORDINATES:

@26°23'44.0"N 50°13'55.8"E



This site offers an opportunity to design an architectural sculpture that enhances the waterfront experience and strengthens the identity of the area as a place for leisure, culture, and community interaction. The proposed sculpture should engage closely with its surroundings and contribute positively to the public realm.



Key considerations for this site:

- **Public engagement:**

The sculpture should encourage interaction through spatial experience, visual storytelling, or integrated seating and walkability.

- **Contextual sensitivity:**

The design should harmonize with the coastal environment, reinforcing the character of the Corniche and surrounding district.

- **Functionality:**

Participants may consider incorporating functional elements such as lighting, shading, or water features to enhance usability.

Both sites offer distinct opportunities for participants to demonstrate their understanding of public space and site-specific design. By responding to the unique characteristics of their chosen location, designers can contribute to Saudi Arabia's evolving cultural and architectural landscape, creating architectural sculptures that leave a lasting impression on residents and visitors alike.

Project proposal recommendations

Participants in the Mujassam Watan Urban Sculpture Challenge Edition #8 should design sculptures that respond to the unique cultural, environmental, and functional contexts of Saudi Arabia. The following qualities represent the recommended guidelines for project proposals, ensuring designs align with the competition's goals while leaving room for creative adaptation and improvement.

- **Culturally relevant:**

The sculpture should reflect Saudi Arabia's rich heritage, traditions, and modern aspirations, resonating with the theme of "The Inspiration Around You."

- **Site-specific:**

The design should be adaptable to one of the two competition sites, responding to the conditions of either the Dhahran Jubail Highway or the public square in the Eastern Province, while enhancing the identity of the chosen location.

- **Durable and weather-resistant:**

Sculptures should be constructed with materials suitable for Saudi Arabia's harsh climate, capable of withstanding high temperatures, dust, wind, and potential weather extremes over time.

- **Environmentally conscious:**

Designs should incorporate sustainable materials and energy-efficient strategies, minimizing environmental impact during construction and maintenance.

- **Engaging and interactive:**

The sculpture should encourage interaction and engagement, whether visual or physical, fostering a connection between the public and the artwork.

- **Structurally feasible:**

The proposal should demonstrate structural stability, considering ease of construction, transportation, and installation within the context of Saudi Arabia's infrastructure.

- **Cost-effective:**

Designs should be mindful of budgets, ensuring cost-efficiency in both implementation and long-term maintenance.

- **Aesthetic excellence:**

The sculpture should present a bold and inspiring visual presence, making a lasting impression while complementing the surrounding environment.

The project qualities listed above are minimum recommendations; the competition brief is open for adaptation and improved development strategies.

Project budget requirements

Competition participants are encouraged to prioritize cost-effectiveness and rationalize expenses in their designs, despite the absence of a predefined budget. Proposals should demonstrate a conscientious approach to financial feasibility, focusing on innovative yet practical solutions to maintain low costs while achieving the desired architectural objectives.



Prizes

TOTAL PRIZE FUND

50,000 €

The total prize fund for the **Mujassam Watan Urban Sculpture Challenge** is **50,000 €**, which will be divided equally between the two competition sites. Each site will award a total of **25,000 €** to its winning proposals, distributed as follows:

Prize distribution for **each site**:

1ST PRIZE

12,000 €

2ND PRIZE

8,000 €

3RD PRIZE

5,000 €

Prizes

Construction

The **Mujassam Watan** is committed to the potential construction of sculptures at the designated competition sites. All winning and honorable mention designs will be put forward for consideration, with the possibility of being selected as the final design for implementation.

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Certificates

Buildner will acknowledge the outstanding performance of all winners with Certificates of Achievement.



Publicity campaign

Media

Buildner's publicity campaign offers extensive exposure to the architectural community, ensuring that the results of the competition are seen by a vast audience:

BUILDNER'S TWO MILLION

The results are published on buildner.com, a leading website in the architecture industry, attracting over one million unique visitors annually. Additionally, the campaign extends to Buildner's social networks, which boast over 800,000 followers combined, and through newsletter campaigns reaching over 200,000 subscribers.



As part of the collaboration between Buildner and ArchDaily, the competition winners will be showcased on ArchDaily, a leading architecture news platform.

This feature will greatly boost the winners' visibility to millions of architecture professionals and enthusiasts worldwide, increasing their chances for new opportunities, attracting new clients, and establishing their reputation in the industry.

BUILDNER EXTENSIVE MEDIA NETWORK

Buildner leverages an extensive network of media industry leaders to publish the competition results. This broadens the audience further, ensuring that participants' work is showcased across multiple platforms known for their influence and reach in the architecture and design sectors.

Publicity campaign

Interview & Movie

After participants submit their project, they have the opportunity to upload a questionnaire (in writing) and a video about themselves **on the Buildner project upload panel**, up to five days before the results announcement. The specific submission deadline is indicated in the project upload panel.

These submissions are **OPTIONAL** but highly recommended in case the project is selected amongst the winners to maximize the publicity and media attention their work will receive.

Questionnaires and videos will be published for winners and honorable mentions with the competition results on Buildner's website.

Videos will be published for all participants, including winners, on Buildner's YouTube channel.

Read more about:



The interview – architecturecompetitions.com/interview



The video submission – architecturecompetitions.com/submit-movie

Explore the movies received from Buildner Architecture Competition winners and honorable mentions here - youtube.com/@buildner

Competition schedule

Preliminary registration deadlines

🚩 Early Bird Registration
FEBRUARY 22 - APRIL 1

🚩 Advance Registration
APRIL 2 - MAY 28

🚩 Last Minute Registration
MAY 29 - JULY 23

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
JULY 28, 2026

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



Closing date for registration
JULY 23, 2026



Closing date for submission
AUGUST 27, 2026 (11:59 p.m. LONDON TIME)



Announcement of the winners
OCTOBER 1, 2026

Registration fees



Please find **registration fees** listed at the competition website
architecturecompetitions.com/MujassamWatan8

Discounts for architecture students

Buildner Architecture Competition Organisers would like to hear from representatives of universities, schools, and colleges offering architecture/design studies.

Contact us to receive special student rates for group registration (discount applies for 3+ registrations from one university/school), as well as further information and support to get your students involved in architecture competitions.

Send us a request from your university email address along with basic information about you and your university/school. Please note that only recognized university staff can apply for the reduced student rate.

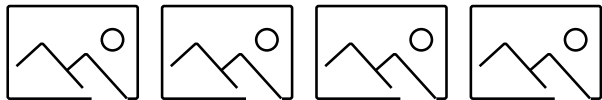
Buildner Architecture University rankings

Explore the Buildner's list of the world's 1000+ most competitive architecture universities –
architecturecompetitions.com/architecture-university-rankings

Submission requirements

- Participants are required to upload **four (4) A2 landscape-orientated presentation boards** (must not exceed 10MB per board) with sketches, renderings, plans, sections, elevations, diagrams, and/or other presentation tools to explain their proposal.

up to 4 panels



- No video files are accepted.
- All information provided in writing must be in English.
- All submissions must be uploaded via the architecturecompetitions.com upload panel. Access information and instructions on how to upload the presentation board will be issued to participants via email immediately after successful registration.
- Presentation boards must not indicate any information related to individual's/team's identity.

Participants who do not comply with the requirements will be disqualified without refund.

Your project in the media

Participants are required to submit a cover image and a project description in the project upload panel. These will be used for publication purposes and will not be seen by the jury. The image and text need to be submitted in the project upload panel at the time of project upload.

Cover image

Participants can choose and upload **one project preview image from their presentation** that best describes their project.

- The project preview image would need to be at least 2000x1680 pixels large, orientated horizontally, no more than 10 MB in size, and in jpg/jpeg format.
- The project preview image will be used for promotional materials to showcase the project in case the project is selected as the winner.
- Please note: the competition jury will not see the selected project preview image.

Project description

In the project upload panel, participants will be asked to add their project description. Please note that this will not be seen by the jury but will be used mainly for publication purposes. In the project description, please include the following:

- **Project overview:**
Provide a brief summary of the project.
- **Assignment:**
Explain the task or problem you were assigned to solve.
- **Objectives:**
Outline the main goals and objectives of the project.
- **Design Concept:**
Describe the design concept and the inspiration behind it.

- **Approach and strategy:**

Detail the approach and strategy you used to tackle the project.

- **Key features:**

Highlight the key features and unique aspects of the design.

- **Materials and techniques:**

Mention the materials and techniques used in the project.

- **Challenges:**

Discuss any challenges you faced and how you overcame them.

- **Results:**

Share the outcomes and results of the project.

Recommended submission content

- **Site integration:**

A visualization illustrating how the sculpture fits within the site's surroundings—whether along **Salwa Road** or the **Tharwa Sea Front**—demonstrating its relationship with the environment and how it complements the cultural, historical, and modern context of Saudi Arabia.

- **Concept designs:**

Clear and detailed concept drawings that showcase the creative vision behind the sculpture, emphasizing its artistic intent, meaning, and relevance to Saudi Arabia's identity. The design should align with the competition's theme and be well-suited to the chosen site.

- **Plans and perspectives:**

Key drawings, including site plans, sections, and multiple perspectives (both close-up and distant views), that illustrate the spatial quality of the sculpture and its interaction with the site. Submissions should also address aspects such as **visibility, accessibility, and potential public engagement**.

- **Feasibility:**

A demonstration of the project's feasibility, considering **structural stability, climate conditions, and lifecycle durability**. Submissions should highlight the use of **responsible materials and maintenance strategies** suited to the Saudi Arabian environment.

- **Construction and materials:**

A detailed outline of the **materials, construction methods, and installation approach**, ensuring that the sculpture is **durable, cost-effective, and practical** for long-term maintenance. Considerations for **logistics, assembly, and stability** should be clearly explained.

- **Visualizations:**

High-quality artistic impressions that showcase the sculpture from **various vantage points**, illustrating how it interacts with its surroundings, engages with the public, and enhances the site's atmosphere. These visuals should help convey the scale, presence, and impact of the design.

Presentation deliverables set

- Urban plan (suggested scale 1:500 or 1:1000)
- Street elevations (suggested scale 1:50)
- Primary sections (suggested scale 1:50)
- Primary plans (suggested scale 1:50)
- Enlarged sections and elevations highlighting key spaces or relationships (suggested scale 1:10)
- Details (suggested scale 1:5):
 - Key materials
 - Site or landscape
- Axonometrics providing information on key architectural concepts
- Perspectives
 - Primary site locations

- Diagrams
 - Lighting
 - Landscaping
 - Cityscapes/urban relationships

Please note the PRESENTATION DELIVERABLES SET listed above is a suggestion only. Participants can choose to use the entire list, a selection from it, or propose a completely different set that would explain their design in the most efficient manner.

Presentation preliminary review

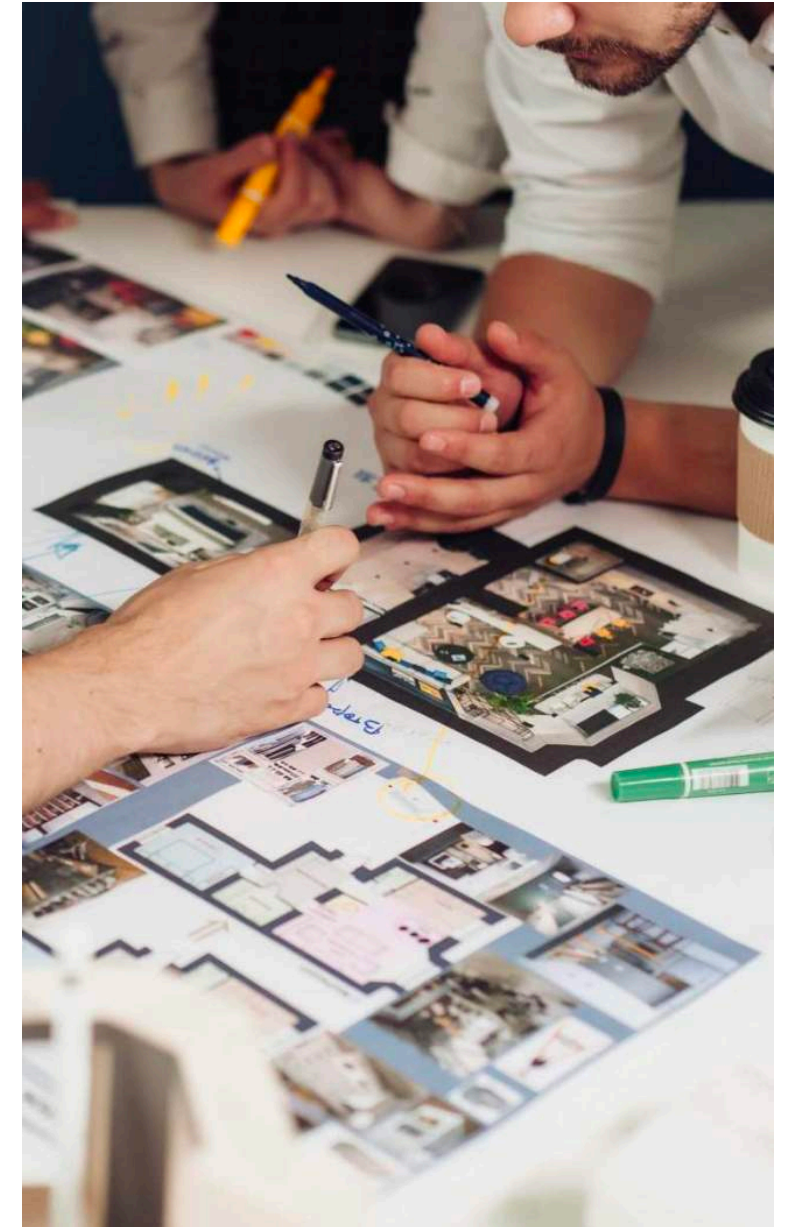
For more than ten years, Buildner has analyzed and rated thousands of architecture competition project submissions. Trust us when we say — the quality of your presentation is vital to convince a jury team of your design intent, and there are several graphic and representational factors that can make it or break it. We can help you make it right!

Buildner can review your presentation and give you valuable feedback!

Participants are welcome to submit their competition presentation draft panel/s **before submitting it/them as a final competition entry for a preliminary review.**

Within 1–3 days, our team will analyze your presentation panel/s and rate them on predefined criteria points, as well as add valuable written feedback on how you can improve your final competition submission.

Find out more here – architecturecompetitions.com/reviews



Jury

The jury panel members list and biographies are published at

architecturecompetitions.com/MujassamWatan8

Participants are advised to research both the working site and previous similar case studies as part of the design process. For each competition, 6–9 jury panel members are selected. Buildner reserves the right to add/remove the jury panel members at any moment.

Jury members shall under no circumstances be contacted by competition participants or their representatives. Participants who attempt to contact jury members shall be disqualified.

All competition-related communications should be carried out solely with Buildner staff.

For any questions, please contact us at contact@buildner.com

Mujassam Watan Urban Sculpture Challenge Edition #8 is a project competition, which encourages participants to test or redefine the boundaries of architecture. The jury may choose to reward projects that show a high degree of creativity, even if they breach competition guidelines, as long as this is justified.

Buildner is committed to selecting the most qualified industry professionals to comprise its jury panels. Jury panels consist of architects, in addition to professionals from other professional backgrounds that are relevant to the competition topic, to guarantee the most objective competition results.

*You may find the invited jury list from **previous competitions here** – architecturecompetitions.com/guest-jury*

Your design assessment

Participants will have the option to request a personalised in-depth design assessment of their project for a fee after the competition results are published. This feedback highlights the strengths of each submission and identifies areas for refinement, offering participants valuable insights into their work.

The design assessment serves as both a learning tool and a reflection of a project's performance. It helps participants better understand their submission, see how it compares with other entries, and identify opportunities for growth in future projects.



Eligibility

The competition is open to all. No professional qualifications are required. Design proposals can be developed individually or by teams (4 team members maximum).

People who have direct personal or professional relationships with jury panel members or organisers may not participate in this competition.

Media partners

A full list of media partners who have committed to present the competition winners in their publications can be found at architecturecompetitions.com/MujassamWatan8

For potential media partners who are also interested in covering the present competition and its winners, please contact us at contact@buildner.com

Competition press kit (in English) and banners are available at architecturecompetitions.com/MujassamWatan8/press