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Uyuni Salt Flat  
 Shelter

# UYUNI SALT FLAT SHELTER



## INTRODUCCIÓN

The stillness of time has great hidden beauty. There are landscapes of life that nature has created without human action where time stands still, the sensation of peace is breathed and the human being flows. Some called the Salar de Uyuni a Martian landscape. Not because it is a landscape from another planet, rather on the contrary. It is a landscape so special, so unique and different that it doesn't exist in any other location, anywhere. IT'S UNIQUE.

The process of droughts, floods, perimeter mountain formations, the great central plain and deep desertifications, have resulted in a vast extension of nothing, but at the same time of everything. A place where the non-existence of anything makes everything possible.

Uyuni has two clearly differentiated faces. A dry one where an immaculate white mantle of salt with a thickness of just 15 centimeters marks a continuous, infinite pavement, as far as our eyes can see, where the horizon, the limit with the sky, is clearly marked.

The flip side can be considered even more impressive. It is important to mention that Uyuni is a great plain and this unique situation is very helpful in the following phenomenon. When the drier months begin to be replaced by more or less abundant rains; the salt flat is evenly filled with a very thin sheet of water. This means that the background, being pure white, produces a large natural mirror of extraordinary dimensions.

## WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

Acceleration, instantaneousness, immediacy, technologization ... The daily life of the human being has been subsumed under synchronous devices such as watches and mobile phones, generating a stressed society, which has lost all trace of its biological temporality and of its life in common with the middle. Here in the salar, all the technology disappears. All computerization is not possible. Can a project promote other ways of life that are more leisurely, relaxed and in relation to nature? Can architecture give us the possibility of making up for that lost time? A time in dialogue with nature. What is the basis for doing this type of architecture?

## WE NEED A PERSONAL MEETING SPACE?

The Uyuni Salt Flat Shelter contest seeks a re-encounter with nature and with the human being within solitude. Now, logically we can ask other questions. How is the human being able to survive in this environment? What architectural solution should be proposed so that a human being can retire a few days on this plain and not faint? Those are the questions that the participant should try to answer through a project that is respectful of its surroundings, that dialogues with it and that is capable of surprising its inhabitant.

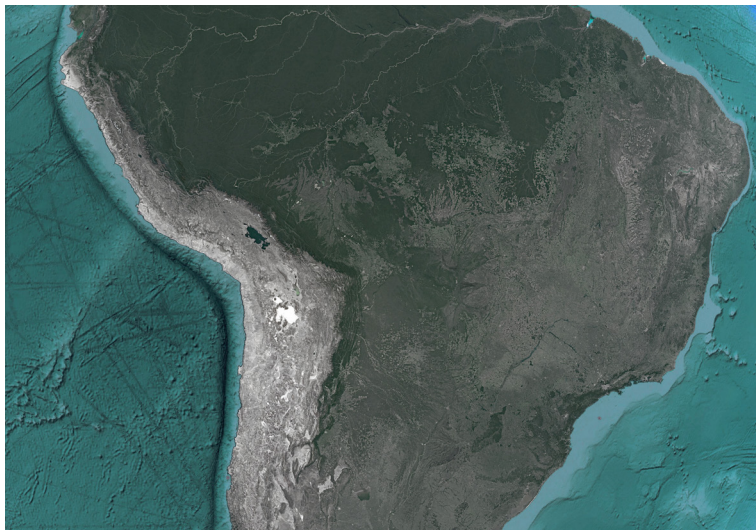


Upper left corner: Salar de Uyuni.  
AA.VV.

Lower right corner: Salar de Uyuni.  
AA.VV.



Salar de Uyuni  
País: Bolivia  
Elevación: 3.663 m  
Área: 10.582 km<sup>2</sup>  
Latitud: -20.4596691  
Altitud: -66.8250275

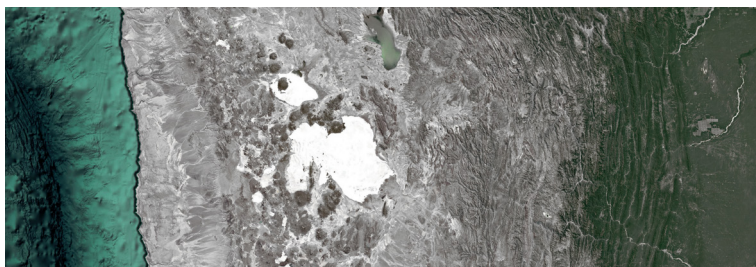


## PLACE

Neil Armstrong, the first man to set foot on the Moon, said that from the natural satellite and looking at our planet, he noticed a place in South America that looked like a gigantic mirror. This vision amazed him to the point that one of the first "missions" that was imposed on his return was to visit that site. That place that could be seen from space was the Uyuni salt flat.

The salar is the largest continuous and high salt desert in the world. It is located about 3650 m above sea level, in the southwest of Bolivia, in the department of Potosí, within the high plateau region of the Andes mountain range. The total surface is 10 582 km<sup>2</sup>.

40,000 years ago the area that today occupies this desert was covered by Lake Minchinnota and later, 11,000 years ago, by Lake Tauca or Tauka of about 100 m. deep. Later came a dry and warm period, which produced a great reduction in the surface and volume of the Andean lakes, thus originating the Uyuni salt flats.



Upper left corner: , Google Maps  
Lower left corner: Google Maps

## PROGRAM

The Uyuni Salt Flat Shelter contest presents a space where you can experience a period of rest and reflection. The project must highlight the uniqueness of the place and that it becomes a personal meeting space that relates its visitors to this spectacular environment, offering visitors a unique experience.

In these rules the m<sup>2</sup> of each area will not be defined, because it is understood that the designer, according to the unique idea that they proposes, will define these areas. The contest program proposes the following spaces, which can be expanded, simplified and manipulated by the contestant as they sees fit:

All the ideas that are proposed will be valid. The project can be on the ground, in the sky, buried or flying. It can develop wherever you want and how it is created. This program is indicative and therefore can be modified by the participant.

- Rest area and / or viewpoint, where you can experience nature. A space where to look, hear and feel. This space may be a single compact space or be fragmented, as well as aspects of accessibility and routes, including its variability over time. This area can be the night area if you want.
- Cleaning area. The minimum unit for it.
- Food Zone. This area can be shared, linked or even be the same as the rest area if desired.

As previously mentioned, the surface of the proposal is free and these spaces may be closed, open or semi-open depending on the intentions of each project, and may be established at any level of the enclave. Thus, there are no restrictions that can influence the decisions made by each participant.

Project freedom is absolute, this contest proposes that the participant investigate the landscape and the different forms of intervention in it. Study limits, scales, views, crossed eyes, horizons, accesses. They are the keys to follow.

\* As it is an ideas competition, participants are free to modify the proposed surfaces. This report should be taken as a reference of the spaces necessary for the project to be functional and as a measure of the overall dimensions of the project. Participants can suggest new areas not proposed in this document, as well as delete or combine some of those already mentioned.

## reTH!NK!NG philosophy

reTH!NKING Team proposes contests far from the pessimism, with high doses of freshness and joy, restless and expansive. Definitively, it aims to stimulate and shake the architects heads who seem to be asleep and restore dignity to the profession. Being optimistic over all.

The proposed competitions will be focused on 8 concepts which we think there is much to investigate and propose by architects.

We understand that architecture can not be classified, as a single project reflects on various concepts relevant to contemporary culture, but enhance several of these main research topics.



"Changing response is evolution.  
Change of question is revolution"

Lower left corner: Uyuni Salt. AA.VV.  
Upper right corner: Uyuni salt flat  
reflexes . AA.VV

## CONCEPTS



DENSITY



ECOLOGY



DETAIL



SCALE



LIMIT



MOBILITY



NATURE



HOUSING

## MAIN CONCEPTS

### NATURE



Definitely Nature does not exist. We have just digitalized the last squared meter of the planet and we have it already inside our artificial (artificializador) pocket.

Landscapes made to be used, where function and architecture show up at the same time their natural and artificial condition.

Architecture and context. Establishing both terms would be again a duality, some kind of halfway between architecture and its context, an inevitable addition of both of them due to its mutual influence. It becomes a singular ecology, among which architecture and what existed before are discovered. Architecture adds as a landscape, it is landscape and not object.  
paisaje y no objeto.

### ECOLOGY



We oppose to the aged and nostalgic ecology (freezer of landscapes, territories and environments), through an audacious ecology; re-qualifying versus re-formulating. Based not anymore in a fearful and defensive non-intervention, but in a non-impositive one, a qualifying intervention in synergy with the environment, and with technology too. Not only optimistic but "positiv-istic".

An ecology where sustainability means interaction.

Where nature is also artificiality.

Where landscape is topography.

Where energy is information and technology is transportation

Where development is recycling and evolution is genetic.

Where environment is field.

Where conservation implies always intervention.

Lower right corner: Views Uyuni salt flat. AA.VV

(VV.AA., Diccionario Metápolis de Arquitectura Avanzada, Barcelona: ACTAR, 2002)

(MVRDV, Farmax. Excursions on density, Rotterdam: OIO publishers, 1998)

## SCALE



Scale is not measurement, nor dimension, but capacity for relationship. In the same way that the dynamic systems that govern our universe (and the complex geometries of the structures associated with them) promote possible "to-scale" zoom relationships, these open configurations that are not associated with any scale are of interest here: o better, that they alter the idea of scale - of scale, not of size, as Federico Soriano would point out - thus referring to the very diffuse nature of the contemporary environment / resonating flexibly and without prejudice with and among its surprising - and ambiguous - manifestations.

Action and effect of an architecture that does not distinguish limits, that dissolves. All the space of this architecture would be intermediate space = "between".





## DELIVERY CONTENT RULES OF PRESENTATION

Participants must submit a single A1 (59,4 x 84,1 cm) any orientation is accepted. The **registration code (order number, #0000 or #00000)** obtained at the time of registration must appear at the upper right corner. Remember checking the spam inbox. You must also choose a **Slogan** or title for your project which can be placed anywhere. Panels delivered without the code and slogan can be excluded from the competition.

THE SUBMISSION WILL BE ONLINE THROUGH RETHINKING WEBSITE: [www.rethinkingcompetitions.com](http://www.rethinkingcompetitions.com). DELIVERY IS NOT ALLOWED THROUGH WETRANSFER OR VIA EMAIL UNLESS THE RETHINKING TEAM SPECIFIES IT

Once confirmed the payment, the participant will receive a document named "Welcome/Bienvenidos". The way of naming each file will be explained here as well as how to submit your proposal. **Remember checking the spam box.**

Files must be zipped in only one .ZIP file with all the required documents. Files must be less than 8 MB.

The information included in the panels will be the necessary to understand the project, each participant can choose: graphic representations, model pictures, perspectives, sketches, renderings, texts, etc. Models can not be delivered.

The jury will evaluate the quality of architectural design and its clear presentation and general composition. Shall not be required, although it will be appreciated, to solve the project construction or structural systems.

The project must be understood mainly through the artwork. In the sheet may be included text, although the presence of a large amount is not recommended. You can use either English or Spanish. The scale can be chosen by the participants.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TO BE DELIVERED:

The following documentation is required:

1. Competition anonymous panel (.jpg) (maximum 8Mb)
2. Competition named panel (.jpg) (maximum 8Mb)
3. Identification FormTeam (.pdf) Team description. This file will be available by direct download in the document "Welcome / Bienvenidos".
4. Abstract in 90 words (.doc)
5. Team photograph (.jpg)
6. Representative image (.jpg)
7. Social media Panel (.jpg) (maximum 1Mb)

This documentation will be named as described in the "Welcome-Bienvenidos" file.



Imagen inferior derecha  
Ibiza. AAVV

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

All students and architects or related professions anywhere in the world can participate in the contest. Participation can be individual or in groups, being eight (8) the maximum number of members. Team members can be from all disciplines (artists, philosophers, photographers, etc.), without being necessary, although advisable, the presence of an architect or architecture student. It is allowed that members are from different universities and countries.

The price of registration is the price that each participating team must pay, regardless of the number of members.

In case that one team or participant wants to submit more than one proposal for the same competition must register twice (or as many as want to present projects) paying the appropriate fee each time.

Under no circumstances should the participation of any juror, or anyone organizing professional or teaching agency relationship with any of the above will be accepted.

## PRIZES

The amount of 5,000 € will be distributed as follows:

First Prize	3.500 € (1.500 € + 2.000 € Programs MArch Valencia *)
Second prize	1000 €
Third Prize	500 €
+ 10 Honourable Mentions	No economic prize
Special Award reTH!NKING *	Registration next contest (50 €)

In addition the rethinking team is committed to the dissemination of the project through:

- Publication in magazines
- Publishing in blogs / architecture websites
- Publication in reTH!NKING media

\* The winner of € 2000 **Grant for Master's degree MArch Valencia** program of the School of Architecture and Polytechnic of the European University of Valencia will be chosen by Fran Silvestre between the prizes and accesits

\*\* **Special Award reTH!NKING** will be awarded the prize to that proposal that receives the most "likes" in a popular vote that will be held on the official Facebook page of reTH! NKING. After the resolution of the winner, all the people who have participated, giving "likes" to any of the proposals, will enter the draw for a free registration for the next contest reTH!NKING, valued at € 50. Voting will take place before the winners are known, therefore, all the proposals can participate regardless of the results of the jury.

All the sponsors of the competition will be a key support in the development of the competition. The jury will be prestigious and will be composed of professionals from the world of architecture.

*\*Según el país de residencia fiscal de los ganadores el premio en metálico puede estar sujeto a retenciones o pagos de impuestos correspondientes a la legislación del propio país. Al igual que la beca MArch tendrá las debidas retenciones en el caso de que se den.*

## JURY

Fran Silvestre Navarro - Fran Silvestre Arquitectos  
Guillermo Rubio Boronat - Editor TC Cuadernos  
Sevak Asatrián - MArch Investigator  
Zé Carlos Oliveira - Noarq studio

*\*All jury members have shown a willingness to be present at the voting process where the winners will be selected, however their participation is subject to their professional and educative commitments with their own studies and projects.*

The Jury will know the Provisional List of admitted proposals issued by the reTH!NKING, contests and will decide on possible incidents that may have occurred. They will then examine the proposals anonymously. The jury reserves the right to declare null and void any of the prizes. Likewise, it may award ex aequo et bono some of them, distributing in this case the total amount equally. In the event that the jury declares any prize void, these will not be distributed among the other winners.

## CALENDAR

ABRIL 1ST 2020	Early registration starts
MAY 6TH 2020	Early registration ends
MAY 7TH 2020	Regular registration starts
MAY 27TH 2020	Regular registrations ends
MAY 28TH 2020	Late registration starts
JUNE 19TH 2020	Late registration and FAQ ends
JUNE 19TH 2020- 18:00H GMT+1:00 (MADRID TIME)	Submission deadline*
JUNE 20TH 2020	Padmission List publication in reTHIN- KING official website **
JUNE 21TH - JULY 13TH 2020	Evaluation process
JULY 2020	Winners announcement and media disclo- sure.

The results will be published in our website and Social media. It will also be communicated individually to each of the contestants or teams that have been awarded, which may be before or after their online publication.

\* If the documentation is received after the deadline, the project will be disqualified.

\*\* The website is [www.rethinkingcompetitions.com](http://www.rethinkingcompetitions.com). The list will be also published on Rethinking official facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/reTHINKINGAC/>).

## INSCRIPTION

Inscription periods will depend on the competition publication and will be divided as follows:

Periodo	Individual Registration	Team Registration (2-8 members)
Early	35 € *	45 € *
Regular	45 € *	60 € *
Advanced	65 € *	85 € *

\*+21% IVA. Fulfilling an "Early", "Regular" or "Advanced" registration does not affect submission deadline.

Before making the inscription one member of the team must register on our website. After completing the registration form, you will receive an email with your password and the registration code you will need for your panels (Order: #0000 or #00000). It's important to keep this registration code, it will allow your team to access the intranet where you'll be able to access your registration.

Once registered you will have to make the inscription through our website: <http://rethinkingcompetitions.com/> by paying the current fee. The submitting instructions will be sent once we receive the payment. After 5 days since payment reTHINKING will not make refunds. Refunds costs shall be paid by contestants and never through the platform. Inscription fees will not be kept for future competitions.

The registration of several people on the individual registration mode will be a reason for disqualification.

## DISCOUNTS

It is possible to lower the price of the entries to any Rethinking competition registering multiple teams simultaneously. If you are a teacher and want to use our competition as an exercise you can take advantage of discounts and involve the largest number of teams. For every 10 teams will save 30% of the total enrollment.

\* For the applicable discount teams should be registered at the same time. The payment will be the total of all the teams.

## PAYMENT

The payment method will be the one that best suits the team, considering that payments made by Bank transfer must have as a concept the code team. If we receive a payment that is not properly identified we won't be able to relate it to your team and your participation will not be confirmed until you provide a proof of payment.

**Bank Deposit** the account data will be provided when choosing this option. Once the registration fee is paid it will not be refunded in any case. Registration dates are subject to the receipt of payments, not the time of issue.

Any type of management fees and / or bank charges will be borne by the participant.



**Credit or Debit Cards:** All card payments will be handled by PayPal to ensure data security. Rethinking not have access to your card details. The inscription will be received instantly.

**Tarjeta de crédito:** reTHINKING no tendrá acceso a los datos de vuestra tarjeta. La inscripción será recibida de forma instantánea.

**Pay-Pal:** Your registration will be received instantly.

All payments made by bank transfer must have the registration code in the subject and the account holder must be the person who is registered in the contest.

## DOCUMENTS

The following information is available for download on the website of reTHINKING:

Complete rules in ENGLISH and in SPANISH  
Graphic Material  
Site Photos  
Site .dwg drawing  
Communication Material, Competition's trailer and Poster

All the information is available for everyone in our website, no need for registration for consult it.

Participants will create their own graphic documents or use materials from other sources, leaving the team Rethinking exempt from any liability for infringement of copyright or other intellectual property rights.

## FAQ

From the start date until the deadline, all those questions that help to better understand the project and its objectives as well as on the functioning of competition may be proposed.

The questions not resolved in these rules or in the "FAQ" section of our website should be done through reTHINKING page on Facebook, which can be accessed from the top menu of any page our website. Any question must be sent to [contact@rethinkingcompetitions.com](mailto:contact@rethinkingcompetitions.com)

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Rethinking team will provide to each jury member a document where the basic concepts which its own vision of the architecture is based on.

The jury, once understood the profile and concerns of Rethink!NG, will give their personal assessment based on their knowledge and experience on the architectural project.

The jury will be revising all deliveries, where finally, it was particularly valued the reTHINKING spirit and the adequacy of the response to the problem and achieved goals, reviewing the response that each project gives to each concept, methodology and research accomplished.

In this latest round finalists, honorable mentions and the winners will be designated.

**The jury reserves the right to award proposals that do not comply any of the parameters of these rules as long as it represents an improvement in the project.**

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The authors of all the works presented have the rights recognized in the Real Decreto Real Decreto Legislativo 1/1996, of 12 April, approving the revised text of the Law on Intellectual Property, regularizing, clarifying and harmonizing intellectual property existing legislation on the subject.

Once submitted, the material will be given to rethinking for future publications and promotions of the contest. If used for other purposes, the authors retain all rights to their proposals.

The information submitted may be edited by the reTHINKING team to adapt it for publications, but never altering the original project. The use of graphic images and copying architectural projects by any contestant will be grounds for immediate disqualification and future complaints of copying intellectual property will be supported by the participant.

## NOTAS

reTHINKING reserves the right to make any changes in the competition rules (dates, deadlines, requirements, etc.) as long as these benefit the majority of participants and improving the competition. Any modification of the bases will be announced on the official website of reTHINKING on Facebook, remain the responsibility of the participants to visit frequently.

The project proposed here is fictitious and will not be built. The material provided to participants may have been modified by reTHINKING to improve the project conditions, so that drawings, photographs and other documentation may not match reality.

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reTHINKING is only responsible for receiving, organization and evaluation of the contest, as well as assistance to participants in the development of competition, therefore, reTHINKING has no vote in regard to the decision of the winners that the jury deems appropriate.

**The submission of the application for registration implies the acceptance of these rule**

Con la colaboración especial de:



Colaboradores:



Con el apoyo de:



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## Contacto

[www.reTHINKing competitions.com](http://www.reTHINKing competitions.com)

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