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## VerSus | International Student Competition **VerSus: Lessons from Vernacular Heritage for Sustainable Architecture.**

### 1. Introduction

According to the ICOMOS Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage, vernacular building “is the traditional and natural way by which communities house themselves.”

In other words, it is the expertise in design and construction which is shared and transmitted informally in a community. Especially in the past, due to the limited technical and economic resources, vernacular architecture was characterized by an effective response to functional, social and environmental constraints by the adoption of pragmatic solutions and extreme rationalization of the resources available.

Nowadays vernacular architecture represents a resource that has great potential to define principles for sustainable design and contemporary architecture. In this current historical moment, characterized by seeking for the new paradigm of sustainable development, it is worth to study and redefine in a contemporary way the solutions that made vernacular architecture sustainable .

### 2. Competition Overall Description

The **International Student Competition VerSus: Lessons from Vernacular Heritage for Sustainable Architecture** is a design competition organized within the European Research Project VerSus: Lessons from Vernacular Heritage for Sustainable Architecture.

It is proposed by the scientific partners of the Project VerSus: Escola Superior Gallaecia (Portugal, project leader), CRATerre ENSAG (France), University of Cagliari (Italy), University of Florence (Italy), Polytechnic University of Valencia (Spain).

Project VerSus is an international research project whose main objective is to gain knowledge from the fundamental principles of vernacular architecture, and to explore new ways of integrating those principles into modern sustainable building, going beyond their usually passive description. Another important objective is to focus the determining factors that make a project fully ecological and sustainable and to improve the visibility and recognition of vernacular architecture through raising awareness on its value and quality.

Within this framework, university students and recent graduates, also gathered in teams, are invited to compete in a paperless design competition in which participants have to propose socially, economically and environmentally building solutions taking inspiration from vernacular architecture.



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Drawings must be submitted in two **ISO 216 A1 (594 x 841 mm | 23,39 x 33,11 inches)** sheets, .pdf format, orientation: portrait, definition: 300 dpi.  
A short report must be submitted in .pdf format, ISO 216 A4 (210 x 297 mm | 8,27 x 11,69 inches), orientation: portrait, definition: 300 dpi.

### 6.1 Drawing 1: Analysis and Concepts

Drawing 1 must contain the case study presentation, its analysis obtained using the **Project VerSus operative research approach**, the vernacular architecture solutions found.

Participants are free to choose how to express and represent their ideas, but following documents are mandatory:

- A short bibliography about the analyzed vernacular architecture;
- ...
- ...

### 6.2 Drawing 2: Project and Solutions

Drawing 2 must contain the project presentation.

Participants are free to choose how to express and represent their ideas but following documents are mandatory:

- urban layout, scale 1:2,000 up to 1:5,000. (in case of category 4.1);
- ...
- ...

### 6.3 General and technical report

## 7. Competition toolkit

At the download area of the official website a competition pack will be available for participants to be downloaded.

It includes:

- Competition guidelines in .pdf format;
- Registration form in .xxx format;
- **Project VerSus operative approach** in .pdf format;
- Reference material (the **Project VerSus booklet** in .pdf format, a short list of bibliographic references in .pdf format).

## 8. Selection process and evaluation criteria

Juries will use a grade assignment system. The maximum grade will be **100 points**.



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Particular relevance will have the sustainability criteria of the project. The Jury will evaluate it by using the **Project VerSus operative research approach** that participant must use in the design process. Considering the sustainability concept in a holistic perspective, as much sustainable principles the project will consider at same time the higher the grade will be.

Following all evaluation criteria:

- Consistency with the competition objectives (demonstrated inspiration from vernacular architecture): Max points? 20/100;
- Vernacular architecture analysis (related bibliography, description accuracy, consistency of examples): Max points? 20/100;
- Sustainability of the project (related to the **Project VerSus operative research approach**): Max points? 40/100;
- Proposal feasibility: Max points? 10/100;
- Clarity and quality of the delivery and presentation of ideas (graphic quality, text clarity, data richness, etc): Max points? 10/100.

In case of ex-aequo, prizes will be divided equally.

The Jury decision will be final and irrevocable.

## 8.1 Jury

The jury will include 12 members:

- two Project VerSus researcher from each participant institution;
- two external researchers with expertise in this field.

## 9. Application procedure

The call will be open from Feb 1<sup>st</sup>,2014 to **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014**. The registration form is available at the competition website.

The registration form must be completed and sent per email to [versus.competition@gmail.com](mailto:versus.competition@gmail.com) by **June 1<sup>st</sup>,2014** (11.59 pm Greenwich time (GMT+0)).

Participants, if requested, have to able to provide evidence of their eligibility to compete as specified in section 3.



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Once registered, participants will receive a confirmation message together with an alphanumeric string of characters to be used as identification on all documents delivered.

## 9.1 Participation Fee

**30 € | each group**

## 10. Official language

**English**

## 11. Submission

During the whole call opening period participants can send the related documentation using e-mail or use cloud storage systems (Dropbox, Google Drive, Skydrive). Entries will have to be uploaded at [versus.competition@gmail.com](mailto:versus.competition@gmail.com).

Participants must upload one single file .zip or .rar format named with the alphanumeric string issued during the application procedure. This file will contain the documents requested (please see 5).

Once the uploaded records will be processed, the competition staff will anonymously transfer the entries to the jury and will send a notification of reception to each participant.

Each submitted document (plates and report) **will contain the assigned alphanumeric code** and the reading order (ABCD1234-Report; ABCD1234-Plate 01, ABCD1234-Plate 02 and ABCD1234-Plate 03). Code and plate number must be placed in the indicated rectangular box indicated in the template.

Comentario [MA1]: Plates? Sheet?

**The name of participants should never appear** on the submitted documents nor on the filenames. Disregard will cause disqualification and exclusion from the competition.

## 12. Timing

- Start of registration: **1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2014**
- **End of registration: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014**
- Start of submission: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014
- **End of submission: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014**
- Announcement of winners: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014
- **Award Ceremony and Exhibition: 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014**
- **VerSus 2014 | 2nd Mediterra | 2nd ResTAPIA**

## 13. Notification of results



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