In connection with the upcoming exhibition Critical Care: Architecture for a Broken Planet (26/03/2021–29/08/2021), the ZAZ Zentrum Architektur Zürich is issuing an open call. This is aimed at architects, sociologists, geographers, town planners, land-use planners and other persons actively involved in architecture.

ZAZ is looking for realised projects, projects under development, ideas or statements, representing ‘caring’ architecture. Submissions should rethink the relationship between people and the environment, support collective involvement and promote the use of resource-saving materials. The entries should also have a clear link to Switzerland.

The focus is on the following questions:

- How can new forms of ‘care’ shape future coexistence on the planet?
- How can we achieve an economically, socially and ecologically sustainable built environment?
- How can we boost the exchange of knowledge between various players and disciplines, such as architecture, art, sociology, land-use planning, landscape planning, environmental science and law?
- How do we promote an integrative understanding of city and landscape, and how is it possible to devise a spatial planning policy that can achieve sustainability goals and climate targets?
- How do we sensibly condense existing housing development areas in cities, agglomerations and villages, and what do innovative, community-promoting and resource-saving forms of housing look like?
Submitted proposals will be carefully examined by our jury. The selected projects are to be presented on the first floor at ZAZ, in connection with the Critical Care exhibition.

About the exhibition

Critical Care is an exhibition by Architekturzentrum Wien (the Vienna Architecture Centre) and was first shown there in 2019. The show was curated by Angelika Fitz (director AZW) and Elke Krasny (urban researcher, cultural theorist and art educator). Using 21 current international examples, the exhibition proves that architecture and urbanism can help to 'revive' the planet, whereby the term 'critical care' refers to both the intensive care unit and to care in general. The 21 case studies demonstrate that architecture and urban development need not submit to the dictates of capital and the exploitation of resources and labour. In each of the projects, the relationships between economy, ecology and labour are redefined. This calls for new alliances, also between top-down and bottom-up.


Submission requirements

The project idea, team composition and team members’ qualifications should be summarised in an informative manner. Medium and format can be chosen freely, but the total size of the submission must not exceed that of one DIN A0 sheet and it must be possible to present the entry in the exhibition without technical aids (e.g. no video projections). Only one entry may be submitted per team.

The submission must contain the following information:

- Working title of the project
- Explanatory text about the theme (max. 500 words in German or English)
- Illustrations (sketch, drawing, collage etc.) of the concept
- Team composition and short biography of each person involved
- Contact address, including email address

The entry must be submitted by 5 pm on the 11th of January 2021: physically by post on the one hand and to opencall@zaz-bellerive.ch as a digital PDF document (max. 10 MB) on the other hand. Handing it in at ZAZ in person is also possible (during the opening hours of the institution).

The submitted projects will not be returned after the exhibition and must be collected by the participants themselves if required.

Assessment criteria

- Clarity and contemporary relevance of the project idea
- Architectural, economic, social and ecological sustainability of the entry
- Visual potential of the proposal, for display within the exhibition format
- Ability of the team to clearly and innovatively reflect caring architecture
- Link to Switzerland
Dates and deadlines

- Open call: 05 November 2020
- Deadline for receipt of projects (regardless of postmark): 11 January 2021, 5 pm
  Address: Zentrum Architektur Zürich (ZAZ), Höschgasse 3, 8008 Zürich, Switzerland
  Note: Open Call Critical Care
  Email: opencall@zaz-bellerive.ch
- Adjudication: 15 January 2021
- Announcement of exhibited projects to all participants: 20 January 2021
- Duration of the exhibition: 26 March – 29 August 2021

Information

opencall@zaz-bellerive.ch

Communications

Once the ZAZ jury has made its final decision, all participants will be informed via email as to whether their entry is to be presented in the exhibition.

Composition of the jury:

Dr. André Bideau (architectural historian, lecturer and researcher, Accademia di architettura USI Mendrisio, board member ZAZ)
Daniel Bosshard (architect, Bosshard Vaquer Architekten, president of the BSA Zurich, board member ZAZ)
Dr. J. Christoph Bürkle (art historian, journalist, author, board member ZAZ and Architekturforum Zurich)
Katrin Schubiger (architect, 10:8 Architekten, board member ZAZ) (substitute)

External members of the jury:
Angelika Fitz (director AZW)
Dr. Marie Glaser (director ETH Wohnforum–ETH CASE)
Dr. Elke Krasny (urban researcher, cultural theorist and art educator)
Katrin Pfäffli (architect, consultant for sustainability and member of the office community Preisig Pfäffli)
Axel Simon (architecture critic, editor Hochparterre)
Dr. Sascha Roesler (SNSF professor at the Accademia di architettura USI Mendrisio)

Copyright

The participants retain copyright over their entries. By making a submission, participants agree that ZAZ may publicise any entries for publication and press purposes.