

INTERNATIONAL IDEAS COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS IN ARCHITECTURE WITHIN THE *GREAT GREEN WALL* OF AFRICA

[The International Union of Architects \(UIA\)](#) has launched the *Great Green Wall ideas competition* open to all students in architecture of the world.

The objective of the competition is to spotlight innovative design ideas for providing affordable and resilient housing within the Sahel-Saharan desert region from Dakar to Djibouti known as the *Great Green Wall* of Africa. Apart from the academic benefit to students, this competition aims to revive the historical asset to promote entrepreneurship in local arts and crafts production, in addition to empowering the population economically and socially. The project must inspire the sustainability of the fading cultural and historical landscape.

The competition is organized by the [UIA's Africa Region V](#) to engage the global community of architecture students in the effort to harness the benefits of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to architecture in the service of the *Great Green Wall*. Participant students are engaged to respond to the realities of climate change by creating affordable, resilient dwellings and sustainable, rural livability while sustainably rejuvenating the cultural and historical landscape.

Launched in 2007 by the African Union, the [Great Green Wall initiative](#) brings together 20 African countries, creating a barrier against climate change running across the region extended from Senegal to Djibouti. The *Great Green Wall* covers 780 million hectares of arid and semi-arid land around the Sahara. This area is home to 232 million people who are largely dependent on livestock and crop farming. By 2030, the ambition of the *Great Green Wall* initiative is to restore 100 million hectares of currently degraded land spanning 8000 km across Africa; sequester 250 million tons of carbon and create 10 million green jobs. This will support communities living along the Green Wall to grow fertile land, to grow economic opportunities for the youngest population, to grow food security and climate resilience. The *Great Green Wall* is one of the [Supporting Partners of the United Nations Decade on ecosystem restoration 2021-2030](#).

The competition organized by the International Union of Architects UIA encourages participant students to view the environment as a design resource for innovation, through the use of sustainable materials and novel design approaches for change investigations. Participants are expected to trigger



many opportunities and explore solution-driven approaches to indigenous architectural challenges. It will include designs that respond to realities of climate change, climate actions, peculiar contexts in urbanism, and the making of culture-sensitive productive rural landscapes while taking into account the need for affordable shelter, resilient dwelling, and sustainable livability in twenty-first-century rurality.

The project site can be in any of the selected countries, namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sudan, within the *Great Green Wall* belt. The project site and the proposed ideas must have the potential to contribute to the architectural, ecological, economic and social development of the *Great Green Wall* belt.

The competition is open to all full-time enrolled architectural students from all over the world. Multidisciplinary teams are allowed and must be led by an architectural student. Student participants must be enrolled in a school of architecture at the time of submission. Competitors are only allowed to submit one entry. [All useful information to participate is detailed in the document published by UIA.](#)

Participants are required [to register on UIA competition platform](#). Competitors will receive a number or code that they will use to log into the system and download the competition documents. No fees are required for registering.

Deadline for registration is 20 August 2022 and deadline for submission of entries is 20-30 September 2022.

Founded in 1948, the International Union of Architects (UIA) is a federation of national professional organizations working to unify architects, to influence public policies and advance architecture in service to the needs of society. The UIA involve organizations in 130 countries and through these members represents more than 1.300.000 architects worldwide.

To know more

[Great Green Wall - Student Ideas Competition in International Union of Architects website](#)

[To register on UIA competition platform](#)

[Information to participate in UIA website.](#)

[Great Green Wall initiative](#)

[Great Green Wall in UN Decade on ecosystem restoration 2021-2030.](#)

[Great Green Wall Implementation Report in UNCCD website](#)

[GGWReport.pdf in unccd.int](#)

[International Union of Architects website](#)

