

# Sahara Eco House





## INTRODUCTION

When the word "nature" is named, it comes to mind images of wild landscape, with a great chromatic quality where the green color is predominant. In fact many times this way of understanding nature is the most similar to what we understand as life.

On the contrary, when we name the word desert, we relate it immediately to death and therefore we never identify it with a rich nature but with a dead nature where life is not possible. The survival is not only a challenge but a constant and exhausting lifestyle.

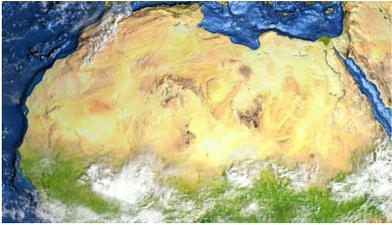
Es cierto que las cualidades que nos presenta este medio natural hace complicada la vida, principalmente por sus cambios de temperatura que llegan a ser hasta de 50 grados en un mismo día, con temperaturas bajo cero en la mayoría de las noches. Pero es también en estas horas nocturnas cuando toda la fauna del lugar se asoma desde sus refugios, son en estas horas donde debería reinar la calma cuando más actividad y vida hay.

It is true that the qualities this natural environment offers complicate life,

mainly because of its temperature changes that reach up to 50 degrees in one day, with temperatures below zero on most nights. But it is also in these nocturnal hours when all the fauna of the place looms from its shelters.

This is why we ask ourselves, is human life possible in this natural environment in comfortable spaces? Is it possible that architecture poses solutions that make this life more conformable in an apparently inhospitable natural environment?

No doubt there are solutions but you must take advantage of everything, i.e. housing must take advantage of the weaknesses of the place to turn them into strengths. Be it light, wind, no shade or even water shortage.



North Africa

Country: Argelia, Chad, Egipto, Libia, Marruecos, Mauritania, Malí, Níger, República Árabe Saharaui Democrática, Sudán y Túnez

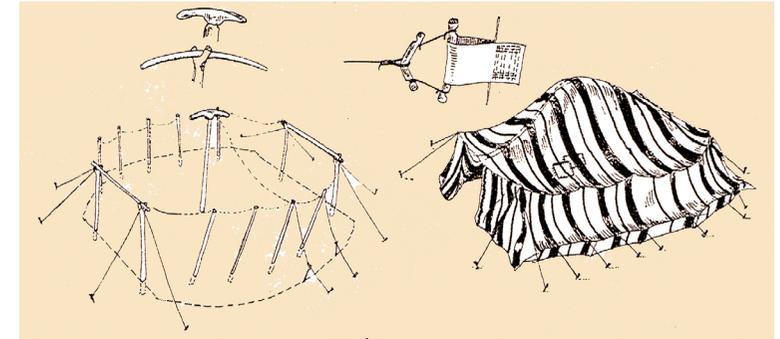
Latitude: 23° 04' 47" N  
Length: 12° 36' 44" E



## THE SAHARA

In a very direct and brief way we could explain that the Sahara is the largest warm desert in the world and the third largest after Antarctica and the Arctic. With more than 9 065 000 km<sup>2</sup> of area, it covers most of North Africa occupying an area almost as large as that of China or the United States. The Sahara extends from the Red Sea, including parts of the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, to the Atlantic Ocean.

All this extension can not be considered as a flat or wilderness as it develops deep dissected mountains as well as mountain ranges, some of them volcanic. River are mostly seasonal or intermittent, the only exception is the Nile River, which crosses the desert from its birth in central Africa to its mouth into the Mediterranean. Underground aquifers can sometimes reach the surface, forming oasis rivers. And dunes, of course, which can reach a height of 193 meters.



## INHABITANTS OF THE DESERT

In order to develop a dwelling in the desert we must certainly take a look at all those peoples who for centuries have lived in the desert and are a clear example of subsistence within this particular region. The villages Tueareg.

The Tuareg peoples, when moving, cover both their needs and their animals' needs, because they live in large family units that carry large herds under their care.

The tent of a nomad is a structure, a set of necessarily light and transportable elements, easy to manipulate, adapted to the territory where they must settle, that acquire meaning when they are assembled and conform an interior space, the domestic space. The store is not an inert structure that occupies itself in an unconscious way, as it happens in the houses of the Western world, in which the space enclosed by walls is given from the beginning and remains unchanged, but constitutes a body that must be formed at the end of each displacement, always preserving the characteristics that make it a comfortable and intimate place. The tent isolates humans from the vast desert space and infinite skies, protecting them in their integrity and warmth.



Upper left image:  
Aerial view: Sahara. 2016. Google earth

Upper image: L'atelier cartographik

Upper left image: Editorial de Construcción Arquitectónica - ULPGC

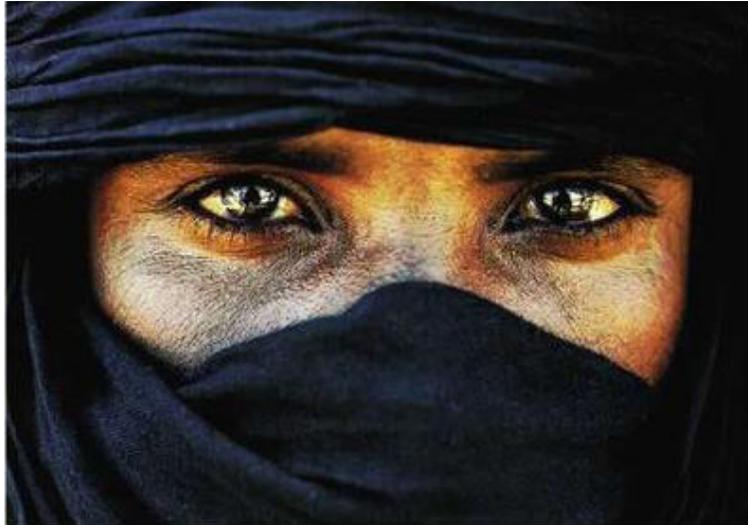
Lower right image: jmontero1983

## PROJECT

The competition consists of the realization of a project that provides a new concept of housing in the existing environment based on the concepts of use of passive techniques that will provide a home with comfort and sufficient architectural quality.

It is proposed to intervene in this singular space, being at the participant's choice to locate where he prefers within this natural setting. The enclave does not have physical barriers that separate the area of action from the rest, that is, it will be possible to define the limits of the intervention.

The materials, techniques used to exploit the energy must be consistent with the medium being in essence a (re) evolution in what the "Tuareg stores" represents.



## PROGRAM

Because the homes of nomadic societies function as small family communities, housing should be developed that forms a small community nucleus of several families. This does not imply that different housing must be developed, but rather the possibility of different family unions or groups involving an expansion of housing. Therefore, the flexibility of housing should be taken into account.

The proposed program may include all the spaces that the participants consider necessary, where the minimum units are:

- Resting area (accommodation of at least 4 people - a couple and two children)
- Socio-cultural area (kitchen, dining room and rest area)

The project must be a unique place that produces its own identity in the area and that proposes a need to take care of the existing environmental balance.

The proposal must dialogue with the landscape and nature and that relates its inhabitants with this particular environment, where even the materials can be local and according to the environment or place.

This program is orientative and can be modified by the contestant.

Project freedom is absolute and the area of intervention is free, this contest proposes that the participant investigate the forms of intervention in a singular landscape - Study limits, scales, views, access, materiality are the keys to follow.

\*Being a contest on ideas, the participants are free to modify the given surfaces. This report must be taken as a reference for the necessary spaces so that the project is practical and as a measure for the total dimensions of the project. The participants can suggest new areas not included in this document, as deleting and combining some of the already mentioned.

## reTHINKING philosophy

reTHINKING Team proposes contests far from the pessimism, with high doses of freshness and joy, restless and expansive. Definitely, 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 "

Top right image:  
Sahara

lower left image:  
Sahara

### 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.

### HOUSE



In a context prone to the standard the housing issue continues to be a strongly sclerotic field characterized by conventionalism and the repetition of archetypes and patterns based on an ambiguous "neolanguage" pseudofunctional and eclectic at the same time. A "sclerosis" that refers not only to those operations that are merely speculative but, on many occasions, to those that, using a commonly accepted expression, would tend to be described as "Cultured" and that would base their main source of inspiration on urban models based on tradition and repetition.

For much of the past two decades, this has been the main objective of official urban planning: the recovery or recreation of an urban space of traditional silhouettes whose recombination would have been entrusted mainly to a pragmatic and zealous order based on archetypal planning, as a primarily compositional and figurative action inclined towards the reconstruction of the fabric or, in the outskirts, to its evocation.

Today, however, it is possible to understand housing as a place closer to desire and versatility, to the quality of life and the suggestive fantasy of leisure, well-being and knowledge than to the habitual serenity or predictability of a conceived space only as a mere necessity or social appearance: a new housing raised, in short, from diversity and plurality, rather than from homegeneration and collectivity. A multi-and inter-active space.

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

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

### DENSITY



Quantity and quality of simultaneous and / or mixed space (s) - and use (s) available per person.

"The proportionately high development of density expresses an effective concentration of urban life, satisfying the legitimate need for urbanity and privacy at the same time.

Density is the third dimension of the city.

Density is a critical tool, more linked to the dimensions and dispositions of the urban plan than to the traffic flows evoked by the relations between parts of the city. By processing the density, it is formalized in plan and section and its isolated areas and buildings are fixed "

## DELIVERY CONTENT RULES OF PRESENTATION

Participants must submit a single A1 (59,4 x 84,1 cm) horizontal orientation is the only 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)

Cuando se confirme el pago, el participante recibirá en el correo un archivo llamado "Welcome/Bienvenidos". En dicho archivo se especificará individualmente como deben nombrarse cada uno de los archivos y la forma de entrega de toda la información del concurso. **Revisar siempre el correo no deseado (Spam).**

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:

- PANEL A1 IN .JPEG (59,4x 84,1 cm):
- ABSTRACT (90 words) .doc.
- 1 TEAM FORM (21,0 x 29,7 cm) Team description. This file will be available by direct download in the document "Welcome / Bienvenidos".
- 1 TEAM PHOTOGRAPH (JPEG) in black and white.

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



## ELIGIBILITY

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 agency relationship with any of the above will be accepted.

## PRIZES

A prize will be awarded in the 1st phase of a total of 3,000 € distributed as follows:

<b>First Prize</b>	<b>1.500 €</b>
<b>+ The winners will be members of the jury in the next reTHINKING competition</b>	
<b>3 Accésits</b>	<b>3 x 500 €</b>
<b>+ 10 Honourable Mentions</b>	<b>No economic prize</b>

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

- Publication in magazines
- Publishing in blogs / architecture websites
- Publication in reTHINKING media

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.

\*Depending on the country of residence of the winners, the cash prize may be subject to withholdings or tax payments under the law of the country itself.

## JURY

Beatriz Pérez Doncel (Terral Arquitectos)  
Victor Moreno Jiménez (Architectural Professor at the ETSA Sevilla)  
rubial-sánchez. Oficina de arquitectura y diseño  
Guillermo Rubio Boronat (Editor - Coordinator TC Cuadernos)

\*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 Admission of Proposals issued by the Technical Secretary, in this case reTHINKING competitions and will decide on any possible incidents that may have occurred. They will then examine the proposals anonymously. The jury reserves the right to declare any of the prizes deserted. Equally may grant "ex aequo" any of the same, distributing in this case the amount of the prize in equal parts.

## CALENDAR

September 14 2017	Early registration starts
October 19 2017	Early registration ends
October 20 2017	Regular registration starts
November 17 2017	Regular registrations ends
November 18 2017	Late registration starts
December 4 2017	Late registration and FAQ ends
December 4 2017 18:00 h GMT + 1:00	Submission deadline
December 5-6 2017	Admission List publication in reTHINKING official website
December 6 2017 - January 10 2018	Evaluation process
January 2018	Winners announcements

\* 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/>).

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.

## INSCRIPTION

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

Early	35 € + IVA
Regular	50 € + IVA
Advanced	70 € + IVA

IVA: 21%

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 status, payment, and the upload form to submit your project.

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 by the platform. Inscription fees will not be kept for future competitions.

## 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.

## DOCUMENTS

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

Bases completas en ESPAÑOL  
Complete rules in ENGLISH

Graphic Material  
Site Photos

Communication Material  
Competition's trailer  
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.

## 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 reTHINK!NG 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.**

## 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 reTHINK!NG 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)

## 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 reTHINK!NG team to adapt it for publications, but never altering the original project.

## NOTES

reTHINK!NG 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 reTHINK!NG 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 reTHINK!NG to improve the project conditions, so that drawings, photographs and other documentation may not match reality.

reTHINK!NG is only responsible for receiving, organization and evaluation of the contest, as well as assistance to participants in the development of competition, therefore, reTHINK!NG 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 rules.**

Don't forget to follow us in our social networks to be up to date of all our news!

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Colaboradores:



Con el apoyo de:



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

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