

**IB<sup>+</sup>**

# **UTOPIA**

**LESS**

Student Competition  
Call for entries dossier | 2024

### OCCASION | MOTIVATION

On the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022, IB launched a student ideas competition for the benefit of the next generation of architects – UTOPIA.

The goal of the competition is to provide students with a platform for future-related topics.

The competition will be held every two years.

Focus of the second run is on contemporary architectural discourse – the extensive subject area of sufficiency and specifically on the question of LESS.

### TASK | LESS

«Imagine there's no heaven  
It's easy if you try  
No hell below us  
Above us, only sky»

John Lennon's iconic song «Imagine» is basically a summary of absences. These absences however open up new opportunities, alternative orders, and systems; new utopias:

«Imagine all the people  
Livin' life in peace ...»

A term that draws its strength from absences also appears regularly at turning points of architecture: LESS.

LESS has been part of the architectural debate again and again – directly or indirectly – whenever interpretative sovereignty, relevance and attention were renegotiated and redistributed.

LESS appears to be an important indicator for profound changes.

The climate crisis and its diverse, direct effects on our lives have brought architecture to a turning point. Something must be done. Urgent, solution-oriented discussions and actions leave little room for examination and negotiation of the basic terms of the change – their values and narratives. Yet this is just as important as finding pragmatic answers. The goal is not just to avert a disaster. LESS therefore does not (only) have to stand for renunciation and limitation. LESS can be a lot more.

Those who regard crises as a breeding ground for utopias, see new opportunities and perspectives behind the challenges of the present.

When old structures start to break up, cracks start to appear in trusted paradigms. New perspectives open up, the point of view widens. Utopia becomes the driving force behind a fundamental change in architectural practice – not the prevention of a decline, but the dawning of a better future. LESS becomes perspective, space, possibility, hope.

UTOPIA: LESS offers an opportunity to illuminate and discover these cracks and thereby cast open a possible gateway to a desirable future. We are asking you to think about fundamentals, and more specifically, about utopias of the LESS.

What is LESS in the architecture of tomorrow? Is it a liberation, a cleansing? Is it a threat, an intentional or unintentional renunciation? Is LESS a gift?

What's your story, what's your conviction regarding the subject LESS? What is the contribution of the discipline of architecture in a utopia of the LESS?

Show us a possible contribution of architecture to a utopia of the LESS by means of a prototype experiment. Present your utopia of the LESS in word, drawing and image on an A1 format.

Explain your motivation and the aim of the contribution in an additional simple video message of max. 90 seconds.

#### PRIZE MONEY

A total sum of CHF 10,000 will be awarded. Distribution of the prize money is at the discretion of the jury.

#### DATES

Registration	February 29 until March 30, 2024
Questions until	March 30, 2024
Submission	May 6, 2024
Jury meeting	May 30, 2024
Announcement	June 2024
Award ceremony	September 2024 in S AM Schweizerisches Architekturmuseum (Swiss Architecture Museum)

#### REGISTRATION

Download of competition documents and mandatory registration for the competition is via the following link: [www.ittenbrechbuehl.ch/utopia](http://www.ittenbrechbuehl.ch/utopia)

Individuals or teams (interdisciplinary also welcome) can participate. All team members must be stated in the author's letter. Enclosure of a copy of a certificate of enrollment for each team member is required.

## QUESTIONS

Questions can be addressed to the following e-mail address until March 30, 2024: [utopia@ittenbrechbuehl.ch](mailto:utopia@ittenbrechbuehl.ch). Answers will be published under [www.ittenbrechbuehl.ch/utopia](http://www.ittenbrechbuehl.ch/utopia).

## EXCLUSION

IB employees cannot take part in the competition.

## PROCEDURAL LANGUAGE

Competition documents are available in German, English, French and Italian. The procedural language will be English. Submissions are required in English.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following should be submitted: one A1 format document (portrait) with title (top right) and one video (max. 90 seconds playing time).

- Text
- Drawing
- Image
- Video

Deadline for submission (exclusively digital) is May 6, 2024.

## DIGITAL SUBMISSION COMPONENTS

One compressed folder (max. 150 MB) uploaded to the following platform:

[www.ittenbrechbuehl.ch/utopia](http://www.ittenbrechbuehl.ch/utopia) containing:

- Page in A1 format (portrait) with title (top right), as PDF file.
- Video in MOV format (QTime) or MP4 with title as file name.

Separately:

- Text as Word file
- Drawing/s
- Image/s
- Author's letter and student ID (copy)
- Teams are required to enclose copies of student IDs of all members.

## JURY

Vanessa Billy	Artist, Zurich
Sabine von Fischer	Architect, Agentur für Architexte, Zurich
Pascal Flammer	Architect, Pascal Flammer Architekten, Zurich
Chrissie Muhr	Architect, Researcher and Curator, Basel
Andreas Ruby	Director S AM, Basel
Henning Weiss	(Young) Architect, Basel

Not entitled to vote:

Karina Hüssner	Architect, Business Development, IB Atelier
Daniel Blum	Architect, IB Atelier
Jürg Toffol	Architect, IB Basel

PERMISSION

Vanessa Billy

*Vanessa Billy*

Sabine von Fischer

*Sabine von Fischer*

Pascal Flammer

*Pascal Flammer*

Chrissie Muhr

*Chrissie Muhr*

Andreas Ruby

*Andreas Ruby*

Henning Weiss

*Henning Weiss*

Karina Hüssner

*Karina Hüssner*

Daniel Blum

*Daniel Blum*

Jürg Toffol

*Jürg Toffol*



## AUTHOR'S LETTER

TITLE

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TEAM MEMBERS

(Name and  
no. of student ID)

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DETAILS OF CONTACT PERSON

Surname, first name

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Address

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Post/ZIP code, place

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Country

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Telephone (with prefix)

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E-mail address

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Bank account number

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COURSE OF STUDY

University

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Address

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Current semester

Bachelor \_\_\_\_\_ semester

Master \_\_\_\_\_ semester

By signing, the contact person confirms the correctness of the details provided, the validity of the enclosed student IDs as well as the use and publication of all work submitted.

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Place and date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature