

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

ICELAND SKI SNOW CABIN

COMPETITION CONDITIONS



Contents

- 3** IGNITING ARCHITECTURAL INNOVATION
- 4** INTRODUCTION
- 5** ICELAND: A UNIQUE NORDIC GEM
- 7** ICELAND'S RICH CULTURAL TAPESTRY
- 8** AWE-INSPIRING GEOGRAPHY
- 9** MÝVATN REGION: A NATURAL WONDERLAND
- 11** KRAFLA CRATER: ICELAND'S GEOTHERMAL MAJESTY
- 13** THE COMPETITION
 - ICELAND SKI SNOW CABIN**
- 14** BUILDING PROGRAMME
- 15** PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS
- 16** BUDGET
- 17** THE COMPETITION SITE

-
- 20** PRIZES
 - 21** CERTIFICATES
 - 21** CONSTRUCTION
 - 22** PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN
 - 23** COMPETITION SCHEDULE
 - 24** REGISTRATION FEES
 - 24** DISCOUNTS FOR ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS
 - 25** SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
 - 26** RECOMMENDED SUBMISSION CONTENT
 - 27** PRESENTATION DELIVERABLES SET
 - 28** PRELIMINARY PRESENTATION REVIEWS
 - 29** JURY
 - 30** TELL THE WORLD YOUR STORY!
 - VIDEO AND INTERVIEW
 - 31** MEDIA PARTNERS
 - 31** ELIGIBILITY

Buildner Architecture Competition Organisers have prepared this document for the purpose of arranging the **Iceland Ski Snow Cabin** architecture competition.

The concept and planning for this competition have been developed solely by Buildner Architecture Competition Organisers.

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contact@buildner.com
architecturecompetitions.com

BUILDNER
Architecture Competitions

Igniting Architectural Innovation

BUILDNER is the global leader in organizing 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.

buildner.com

10+
years of experience

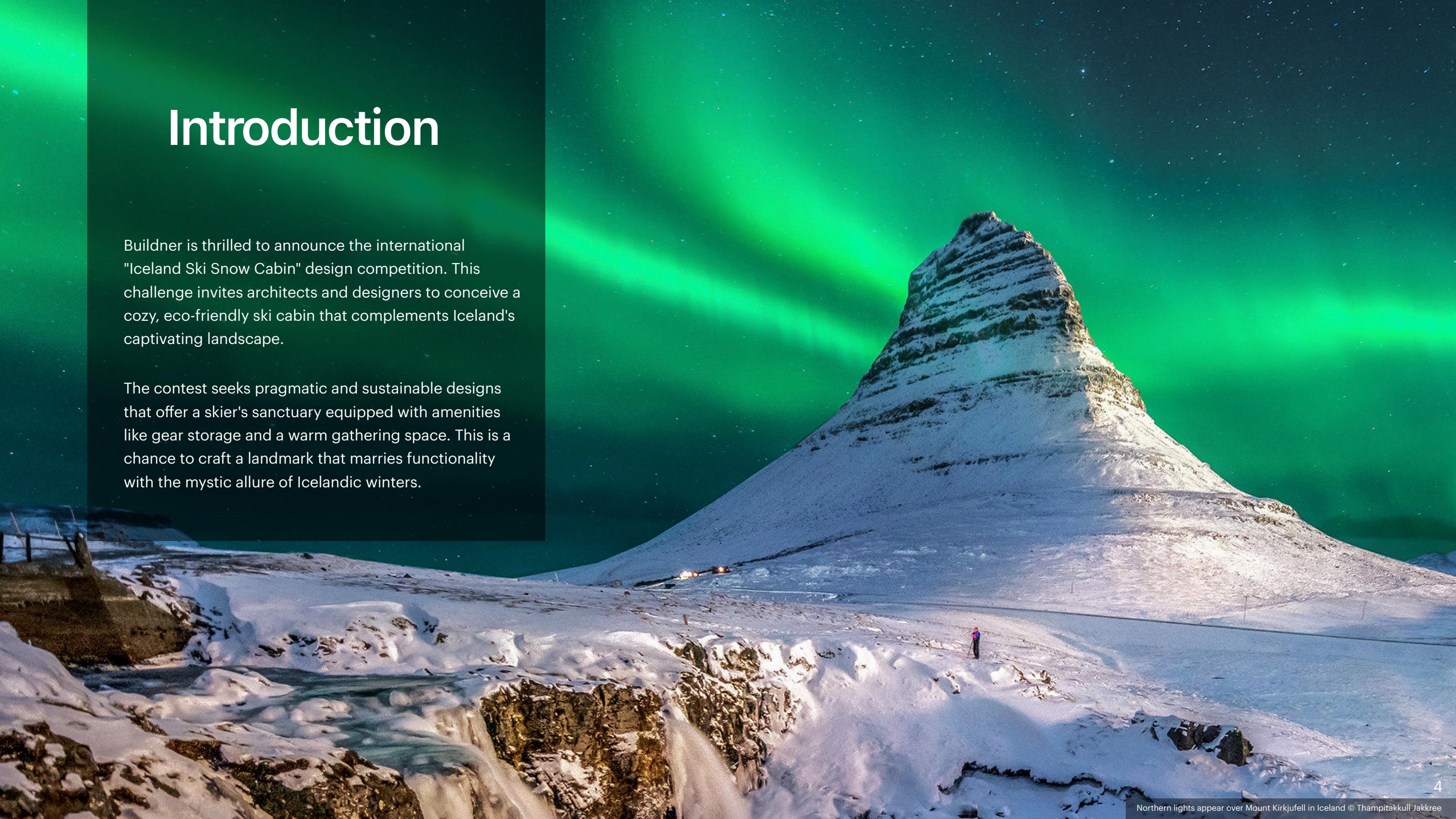
100+
successfully completed
competitions

300+
guest jury members

Introduction

Buildner is thrilled to announce the international "Iceland Ski Snow Cabin" design competition. This challenge invites architects and designers to conceive a cozy, eco-friendly ski cabin that complements Iceland's captivating landscape.

The contest seeks pragmatic and sustainable designs that offer a skier's sanctuary equipped with amenities like gear storage and a warm gathering space. This is a chance to craft a landmark that marries functionality with the mystic allure of Icelandic winters.

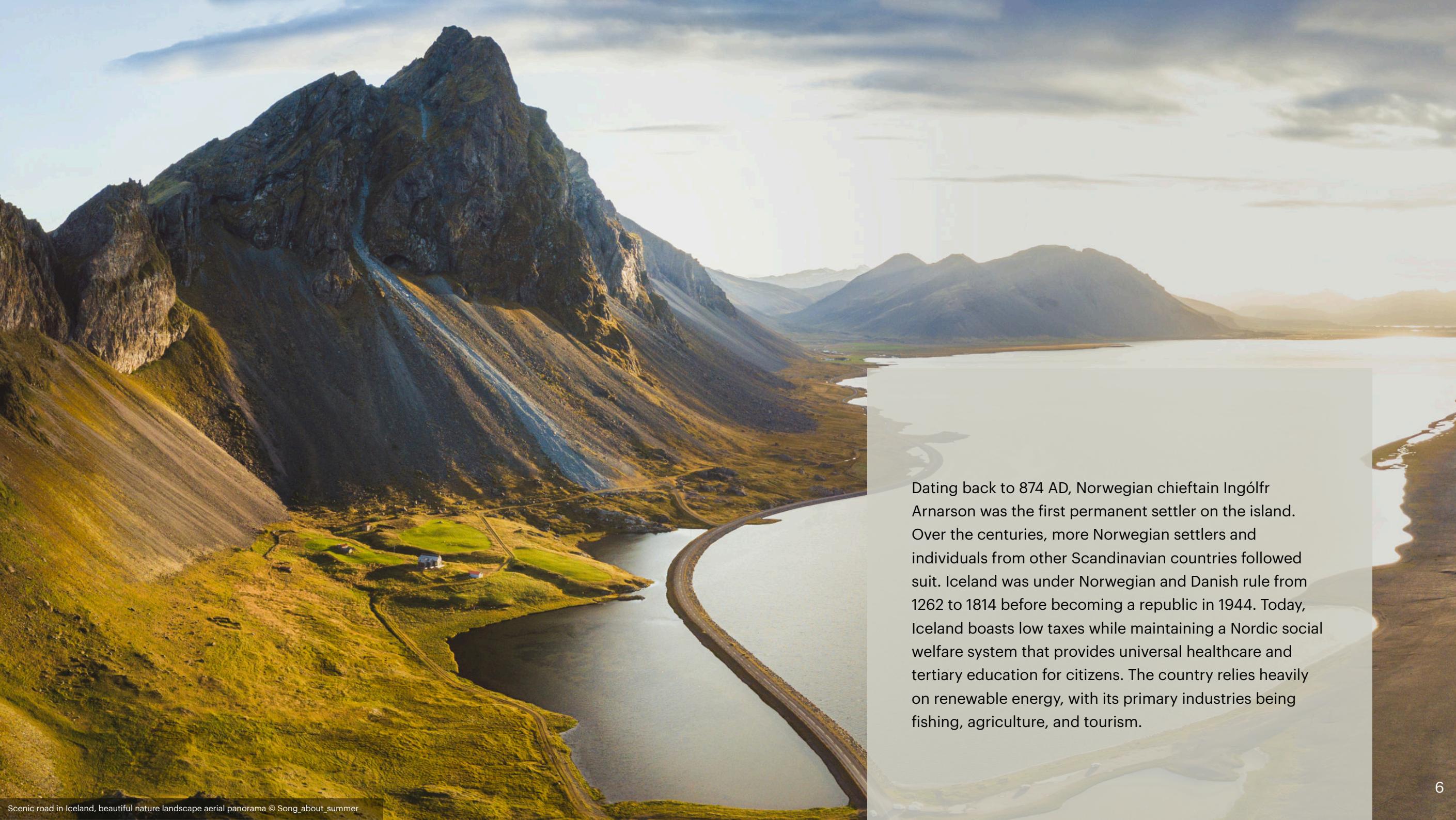


Iceland:

A Unique Nordic Gem

Iceland, a small Nordic island country, is nestled between the North Atlantic and the Arctic Ocean. With a population of less than 333,000, it stands as Europe's most sparsely populated nation. Most residents call the capital, Reykjavik, and its surrounding areas home.





Dating back to 874 AD, Norwegian chieftain Ingólfur Arnarson was the first permanent settler on the island. Over the centuries, more Norwegian settlers and individuals from other Scandinavian countries followed suit. Iceland was under Norwegian and Danish rule from 1262 to 1814 before becoming a republic in 1944. Today, Iceland boasts low taxes while maintaining a Nordic social welfare system that provides universal healthcare and tertiary education for citizens. The country relies heavily on renewable energy, with its primary industries being fishing, agriculture, and tourism.

Iceland's

Rich Cultural Tapestry

Iceland's cultural heritage, rooted in its Scandinavian ancestry, has evolved to become distinct from other Scandinavian nations due to centuries of isolation.

The Icelandic language, for instance, remains closest to Old Norse among all the Scandinavian languages. As descendants of Germanic and Gaelic settlers, Icelanders speak a North Germanic language closely related to Faroese and West Norwegian dialects.

Iceland's literary tradition includes classical works like the Icelanders' sagas—medieval tales set during the nation's age of settlement. The most famous of these sagas include Njáls saga, an epic blood feud story, and Grænlendinga saga and Eiríks saga, which recount the discovery and settlement of Greenland and Vinland (modern Newfoundland).



Beautiful view of the historic town of Husavik with traditional colorful houses and traditional fisherman boats © canadastock



Awe-Inspiring Geography

Iceland's striking geography is characterized by its varied and extraordinary landscapes. As a volcanically and geologically active island, Iceland spans 103,000 km², with 62.7% of it being tundra. Its coastline features numerous fjords, which host the majority of the country's settlements. Iceland's interior, a blend of sand and lava fields, mountains, and glaciers, is inhospitable, and glacial rivers flow to the sea through the lowlands on the island's exterior.

Though situated just outside the Arctic Circle, Iceland enjoys a temperate climate, courtesy of the Gulf Stream. Geographically closer to continental Europe, Iceland is considered part of Europe even though its nearest landmass is Greenland. The island lies on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a geological formation where oceanic crust spreads and forms new oceanic crust, resulting in Iceland's creation through rifting, accretion, and volcanism.



Mývatn Region:

A Natural Wonderland

The Mývatn region, located in the north of Iceland, boasts some of the country's most breathtaking natural wonders and is considered the Northern Lights Capital of Iceland. The region encompasses Iceland's fourth-largest body of water, Lake Mývatn, which spans 36.5 square kilometers and houses an abundance of natural marvels and diverse wildlife.





As part of the Diamond Circle—a popular travel route in northern Iceland—Lake Mývatn and its surrounding area offer visitors an idyllic setting for birdwatching, fishing, relaxing in natural hot springs, and exploring the enchanting lava fortress of Dimmuborgir. Not to mention, the Northern Lights are more frequently sighted in this region of Iceland. Among these astonishing attractions, the Skútustaðagígar craters stand out as a remarkable geological feature.

Krafla Crater:

Iceland's Geothermal Majesty

The Krafla Crater, a monumental testament to Iceland's raw geothermal power, stands majestically in the Mývatn region. This seismic marvel is not just a scenic wonder but also an emblem of the island's vibrant volcanic activity. Krafla's caldera, the result of centuries of eruptions, spans approximately 10 kilometers and is part of a larger volcanic system that includes a striking lava field and the renowned Víti explosion crater, filled with a strikingly blue geothermal lake.

The presence of this natural feature enhances the area's allure, offering visitors a window into the Earth's fiery heart. Its landscapes, shaped by both fiery flows and icy formations, create an otherworldly beauty that is unmistakably Icelandic. In the embrace of the Arctic serenity, the crater and its surroundings provide a unique backdrop that is a draw for those seeking to connect with nature's rawest forms.





In the colder months, the contrast between the steaming geothermal areas and the snow-covered landscapes around Krafla is stark and stunning. In warmer seasons, the rich hues of the volcanic earth come to life, offering a palette of colors that is both rare and captivating.

As a focal point in the Diamond Circle route, the crater area invites exploration, contemplation, and inspiration, promising visitors an unforgettable encounter with the dynamic forces that continue to shape the mythical land of fire and ice.

The competition

ICELAND SKI SNOW CABIN

Buildner invites architects and designers around the globe to explore the northern enchantment with our "Iceland Ski Snow Cabin" competition. The challenge is to blend Iceland's captivating heritage with contemporary design, manifesting in a ski cabin that not only meets the functional demands of winter sports enthusiasts but also embodies the essence of the Mývatn region—a tapestry where folklore and nature intertwine, shadowed by the dramatic Krafla crater.

Participants are tasked to conceptualize a ski cabin that will serve as a beacon of warmth and shelter in the stark yet stunning landscape of Iceland. The structure should honor the rugged beauty of its setting while providing essential amenities like equipment storage, a warm communal area, a self-serving refreshment station, changing facilities, and space for maintenance equipment. Designs should be sensitive to the environment and reflect the ethos of Icelandic simplicity and resilience.

Designs will be evaluated for their innovation, sensitivity to the Icelandic environment, and their potential to become a natural extension of the local heritage. We expect proposals to go beyond aesthetics and functionality, encapsulating the magic of the Northern Lights and the dramatic Icelandic terrain. The successful project will not just be a model of architectural excellence but a space that tells a story, much like the sagas of old.

Not only does this competition offer the prestige of winning, but the triumphing design will be considered for actual construction. This represents a unique opportunity to contribute a physical and enduring piece of architecture to Iceland's cultural narrative.

We invite you to bring forth a vision that captures the essence of Iceland—a cabin that could be the setting of a modern saga, a place of rest and community that enriches the Mývatn region's legacy as a natural wonderland.



Building programme

	Rest and Warmth Area: A cozy, insulated space for skiers to take a break and warm up, complete with a fireplace or modern heating elements.	30 m²
	Equipment Check and Tuning Station: A well-organized area for quick equipment adjustments, repairs, or drying stations.	15 m²
	Self-Serve Refreshment Station: A convenient, self-service setup offering hot beverages and local Icelandic snacks for a quick energy boost.	20 m²
	Viewing Deck: A strategically positioned deck to take in the majestic views of the slopes and the natural phenomena such as the Northern Lights.	25 m²
	Interactive Info Point: An engaging spot equipped with the latest updates on ski trail maps, weather conditions, and local storytelling.	10 m²

	Toilets and Washrooms: Sanitary, accessible, and comfortable facilities to cater to the guests' essential needs.	20 m²
	Unisex Changing Rooms: An area with lockers and benches for skiers to comfortably transition from gear to relaxation and back.	20 m²
	Sporting Equipment Storage: A secure space to house the skiing gates, safety netting, and other essential sporting equipment.	10 m²
	Snow Groomer Garage: A robust and accessible garage, spacious enough to accommodate a snow groomer like the PistenBully 600, with dimensions of approximately 12m x 6m to ensure ease of movement and maintenance.	Approx. 72 m²

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

Project proposal requirements

- Design an inviting and functional skier's cabin that serves as a warm retreat and practical facility for enthusiasts visiting the slopes near Krafla crater, in the Mývatn region of Iceland. The cabin should encapsulate the needs of a skiing community, providing essential amenities and a space that celebrates the spirit of the locale.
 - The cabin must include fundamental facilities such as toilets, changing rooms, and a self-service refreshment area, enhancing the overall experience for skiers. It should also have a dedicated space for the storage of sporting equipment, such as skiing gates and safety netting, and a garage large enough to accommodate a snow groomer, approximately 12m x 6m in size.
 - Ensure that the cabin design is accessible and meets international accessibility standards to welcome a diverse group of visitors. The design should be resilient and comfortable, providing shelter and warmth in Iceland's dynamic climate, known for its cold winters and milder summers.
 - The design should consider the visual and environmental impact of the building, promoting a seamless integration with the natural surroundings. It should direct visitor flow, optimize views of the landscape, and respect the open vista.
 - Select materials and construction techniques that emphasize sustainability and minimal environmental disruption. Although the construction budget is to be defined, the proposal should be mindful of cost-effectiveness and potential for future scalability.
 - Your design should not only serve the immediate practical needs but also act as a draw for both local and international visitors, enhancing the profile of the Mývatn region. It should stand as a symbol of thoughtful architectural intervention that resonates with the identity of the area.
- While the above requirements outline the core of the project, you are encouraged to bring innovative and improved strategies to your proposal, ensuring that the final design is both dynamic and sensitive to its unique Icelandic context.*

Budget

The competition encourages an economical approach to design, with an emphasis on cost-efficiency and practicality. Although the client has not set strict budgetary limits, participants must consider the higher construction costs typical to Iceland, influenced by factors such as the importation of materials, specialized labor, and the demanding environmental conditions that necessitate robust and thermally efficient structures.

Prospective designs should target a reasonable cost framework, ideally within the range of 300,000 - 400,000 ISK per square meter.

Entrants are prompted to incorporate local materials, adopt straightforward design techniques, and leverage Iceland's geothermal resources for energy-efficient solutions, thereby optimizing the budget. The competition's objective is to yield a design that is not only financially prudent but also innovative, sustainable, and well-adapted to Iceland's climatic rigors.

With no explicit budgetary constraints from the client, designers have the flexibility to creatively interpret the brief. Yet, they should judiciously balance financial feasibility with architectural innovation, ensuring their proposals are viable for eventual construction in the distinctive landscape of Iceland's Mývatn region.

The competition site

The competition site is a scenic spot just northeast of Lake Mývatn, near the majestic Krafla crater, at the foot of a popular skiing slope (Skíðasvæði Mývetnings í Kröflu). Here, amid Iceland's raw beauty, lies the potential site for your innovative cabin design.

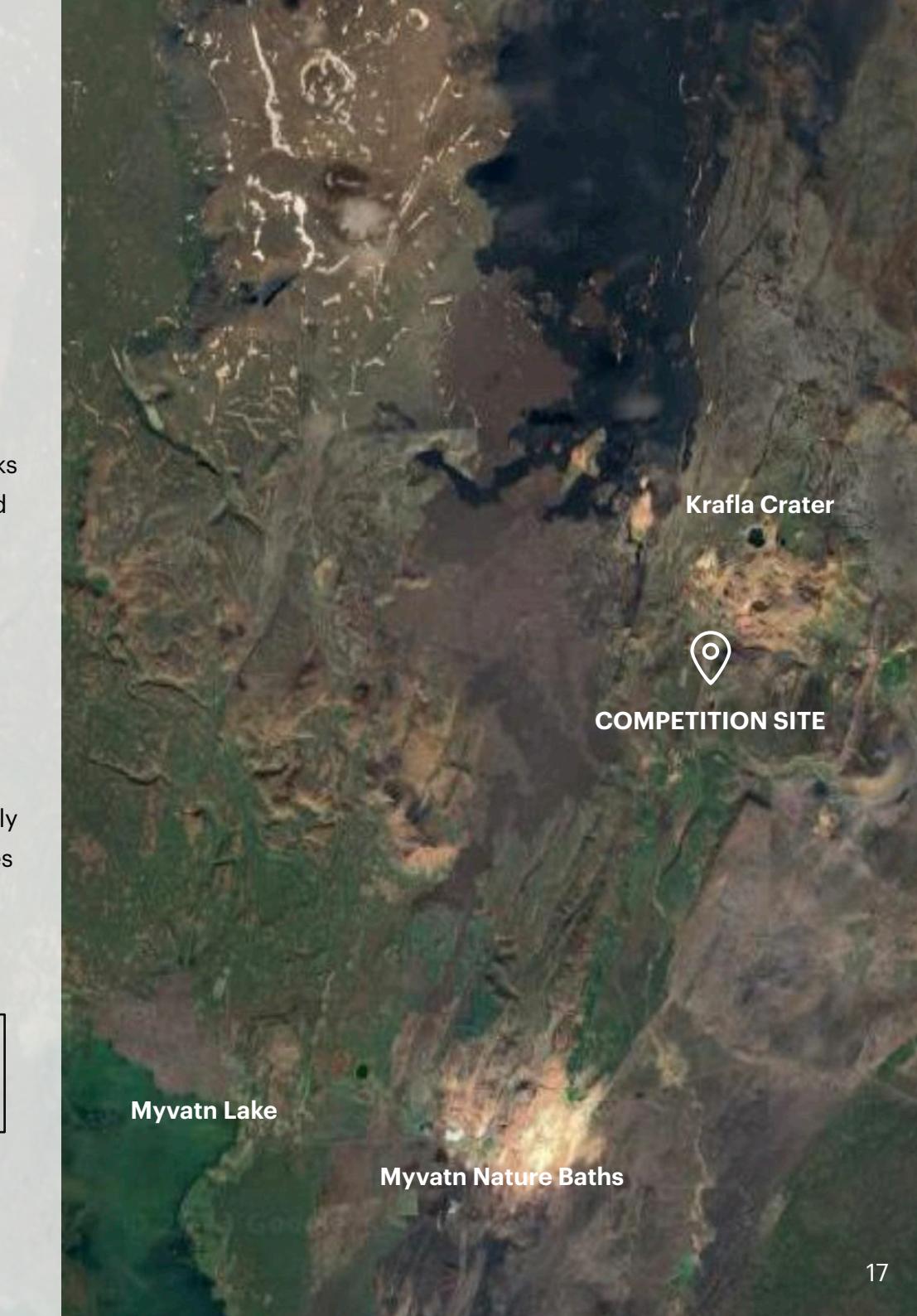
Currently, there's a simple setup for skiers to change and a basic toilet. These are set to be removed, offering a blank slate for the new design. There are no remnants to consider, so you have the freedom to envision the space from the ground up.

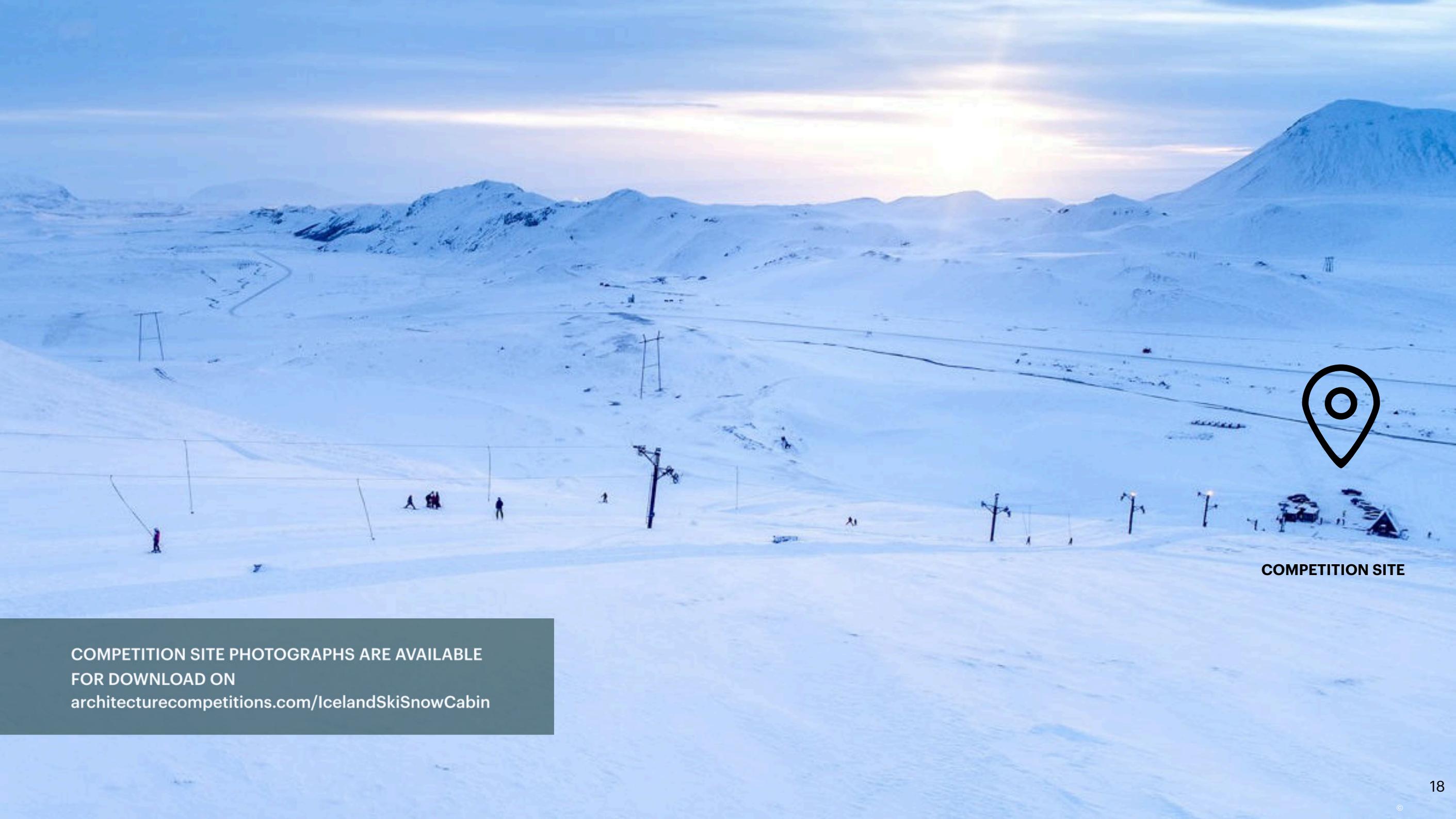
The site is already connected to electricity, but it lacks water and sewage connections. Designers are invited to think creatively about sustainable solutions for these essentials. The competition favors proposals that are environmentally considerate and self-sufficient.

You'll be working with a flat landscape, which means you won't have to navigate tricky terrain. Yet, the openness of the area means your design will be highly visible, an aspect to bear in mind. The site boundaries are flexible—you can choose where to situate your cabin within a suggested zone.



SITE COORDINATES:
@65.6967709,-16.7678882





COMPETITION SITE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE AVAILABLE
FOR DOWNLOAD ON
architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandSkiSnowCabin

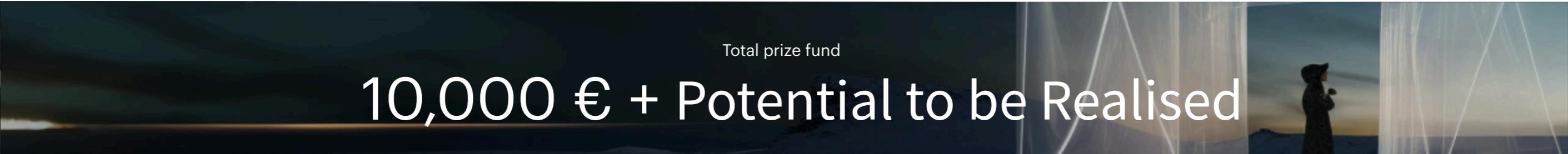
COMPETITION SITE



COMPETITION SITE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE AVAILABLE
FOR DOWNLOAD ON
architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandSkiSnowCabin

Prizes

Monetary awards



3 winning proposals, 2 special award recipients and 6 honorable mentions will be selected. Buildner will award a total of 10,000 € in prize money to competition winners as follows:

1st Prize
5,000 €

2nd Prize
2,500 €

3rd Prize
1,000 €

BUILDNER STUDENT AWARD
1,000 € Cash prize +
50 € ARCHHIVEBOOKS.com gift card

BUILDNER SUSTAINABILITY AWARD
500 € Cash prize

+ 6 honorable mentions

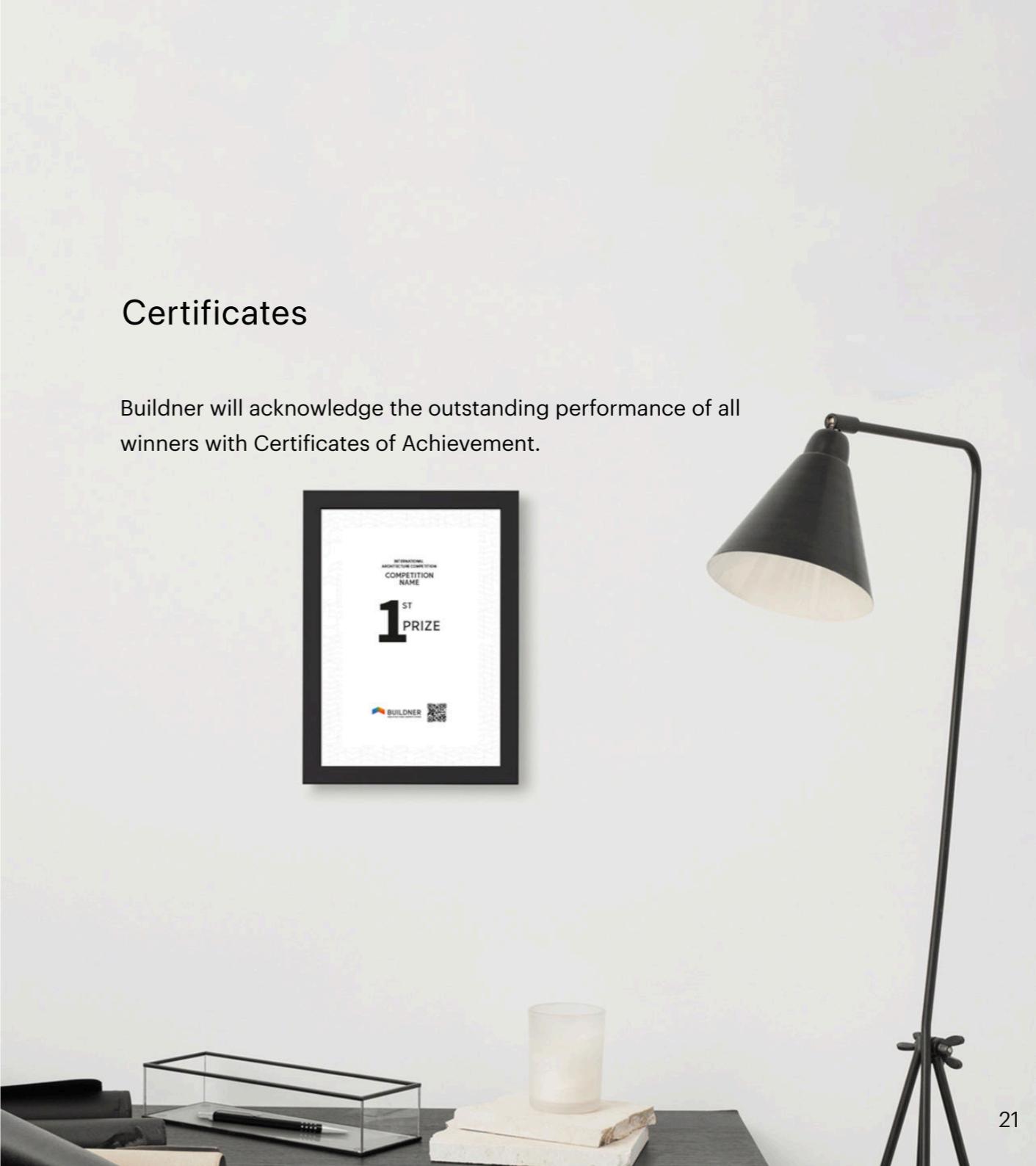
Prizes

Potential to be Realised

The client has expressed their intention to construct the winning design, offering an extraordinary chance for architects to see their skiing cabin concept materialize in the stunning landscape of Iceland's Mývatn region.

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.

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.

Competition schedule

Preliminary registration deadlines

☒ Early Bird Registration
NOVEMBER 14 – DECEMBER 12

☒ Advance Registration
DECEMBER 13 – JANUARY 31

☒ Last Minute Registration
FEBRUARY 1 – APRIL 17

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
APRIL 23, 2024

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



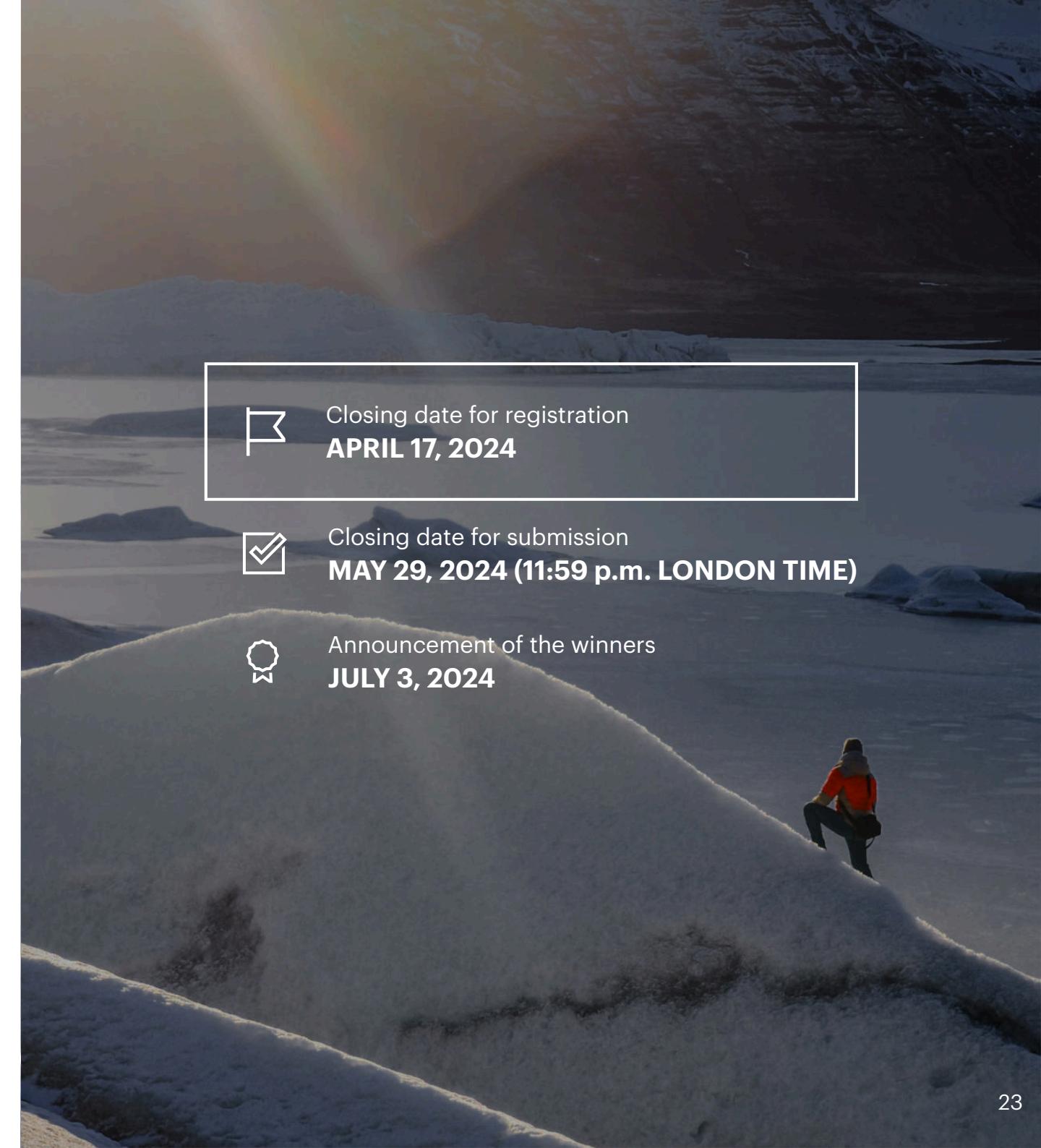
Closing date for registration
APRIL 17, 2024



Closing date for submission
MAY 29, 2024 (11:59 p.m. LONDON TIME)



Announcement of the winners
JULY 3, 2024



Registration fees



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

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

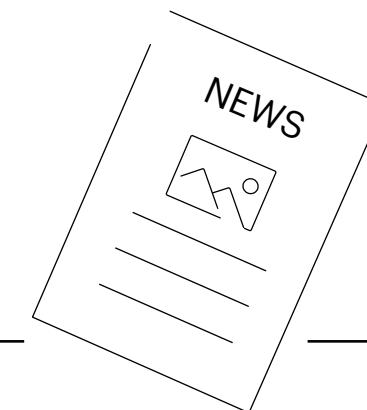


- No video files are accepted.
- All information provided in writing must be in English.
- All submissions must be uploaded via the architecturecompetitions.com upload panel. Access information and instructions on how to upload the presentation board will be issued to participants via email immediately 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.

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.



Recommended submission content

- Architectural renderings that showcase how the ski cabin design integrates with the unique terrain and environment of the Mývatn region, providing an appealing and functional space for visitors.
- Design proposals that adhere to the highest standards set out in the competition brief, tailored to the specificities of the northeastern site near Lake Mývatn.
- Detailed presentations of the proposed floor plans and sections, various interior and exterior views to convey the quality and functionality of the space, addressing the operational, equipment storage, and accessibility considerations.
- An illustration of the project's viability concerning the Icelandic climate, environmental sensitivity, material longevity, and sustainable construction practices.
- Detailed plans and perspectives that reveal the spatial organization of the ski cabin, including user flow, the interaction with the landscape, and compliance with universal design principles.
- A clear depiction of the proposed construction methods, material selection, facility management, and maintenance plans; strategies for environmental, energy efficiency, and sustainability; and considerations for both the indoor and outdoor spaces.
- Visual representations from multiple angles that capture the vision of the ski cabin and its ability to harmonize with the Mývatn region's natural beauty and serve as an attraction for a diverse range of visitors.

Presentation deliverables set

- Elevations (suggested scale 1:50)
 - Sections (suggested scale 1:50)
 - Floor plans (suggested scale 1:50)
 - Enlarged sections and elevations highlighting key spaces or relationships (suggested scale 1:10)
 - Details (suggested scale 1:5):
 - Envelope
 - Key materials
 - Site or landscape
 - Axonometric's providing information on building systems or illustrating key architectural concepts
 - Perspectives
 - Primary interior spaces
 - Primary site locations
 - Diagrams
 - Circulation
 - Public versus private space
 - Lighting
 - Landscaping
 - Transportation
 - Energy systems
-

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

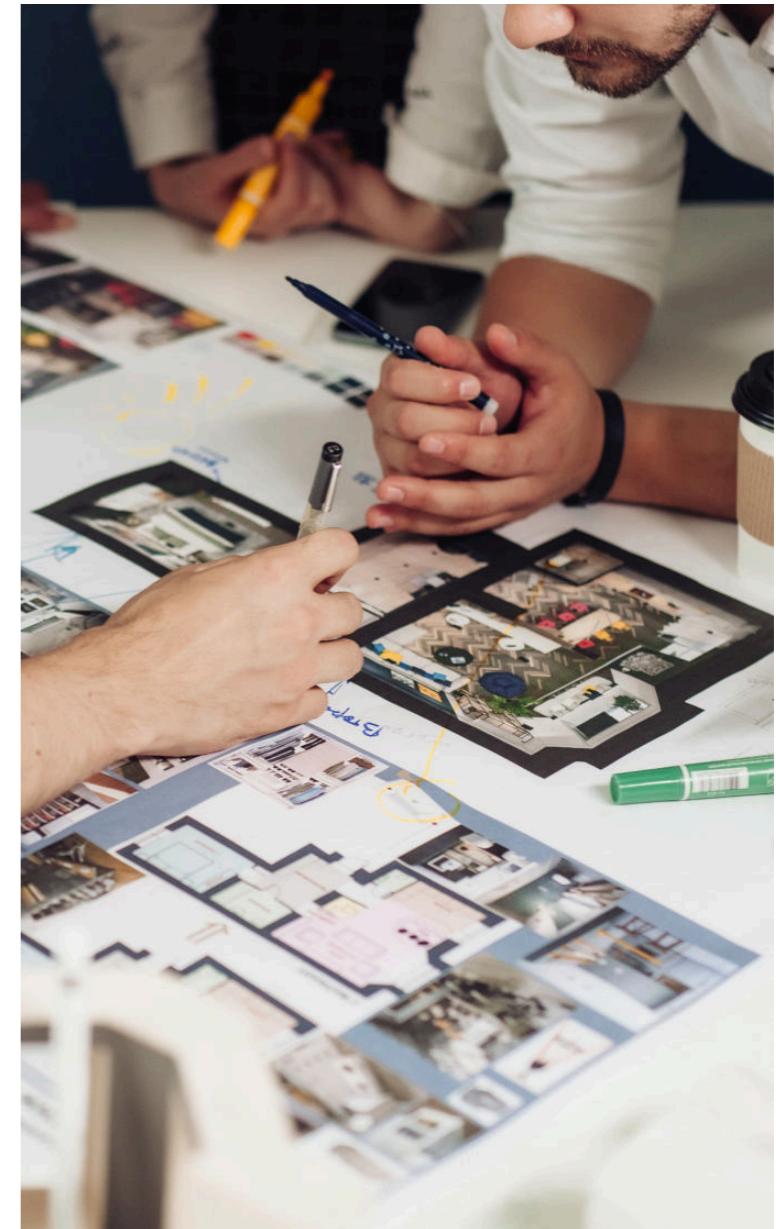
For more than ten years, Buildner has analyzed and rated thousands of architecture competition project submissions. Trust us when we say — the quality of your presentation is vital to convince a jury team of your design intent, and there are several graphic and representational factors that can make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

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

Iceland Ski Snow Cabin is 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

Tell the world your story!

Video and interview

Shortly prior to the results announcement, selected competition winners and honorable mentions will be contacted and asked to answer a series of interview questions (**in writing**) and submit a video about themselves. These will be published with the competition results.

There is a tight deadline to announce the winners on time, therefore interview questions will need to be returned within **2 days**, and videos submitted within **2 weeks** of being requested.

Hence, we advise participants to consider ideas for their video and answers to their questions in advance so that they are able to submit the relevant material on time.

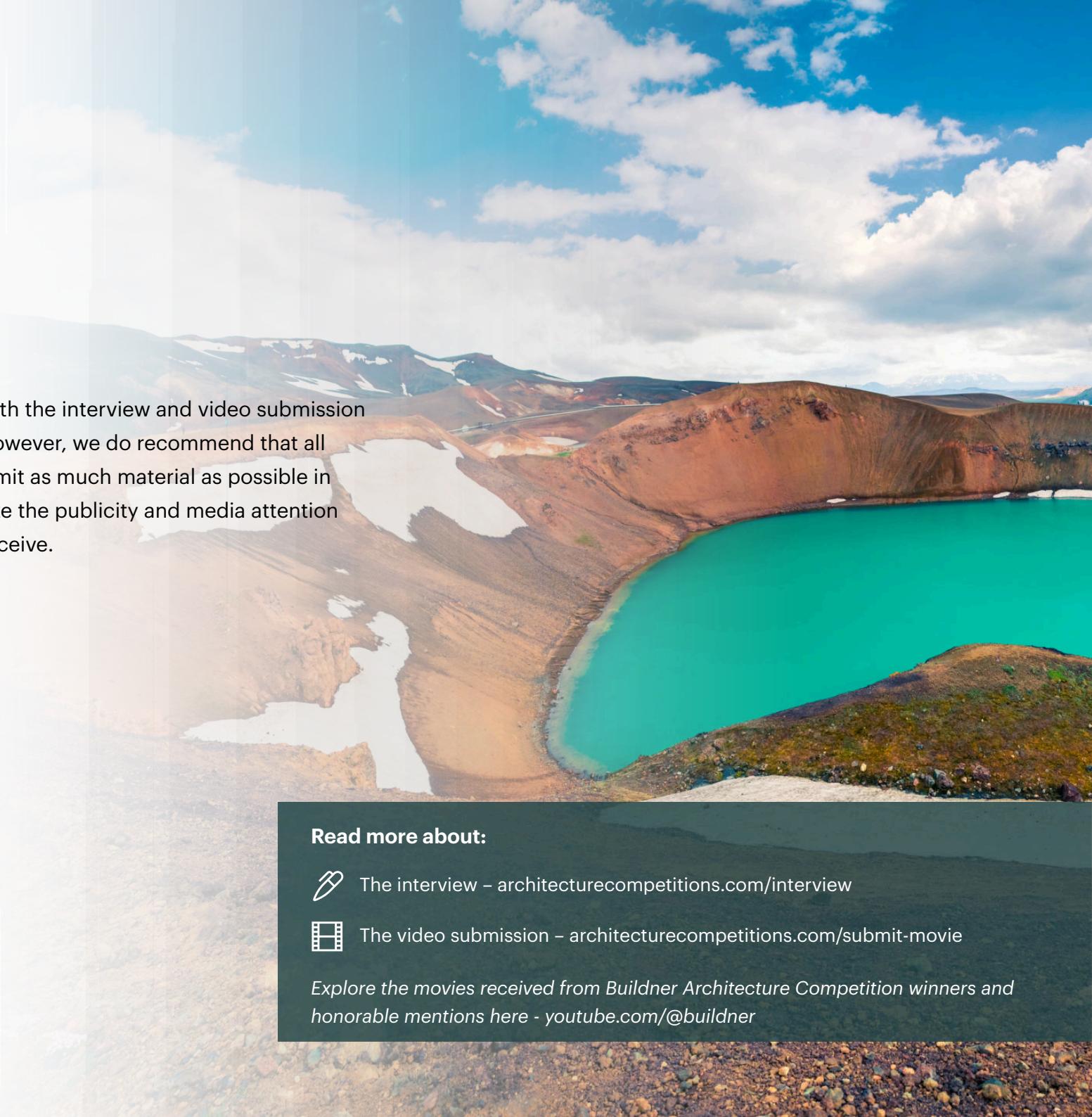
Please note – both the interview and video submission is **OPTIONAL**. However, we do recommend that all participants submit as much material as possible in order to maximize the publicity and media attention their work will receive.

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



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.

Competition documentation

The following information is available for download on architecturecompetitions.com/IcelandSkiSnowCabin

- Full competition brief
- Site and context photographs

All information can be downloaded as often as required; no additional information or materials will be provided after registration.

The brief and all associated documentation for this competition are created for the sole purpose of an academic exercise and are not legal documents.

The provided materials, or alternatives, can be used, created, or sourced at the participant's discretion.

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/IcelandSkiSnowCabin

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/IcelandSkiSnowCabin/press