

INTRODUCTION

"Timber is Future: Design & Build Competition" is a platform that encourages students from Bahçeşehir University's Faculty of Architecture and Design to develop creative designs with a focus on sustainability. Aimed at designing innovative and functional structures using recycled timber, the competition supports students in exploring the versatility of the material while promoting the creation of modular, aesthetic, and durable designs.

The aim of the competition is to highlight the upcycling potential of timber and draw attention to its role in sustainable design processes as a building material. Participants are expected to gain environmental awareness in line with upcycling principles while exploring the material's boundaries and adaptive capabilities. The upcycling process involves giving waste materials a new life cycle by transforming them into higher-value and more functional products.

Within the scope of the competition program, the proposed designs for functions such as rest areas, exhibitions, and performances are expected to offer modular and flexible solutions for designated areas on campus. The structures should be easily assembled, transportable, and adaptable to different locations and functions. Throughout this process, students are encouraged to deeply analyze the relationship between material and design, aiming to create designs that are both environmentally and aesthetically robust.

The competition was organized by the BAU Faculty of Architecture and Design in collaboration with the BAU Timber Buildings Construction and Research Center and was supported by industry leaders such as Hasslacher Group, Alba A.Ş., Hemel A.Ş., Rothoblaas Turkey, Timbertech SRL, PBD, and Kavlak Ahşap. Mandatory seminars and workshops for the competition participants were held on October 19, 2024, with the submission deadline set for December 6, 2024.

A total of 22 project groups registered and participated in the seminars and workshops. By the end of the competition deadline, 9 projects were submitted for jury evaluation. Following the final submission deadline on December 6, 2024, the submitted projects were reviewed by rapporteurs for compliance with competition rules and format requirements. No issues were identified that would result in disqualification.

Following the evaluation conducted with the full participation of jury members and rapporteurs, it was decided to award first, second, and third prizes among the submitted projects.

JURY EVALUATION REPORT

The Jury Evaluation Meeting commenced on December 10, 2024, at 10:00 AM with the participation of all jury members and rapporteurs, and concluded at 1:00 PM on the same day. The jury team consisted of Ahmet TOPBAŞ (Founder of ATTEC Company, Civil Engineer), Boğaçhan DÜNDARALP (Founder of DDRLP Architecture, Architect), Doğaç Toy (Interior Architect and Environmental Designer at PBD), Murat DÜNDAR (Prof. Dr., Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Design, BAU), Nusret Uşun (Founder of studio°NUS, Architect at Teğet Architecture Office), and Özgül Öztürk (Founder Architect of Circular Design). The rapporteur team included Ayşe Eda ADIGÜZEL (Research Assistant, Department of Architecture, BAU), Beril GÖK (Research Assistant, Department of Interior Architecture and Environmental Design, BAU), and Handan TEMELTAŞ (Assist. Prof. Dr., Department of Industrial Design, BAU).

After reviewing the details of the competition process and the specifications outlined in the brief, the individual evaluation phase of the projects started.

The jury members evaluated the projects based on the competition theme and the expectations outlined in the brief, as listed below:

- Conceptual and programmatic response to the site and context;
- Efficient use of materials with respect to its character and concern for the environment;
- Durability and safety;
- Originality and innovation;
- Design applicability and ease of production;
- Environmental, material, experiential, aesthetic, and contextual cues for a responsible design product;
- Representation and presentation of the design through appropriate graphics, technical drawings, and physical models.

In the first round of evaluation, the projects with the following codes — 83232, 19165, 20220, and 99999 — were unanimously eliminated, and the remaining 5 projects proceeded to the second round of evaluation.

In the second evaluation round, the jury decided to distribute the awards among the following 5 projects with codes 30046, 20522, 51255, 24766, and 11111 as outlined below:

"Timber is Future: Design & Build Competition" Award Group:

1st Prize: Project code 30046 was unanimously awarded

2nd Prize: Project code 20522 was awarded by a majority vote

3rd Prize: Project code 51255 was awarded by a majority vote

JURY EVALUATION RECORD

FIRST ELIMINATION

It has been decided to eliminate 4 projects with the codes 83232, 19165, 20220, and 99999 due to their inefficient use of materials based on their character and concern for the environment, as well as the inadequacy of the design quality and visual representation.

Additionally, although these projects were criticized for their weak relationship with the site and failure to propose innovative designs and scenarios, they were considered to have potential for further development.

SECOND ELIMINATION

The project with the code 11111 was found positive in terms of its representational skills and legibility of the use of materials, but it was criticized for not focusing on alternative scenarios regarding the user and location. The relationship with the wall was considered to lack sufficient originality. For these reasons, the project was unanimously eliminated in the second round of evaluation.

The project with the code 24766 was deemed successful in terms of introducing the timber material and demonstrating the possibilities of its use; However, its failure to substantiate the claim of modularity both spatially and structurally weakened the design's applicability and sustainability. Additionally, the proposed roof element was not aligned with the overall design language and did not present an innovative solution, resulting in a lack of spatial continuity and preventing the project from demonstrating a cohesive approach. As a result, the project was unanimously eliminated in the second round of evaluation.

AWARD GROUP

1st Prize – The project with the code 30046 was unanimously awarded the 1st Prize.

2nd Prize – The project with the code 020522 was awarded the 2nd Prize by a majority vote.

3rd Prize – The project with the code 51255 was awarded the 3rd Prize by a majority vote.

3rd PRIZE - 51255

The project was awarded the 3rd Prize by a majority vote due to its positive aspects, including presenting a striking design language in terms of simplicity and minimalism, its potential to be positioned in different contexts as an object in itself, and the ability of the folding elements to enable various functions. However, the fact that the design does not provide interaction with its surroundings and that the material-design relationship has not been sufficiently explored considering the competition criteria were criticized and considered weak by the jury. It has been suggested that the project idea should be presented more clearly and in greater detail. For instance, elaborating on the folding shelf or seat concept and supporting it with mechanism sketches has been evaluated as a recommendation that would enhance the project's clarity and comprehensibility.

It was noted that the design did not offer any expression related to the existing context, and the weak relationship between timber material and ground led to an incomplete integration with the site. The design's simplicity and the established interior-exterior relationship were seen as providing an interactive experience for students. Despite the use of materials such as CLT panels, it was pointed out that the visibility of these materials was lacking in some areas, and the contribution of material choices to the overall design coherence was not fully clear. Overall, it was emphasized that while the project offered coherence at the conceptual level, it needed further development in terms of its relationship with context and material use.

2nd PRIZE - 020522

The project was awarded the 2nd Prize by a majority vote due to its presentation of a simple and flexible modular system, its demonstration of an appropriate design approach, and its awareness of the design decisions made. The jury positively evaluated the flexible approaches, such as the fact that design does not serve a single scenario and allows for different assemblages with the units. The design was valued in terms of simplicity and coherence; however, it was noted to contain weaknesses in terms of details and

presentation. However, it is suggested that the spatial routes of the design should be clarified and defined more specifically on the x-y line rather than solving it with wheel mechanism and the boundary definitions should be improved.

In terms of structural details, it was pointed out that the connections between columns and beams needed to be addressed, and the wheel mechanism should be made more functional. Additionally, kinesthetic approaches and measures to counter the system's torsional potential were highlighted as elements that could enhance the design's durability. Although the project was noted to represent a raw concept at this stage, the jury valued its fundamental approach and appropriateness to the purpose.

1st PRIZE - 30046

The project was unanimously awarded the 1st Prize by the jury due to its unique design for the site, its appropriate composition, and its high potential for alternative uses. The use of timber material elevated from the ground was positively evaluated in terms of both aesthetics and environmental sensitivity. The level of applicability of the project in terms of material use is appreciated. The project's modularity and its structure, which adapts to its surroundings, offering flexible use and supporting social interaction among users, were considered significant. The jury highly valued the project's coherent approach, which articulates its rationale in a cause-and-effect relationship and establishes a strong connection to the site. With its permeable structure providing spatial diversity, this project responds to the competition's success criteria through a dynamic design approach rather than a monotonous one. The structural system, established through the staggered arrangement of columns, has been evaluated as a solid and balanced solution. Furthermore, the attention to detail in the connections and the consideration of elevating the structure to prevent water exposure have been highly appreciated. The use of representational tools was deemed successful and enhanced its clarity. The consistency of all these design decisions with the competition criteria was considered valuable and successful.

In addition to the positive aspects of the project, the jury determined that it could be revised in some points. In this context, the following aspects were proposed for revision and further development:

It has been suggested to improve the joint details, to add cover elements against environmental conditions, and to effectively incorporate surrounding elements that relate to the existing wall into the design. Considering the problems that steel connection details may cause aesthetically and physically, it was emphasized that a revision reducing the use of steel and highlighting timber could be beneficial. Re-evaluation and revision of the heights created in the design by considering the human scale is recommended and considered important in terms of safety and usability. It is believed that including the spaces between the project and the wall into the usage scenarios in a more cohesive manner would strengthen the project.

AWARD GROUP - IDENTITY MATCHING

1st Prize - 30046

Abdurrahman Semma
İbrahim Emir Kımıl
Inas Ouertani
Nurseli Azra Özlü
Yasmine Saleh

2nd Prize - 020522

Sıla Ercan
Umid Akhundlu

3rd Prize - 51255

Mhd Hmam Al Zoubi
Yasmeen Mahmoud