

“YONG DING CHANG'AN PAVILION”

International Architectural Design Competition

Open, one stage project competition for young architects



MAIN INFORMATION

Endorsed by the International Union of Architects

Organized by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Planning and Natural Resources

Co-organized by the Beijing Institute of Architects

Announcement: June.30th, 2026

Launch date: August.9th, 2026

Questions: August.9th to September.9th, 18:00 GMT+2 , 2026

Publication of answers: September.16th, 2026

Deadline for registration and submission of entries: 2026 November.16th ,18:00 GMT+2

Jury meeting and decision: November 2026

Result announcement: November 2026

Registration and submission

<https://biacompetition.com>

competition platform to register, ask questions, and submit the entries (A0 vertical exhibition board), according to the related deadlines.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
REGULATIONS	5
1. Names, dates, and addresses	5
2. UIA approval and endorsement	5
3. Eligibility criteria	5
4. Official language	6
5. Registration of competitors	6
6. Jury members and professional advisor	7
7. Timetable	7
8. Questions and answers	8
9. Prizes	8
10. Declaration of client intent	9
11. Submissions and anonymity of entries	9
12. Jury decisions	10
13. Mission and Prospective Commission	10
14. Author's rights	10
15. Publication rights	11
16. Exhibition	11
17. Return to work	12
18. Dispute resolution	12
PROGRAMME	13
1. Site description	13
2. Site location and boundary	13
3. Relevant legal parameters regarding the site and environmental constraints	14
4. Description of functions, activities, technical, and architectural specifications for spaces	15
5. Cultural and constraints	16
6. Design principles	16
7. Design tasks	17
8. Submission requirements	18
9. Evaluation	19
APPENDIXES	21

INTRODUCTION

In 2029, Beijing will host the 30th UIA World Congress of Architects. This international project competition, serving as a pilot project, was endorsed by the International Union of Architects (UIA). This project centers on the "pavilion" concept, employing an urban acupuncture approach that integrates two key dimensions: meso-level environmental design and micro-level architectural design.

The environmental design adopts ecological resilience and climate-responsive strategies to optimize landscape connectivity along the Yongding River Waterfront, Winter Olympics Park, and historical heritage sites, and create a warm, highly participatory waterfront narrative and public realm. The architectural design should focus on the pavilion's functional organization, spatial experience, and architectural expression. It should be integrated into the site with precision and lightness, strengthening the spatial connections and narrative dialogue between the industrial heritage, the legacy of the Winter Olympics, and the natural landscape.

REGULATIONS

1. Names, dates, and addresses

Organized by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Planning and Natural Resources

No. 1 Chengan Road, 101160, Beijing, Tongzhou District, China.

Co-organized by Beijing Institute of Architects

No. 62 Nanlishi Road, 100045, Beijing, Xicheng District, China.

Contracting Authority (for future commission): Beijing Water Investment Group Co., Ltd.

2. UIA approval and endorsement

This one stage project competition for young architects is endorsed by the International Union of Architects (UIA) and will be conducted in accordance with UNESCO Standard Regulations for International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning and the UIA best practice recommendations (see UIA Competition Guide for Design Competitions in Architecture and Related Fields).

3. Eligibility criteria

The competition is open to young architects (individuals or in teams) from all over the world and complies with the following:

- The team leader(s) of the proposal must have the right to use the title of architect in their country of origin or residence, and must be the author or one of the authors of the proposal.
- All participants must have been born on or after 16/11/1986. Students, associates, employees, family members, or anyone closely related to jury members and persons involved in the preparation/organization of this competition are not allowed to participate in the competition.
- Multidisciplinary teams are encouraged. However, only architects can serve as team leaders. Landscape architects, urban designers, or urban planners can register as authors

or co-authors. Further architect team members may also be registered as authors or co-authors, whether or not they are team leaders. Team members from other disciplines can register as collaborators or consultants.

- The participants are responsible for identifying conflicts of interest that would prohibit them from participating in the competition.
- Participants are only allowed to participate in one team and submit one entry.

4. Official language

The official language of this competition is English. All submitted drawings, design documents, specifications, registration information, and official communication emails must be provided in English.

5. Registration of competitors

Participants are required to register on the official competition platform (<https://biacompetition.com>) and fill in the required information:

- Information of author, co-authors, and other team members;
- Contact person and email address: Check box to confirm that the participant meets the eligibility criteria (mandatory).

The competition brief is available on the website for download without registration.

No fees are required for registering on the competition platform.

Upon registration, participants will receive a number or code that they will use to log into the system and submit their entries.

Applicants may list as many team members as they wish through the official competition platform. Team members may also be added or removed after registration has closed; however the registering team leader architect cannot be changed. Modifications can only be made at the time of submission of entries, but this information must be provided separately from the entry submission.

6. Jury members and professional advisor

The international jury will be composed of five members:

- Gaëtan Siew, Architect, Mauritius (Chair)
- Charles Waldheim, Architect, United States
- Cui Kai, Architect, China
- Luis Romahn, Landscape and Park Planner, Mexico
- Marianna Rentzou, Architect, Greece, UIA representative

Alternate jury members:

- Dong Gong, Architect, China
- Anssi Lassila, Architect, Professor, Finland, UIA representative

Technical consultant:

- YE Yiqian, Architect

Professional advisor:

- ZHU Xuechen, Architect

(Names are presented in no particular order)

7. Timetable

Announcement: June. 30th, 2026

Launch date: August. 9th, 2026

Questions: August. 9th to September. 9th, 18:00 GMT+2 , 2026

Publication of answers: September. 16th, 2026

Deadline for registration and submission of entries: 2026 November. 16th , 18:00 GMT+2

Jury meeting and decision: November 2026

Result announcement: November 2026

8. Questions and answers

Participants may anonymously send any enquiries regarding the competition brief via the official competition platform (<https://biacompetition.com>) before the specified deadline.

The competition organiser reserves the right to address similar questions together. All replies will be compiled into a Q&A Summary Document, to the email addresses of all registered participants by the designated date, and simultaneously published on the official website.

Questions must be submitted anonymously and must not include any information that could identify the applicant. Any questions failing to meet these requirements will not be accepted, published, or answered.

This Q&A Summary shall serve as an official supplementary document to the competition brief.

9. Prizes

The total prize money available for the competition is €65,000

Prizes are not subject to VAT. Please note that all prize money stated above is pre-tax amounts. For winners that are entities or individuals located within China, the organizer shall withhold and remit the relevant taxes on their behalf. For overseas entities or individuals, tax matters shall be handled in accordance with bilateral tax treaties and applicable Chinese tax laws and regulations. If there is any tax or charge imposed by the authorities that is not strictly attributable to the winning individual or entity, the organiser will ensure that the winner's prize is exempt from such charges.

1st prize €35,000 and a certificate

2nd prize €20,000 and a certificate

3rd prize €10,000 and a certificate

The jury may also decide to allocate honourable mentions to proposals of particular merit. Honourable mentions will not carry a monetary prize.

Prizes will be awarded within 30 days of the announcement of the winners, with the total prize money paid in full. Ex aequo prizes will not be awarded. The number of prizes announced will be awarded.

10. Declaration of client intent

The first-prize winning design proposal and its team shall be granted the commission for further detailed design and implementation refinement of the 200-square-meter individual building, which is defined as a reversible experimental project.

The wide-area landscape improvement project covering the surrounding area of 42,000 square meters will be launched separately in accordance with the actual construction schedule. If the landscape improvement project will use or is to be constructed based on the winning scheme, the winning design team will be contacted separately for follow-up cooperation and involvement discussions.

The design fee shall be negotiated with the successful competitor, taking the Administrative Provisions on the Management of Engineering Survey and Design Fees (Ji Jia Ge [2002] No. 10) <https://www.biacompetition.com/api/v1/brief/sections/6/download>

as a reference, while also considering the specific nature, complexity, and architectural significance of the project.

11. Submissions and anonymity of entries

This competition adopts fully digital online submission; no hard-copy printed documents are required. The Client will bear all costs to uniformly print all digital entries for review purposes.

Strict anonymity requirements apply: No information that may reveal the participant's identity is permitted to appear on presentation boards, design statements, or any electronic files, including but not limited to names, company names, logos, and distinctive marks.

Participants shall only mark the anonymous registration code generated by the competition platform at designated positions (in the upper right corner) on all drawings and documents. Any entry in violation of the anonymity rules will be disqualified directly from the review process.

12. Jury decisions

Jury decisions are sovereign, irrevocable, and unappealable. They are final and binding for the competition organiser and the participants. The submission of an entry implies tacit acceptance of all conditions and rules outlined in these regulations and the results of the competition.

13. Mission and Prospective Commission

Upon being awarded the commission, the first-prize winning team shall be responsible for completing the schematic design refinement and design development phases of the project.

If the winning team is without corresponding domestic architectural design qualifications in China, it must form a joint venture with a local architectural design institute holding Class A national design qualification — either suggested by the organizer or selected independently after the competition — to complete the subsequent construction drawing design and full-process technical coordination services.

The relevant design service fees and specific contractual terms shall be separately negotiated and formally contracted between the client and the winner upon completion of the competition.

If no contract for carrying out the project has been signed within two years of the announcement of the competition results, the first prize winner shall receive as compensation a further sum equal to the amount of the first prize.

14. Author's rights

Submitted digital materials become the property of the competition organiser.

The Contracting Authority may use the first prize design only if the author is commissioned to carry out the project. With the exception of promotional use, no design, whether or not it receives a prize, may be used wholly or in part by the organiser without the author's written agreement.

The author of any design retains the copyright and the author's rights to their work; no alterations may be made without their formal consent. The winning design shall only be used once. By submitting an entry, competitors guarantee that they are the authors of their architectural design project and that they do not infringe intellectual property rights of third parties.

15. Publication rights

The Contracting Authority, the Organizer, and the International Union of Architects (UIA) have the right to use, store, reproduce, display, print, publish, communicate to the public, or distribute in hard copies, in electronic or digital format, or on the internet (including social networks as a downloadable or non-downloadable file), the submitted project or copies of the submitted project for the purpose of communicating, promoting the competition and its aims, and for research, without the authors' consent. The names of the authors will always be mentioned.

Competitors and the organizer are not allowed to publish the submitted entries before the results of the competition are made public. The publication of submitted drawings or visualizations by the author prior to the official announcement of the competition results shall constitute grounds for disqualification and exclusion.

16. Exhibition

All submitted proposals will be showcased online on the competition website. Winning works and finalist entries will be exhibited publicly for the first time in Beijing at the end of 2026 or the beginning of 2027.

17. Return to work

As all entries are submitted in digital format, all electronic documents and materials shall be retained and archived by the organizer for reference upon the completion of all relevant procedures, including competition evaluation, exhibition, and publication, and will not be returned. All documents of non-awarded entries will be properly disposed of or deleted at the end of the exhibition.

18. Dispute resolution

By submitting an entry, participants accept all conditions of the competition, the rules outlined in these regulations, and decisions of the jury in matters of evaluation. Jury's decisions cannot be disputed and must be accepted by the Contracting Authority, Organizer, and the competitors. Disputes may only concern formal aspects and administrative handling of the submissions.

Priority will be given to the amicable and mutually agreed resolution of any discrepancy or claim that may arise in relation to the interpretation and execution of these terms and conditions. If negotiation fails, all claims and disputes shall be governed by the laws of the People's Republic of China and submitted to the Beijing Arbitration Commission for arbitration. The arbitration shall be final and binding on both parties.

PROGRAMME

1. Site description

This project is located at the symbolically significant cross intersection within Beijing's macroscopic urban spatial structure, enjoying an irreplaceable strategic status and cultural tension:

West Extension of Chang'an Avenue (Modern Development Axis): Its westward extension is not merely a physical expansion of the capital's core functions toward the west, but also a vital corridor linking the central urban area with the revitalized New Shougang District.

Yongding River Ecological Belt (Natural Ecological Axis): It embodies profound urban construction history and carries the historical heritage of the Yongding River water conservancy regulation projects.

Urban Crossroads: The pavilion connects the New Shougang Bridge and the Yongding River floodplain, where the hardness of urban artificial construction collides directly with the softness of natural ecology. As a pilot project for the 2029 UIA World Congress of Architects, this node serves as an ideal perspective and philosophical boundary for exploring how to strike a balance between rapid urban development and ecological resilience.

2. Site location and boundary

The strip-shaped landscape transition zone surrounding the pavilion stretches from the wharf area south of the New Shougang Bridge in the north to the beach road along the left levee of the Yongding River in the south, and borders the Yongding River Waterfront to the west and Winter Olympics Park to the east. It is approximately 350 meters long from north to south and averages 120 meters in width from east to west, with a total area of about 41,830 square meters. (Note: the proposed pavilion is located about 350 meters south of the New Shougang Bridge.)

3. Relevant legal parameters regarding the site and environmental constraints

Site Overview

Within the landscape design scope, there are five sequential components from east to west: Winter Olympics Park green space, East River Embankment Road (Embankment Top Road), linear green belt, patrol platform, and Yongding River floodplain space. Yongding Chang'an Pavilion is situated within the linear green belt between the existing East River Embankment Road (Embankment Top Road) and the patrol platform. The Embankment Top Road and patrol platform serve as a riverside greenway in normal periods, while undertaking flood control and emergency rescue functions during flood seasons.

To the west of the patrol platform lies the Yongding River floodplain space. Affected by Beijing's seasonal rainfall, this area functions as a public space for jogging and daily leisure during normal water level months, and acts as a flood passage in flood seasons. No obstacles impeding flood flow are allowed to be placed here. An artificial sandy beach is arranged along the waterfront, serving as a venue for rest, sightseeing, and water leisure sports. To the east of the embankment, the top road is the existing Winter Olympics Park, approximately 40 meters in width, equipped with sports venues such as a skate park and basketball courts. Further east of the park is the South Shougang Park, an area pending renewal. A physical retaining wall separates the two plots. In the long term, the wall will be demolished after the renewal planning of South Shougang Park is implemented, forming an integrated waterfront spatial system.

Existing Vegetation

Greenery between the scour protection wall and the old embankment: *Acer truncatum* 'Lihong', *Verbena*, *Aster tataricus*, ornamental chrysanthemum.

Floodplain vegetation: dominantly composed of shrubs and ground covers, including *Amorpha fruticosa*, *Vitex negundo*, *Hemerocallis fulva*, and *Iris lactea* var. *chinensis*, *Salvia farinacea*, *Symphyotrichum lanceolatum*, *Nepeta cataria*, and wildflower groundcover mixes.

Water Conditions

The water surface width of Lianshi Lake downstream of the Shougang Bridge is approximately 260 meters, with a designed normal water level of 78.7 m and a river bottom elevation of 77.5 m. The surface water quality is Class II.

The planned crest elevation of the left embankment follows the envelope line of two control conditions: freeboard of 0.7 m above the Probable Maximum Flood (16,000 m³/s) level, and freeboard of 2.0 m above the 200-year return period flood level. The elevation of the Probable Maximum Flood level is 83.56 m; the 200-year flood level elevation is 82.38 m; the 100-year flood level elevation is 81.66 m.

Yongding Chang'an Pavilion is located at left embankment chainage 9+100. The existing elevation of the Embankment Top Road is 85.24 m, and the elevation of the patrol platform is 85.29 m.

4. Description of functions, activities, technical, and architectural specifications for various spaces

The project design shall fully respect the natural context and be developed under the premise of embracing mountain-and-river views, nature, ecology, and rustic wilderness charm.

The project falls within the overall planning scope of the "Two Parks and One River" area—Shougang Park, Garden Expo Park, and the Yongding River. In accordance with higher-level planning requirements, this area is poised to be built into a picturesque river-lake region featuring harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature, a core carrier of the Western Hills–Yongding River Cultural Belt, a waterfront living room integrating water landscape and urban vitality, a new engine for high-quality development in western Beijing, and a model of Chinese modernization practicing the "Two Mountains Theory," so as to fulfill the new vision of western Beijing amid mountains and rivers, and a vibrant Yongding River.

To the north, the site adjoins the Northern Shougang Area — a key regeneration zone of industrial heritage and a venue for the Beijing Winter Olympics — as well as the New Shougang Bridge, a pivotal node on the west extension of Chang'an Avenue. To the south, it connects to large-scale green spaces, including the Yongding River Leisure Forest Park and the Garden Expo Park, serving as a critical node along the Yongding River Waterfront corridor.

Adjacent to the Southern Shougang Park, the site lies within a key potential area for future industrial heritage renewal. According to relevant plans, the Southern and Northern Shougang areas will jointly develop into a demonstration zone for the green transformation of traditional industries, a high-end industrial innovation hub in western Beijing, and a post-

industrial cultural, sports, and creative base, forming a new landmark of urban regeneration. The waterfront space of the southern zone will take natural ecology as its foundation and integrate diverse functions, including artistic creation, digital empowerment, and experiential consumption. The project shall balance immediate construction needs with long-term development, integrate into the regional ecological green framework, and harmonize with the overall spatial character of the industrial park.

5. Cultural and constraints

It shall acknowledge and integrate historical and cultural heritage sites, including the Yongzheng Imperial Stele of North Huiji Temple and the Shibadeng Embankment, and inherit the cultural memory of the Yongding River water conservancy projects. The design shall comply with the flood control and ecological protection requirements of the Yongding River. No independent parking lot shall be provided.

6. Design principles

Time-Space Folding and Heritage Revitalization: Layer emotions and memories between history and the future, integrating cultural heritage into contemporary life and public experience.

Waterfront Symbiosis and Public Vitality: Break the conventional boundary between land and water, and reshape high-quality waterfront public spaces. Centered on a human scale and experience, embed diverse and compound recreational and social scenarios, enabling the waterfront to become a genuine public living room that stimulates urban vitality and fosters community bonding.

Ecological Resilience and Low-Carbon Green Development: Implement the low-carbon and eco-friendly philosophy throughout the whole design. Adopt nature-based solutions and recyclable material systems, and explore the organic interaction among architecture, hydrology, vegetation, and microclimate.

Micro Intervention and Whole-Life-Cycle Design: Adhere to the principle of reversible construction. Take demolition, recycling, and relocation reuse into preliminary consideration,

so as to restore the site to its original ecological state rapidly and achieve zero-trace withdrawal.

7. Design tasks

The design requires the precise placement of an urban pavilion of approximately 200 square meters within a slender landscape area covering a total of about 42,000 square meters.

Context Reflection

Provide a medium-to-long-term landscape blueprint with resilient growth potential for this slender linear zone. Strengthen its function as a wide-area connector, optimize pedestrian guidance and accessible systems, and skillfully utilize terraces and grass slopes to resolve elevation differences and create waterfront access experiences. Prioritize native adaptive plant species to construct rain gardens and ecological patches, and properly coordinate spatial relationships with heritage conservation zones through controlled landscape viewing corridors.

Architectural design

Total Gross Floor Area: approximately 200 m² (allowable fluctuation: $\pm 5\%$). The architectural form shall balance landmark prominence and contextual concealment. The structure is encouraged to adopt rapid-construction and reversible systems, as well as highly recyclable and biodegradable materials.

The building shall be designed as a single-story structure with a maximum height not exceeding 4 meters (vertical height from the ground-floor finished floor level (FFL) to the top of the roof structural slab). The design allows to incorporate partial elevated volume in architectural massing which exceeds 4 meters. . The design should ensure accessibility, ease of construction, cost-effectiveness, and minimal impact on the surrounding environment. Sustainable, resource-efficient solutions that can be delivered within a reasonable construction budget are strongly encouraged.

Comprehensive Service Core: approx. 20% (including 10% for the visitor information desk, and 10% for high-standard barrier-free & family restrooms);

Panoramic Lounge Area: approx. 40% (including 25–30% indoor lounge space, and 10–15%

outdoor lounge and catering service area);

Cultural Micro-Exhibition Gallery: approx. 30% (including 15–20% permanent exhibition area and 15–20% temporary interactive zone. It is encouraged to utilize transitional spaces and outdoor areas to create a boundary-less open-air art museum. Transitional spaces may, at the competitors' discretion, be included within or excluded from the maximum building area of 200 m².);

Logistics & Supporting Space: approx. 10%

Interior Design

Continue the spatial dialogue between interior and exterior. Adopt materials to echo the Shougang heritage and to respond to the temperament of the Yongding River. Emphasize color psychology, introduce natural daylight, and arrange furniture flexibly. Integrate art installations embedded with Winter Olympic and Shougang cultural elements into the overall design.

8. Submission requirements

Drawing Requirements

One A0 presentation board in JPG format with a resolution of 300 dpi. It shall include fundamental drawings (1:100 general layout plan, 1:50 floor plans, elevations, and sections of each floor), in-depth analytical diagrams (such as urban sight analysis, circulation diagrams, massing generation diagrams, exploded axonometric drawings, etc.). No mandatory content requirements; drawings may be prepared according to actual expression needs), as well as renderings (aerial view, human-eye perspective view, and key interior spaces).

Text Requirements

A4 design description, covering design concept, site interpretation, and a technical chapter (it is recommended to highlight technical features and advantages such as structural and material reversibility, low-carbon and green strategies...etc), operation plan (concept for 24-hour and time-period operational plan), as well as economic and technical indicators. The written description is limited to a maximum of 1,000 words.

9. Evaluation

Preliminary Examination

The entries submitted will undergo an initial review conducted by the Professional Advisor, in collaboration with the technical committee, to verify their compliance with the submission requirements. This process will be completed before the entries are formally presented to the jury at the beginning of the evaluation procedure. The entries will be reviewed to ensure the following:

- Timely submission of the entry by the specified deadline;
- Full compliance with all the formal requirements outlined in the brief;
- Completeness and adherence to the deliverables and the project presentation criteria.

Reasons for disqualification

Entries submitted after the deadline or failing to adhere to anonymity requirements will be excluded. Any entries not meeting the conditions outlined in this brief or containing irregularities will be reported to the jury. The jury will decide whether to disqualify such entries and record the decision in the jury report.

The jury will exclude any material not required under the regulations before it examines the entry.

Evaluation process

Decisions are made by majority vote, with a separate vote for each entry. The chair, elected at the first jury meeting, holds a casting vote in the event of a tie. Jury decisions are sovereign, irrevocable, and unappealable. The proceedings of the Jury are not public. The Jury will produce (with the help of the Professional Advisor) and approve a Jury Report documenting the evaluation process, the rationale of decisions, the ranking of the entries, and recommendations for the further development of the project. The Jury Report will be sent to all the Competitors, will be published on the competition website, and will be available to the public.

Evaluation criteria

The jury will evaluate the entries' quality based on the following criteria, listed in no particular order of priority or importance. The jury may expand and detail the criteria in the evaluation process.

- Innovation: A new spatial benchmark for small-scale public buildings.
- Relevance to Local Context : Properly manage the relationship with the surrounding complex landscape (bridges, industrial relics, historical monuments).

Function and Experience: The service features are user-friendly, and the spatial experience is highly engaging.

- Sustainability : Green technologies are being applied effectively.
- Feasibility : The structure and cost are reasonable, with the potential to be realized and operated by the 2029 UIA Beijing congress.

APPENDIXES

1. Site Plan within Design Scope and Photos
2. Relevant Regulation Plan and Masterplan
3. Analysis Report on the Historical Context of Shougang
4. Relevant References on Regulations and Building Codes, and Technical Standards
5. CAD File of the Site
6. Site Video