



SAN PABLO  
NEIGHBORHOOD

# SEVILLE SUSTAINABLE

Transforming Obsolete Buildings for Energy  
Efficiency and Environmental Harmony

## OPEN IDEA URBAN COMPETITION

## The site

**San Pablo Neighborhood, Sevilla, Spain**  
**Pl. de la Debla, 10, 41007 Sevilla, Spain**  
**92VJ+G8 or 37.393618N, -5.969496 W**

The site is part of a larger neighborhood divided into numerous blocks. This competition focuses on one of these smaller blocks (identified by the coordinates and name above). The challenge is **not** to propose a new building but to develop innovative solutions for refurbishing the existing social housing structures.

The San Pablo neighborhood is dedicated entirely to social housing, with buildings ranging from 5 to 12 stories tall. These structures, built in the last century, have aged significantly and are in urgent need of refurbishment. Current sustainable design discourse emphasizes refurbishment over demolition or new construction, aligning with the goals of this competition.

While the site is located in Seville, the challenge and proposed solutions are intended to have broader relevance. Social housing exists across all European cities, making this competition's outcomes applicable beyond Seville and relevant to diverse urban contexts.

## Competition Goals

The primary objective of this refurbishment is to reduce the **CO<sub>2</sub> impact** of the intervention while ensuring the buildings consume less energy and provide enhanced comfort for their residents.

Seville's **Csa Mediterranean climate**—characterized by hot, dry summers—presents a unique design challenge. With average summer temperatures **in the high 30°C range** and **peaks exceeding 40°C**, the main focus should be on creating cool and comfortable indoor environments for residents during these extreme conditions.

This competition provides an opportunity to address a pressing urban issue, explore sustainable refurbishment strategies, and contribute to the global dialogue on social housing retrofits.

## The Program

This competition does not prescribe a fixed program for the intervention. Instead, participants are tasked with improving the thermal performance of the buildings on the site. The focus should be on refurbishing the façades, roofs, and internal partitions to enhance energy efficiency and sustainability.

Building Inventory, the site contains the following buildings:

1. **Type A:** One building, 12 floors, consisting of a single typical floor design.
2. **Type B:** One building, 8 floors, with each floor comprising two adjacent units.
3. **Type C:** Seven buildings, 5 floors each:
  - Five buildings form a linear alignment.
  - Two additional buildings are freestanding.
4. **Type D:** Three single-story units.  
You are free to remove, alter, or refurbish these structures.

## Additional Design Opportunities

In addition to refurbishing the existing buildings, participants are encouraged to propose the following:

1. **Community Building:**
  - Introduce a new element of relatively small scale (maximum of three floors) dedicated to the community.
  - You are free to define the building's function, ensuring it serves the needs of the residents while aligning with the competition's sustainability goals.
2. **Piazza Interventions:**
  - Propose improvements for the site's two main piazzas, enhancing their usability, aesthetics, and environmental performance.

## Creative Freedom

Beyond these guidelines, participants are encouraged to think innovatively and propose additional interventions that contribute to:

- Upgrading the existing buildings.
- Reducing energy consumption.
- Enhancing environmental sustainability.

The goal is to transform the site into a model of sustainable refurbishment while addressing the social, cultural, and environmental needs of its residents and community.

## The Sustainable edge

Refurbishment is already a significant step toward sustainability. In this competition, we challenge you to take it further by incorporating concepts of green design, low-energy use, zero or near-zero energy buildings, and bioclimatic principles.

For Dar[e], sustainability means creating projects that ensure user comfort while minimizing reliance on non-renewable energy sources and reducing environmental impact. Below, we outline key considerations for your submissions, highlighting what is of utmost importance (+++) and what holds basic importance (+):

### Key Considerations

1. **Material Choice** (Embedded Energy) (+)
  - Prioritize materials with lower embedded energy to minimize the project's carbon footprint.
2. **Passive Design Strategies** (+++)
  - Solar Geometry: Optimize orientation, window placement, and shading devices for thermal comfort and natural lighting.
  - Ventilation: Incorporate natural and/or forced ventilation to reduce overheating.
  - Material Selection: Use materials that enhance thermal performance and efficiency.
3. **Environmental Impact** (+)
  - Minimize disruption to the natural environment, preserving or enhancing habitats.
  - Manage waste efficiently and harvest natural resources intelligently.
4. **Integration of Active Systems** (+)
  - Incorporate renewable energy systems and efficient technologies to complement passive strategies.

### Focus Areas

Refurbishment directly impacts embedded energy and environmental considerations, making it an essential foundation for sustainable design. This competition emphasizes passive design strategies, material choices, and system integration. Proposed solutions must address these challenges without creating unforeseen issues.

Take refurbishment to the next level and show us how you'll make Seville's buildings sustainable, efficient, and environmentally harmonious

## Deliverables

### 1 cover sheet + 2 A1 Sheets + 2 A4 text

- Overall mass plan showing all interventions
- Floor plans of the various building types.
- Elevations of the various building types, (section if needed)
- Technical drawing for the piazza proposal
- Technical sketches explaining the choice of materials, the construction details, and how the new/proposed systems would fit and would be successful in reaching their goal
- Maps and Purpose of added active system, if added and if used
- At least two perspectives to show the two piazzas and surrounding intervention on buildings.
- Two A4 sheet with a text of not less than 400 and not more than 800 words explaining your intervention, including at least one figure and not more than three figures.
- One A4 with only one overall perspective view (to be used as the main cover for eventual publication later) can be a perspective already used in the main sheets

## Important Notes

- 1- Entries with interesting technical proposal might be selected to be further developed in collaboration with **Dar[e]-europe and University of Seville**, to become worthy of publication in dedicated conferences and or scientific journal
- 2- Simulation and calculations could be carried out on selected proposals with outstanding proposals to be further developed in collaboration with **Dar[e]-europe, University of Seville**, and the team(s) to become worthy of publication in dedicated research journal

## Important Dates

Pre-Launch	November 15
Official Launch Date	<b>November 23</b> (details are available and registration open)
Early Birds Registration	ends December 10
Regular Registration	ends March 5
Late Registration	ends April 5
Queries period ends	April 10

**Submission Date April 23, 2025 @ 11:59 pm**

Results announced between Late May and early June May

## Judgement Criteria

1. Entries are judged anonymously; a unique code (alphanumeric) is assigned on registration and should be visible on all submitted materials
2. **The architectural part 35%**
  - a. relates to how much the added system is actually integrated within the new architecture, forming an integrated part not reading as an add on layer not in harmony with the rest.
  - b. The architectural part also relates to potential updated in the actual plans, piazza updates, and added functions.
3. **The sustainability part 35%**
  - a. Relates to the potential material choice, how smart, innovative, creative and unique the proposed system is, in addition to any other proposals and systems that are integral part of the proposed intervention.
4. The clear and **concise explanation (text and figures)** on how the proposed system works and why should it work. **15%**
5. Finally, the overall **visual presentation 15%**
6. Following on point 4 above, participants are **Not required nor expected** to prove that their system is working using software simulations. Yet they need to explain clearly why they think it should work through the expected physics behind it.
7. Similarly, **NO energy** calculation is expected nor required about how much energy can be provided from any proposed active systems.
8. Since all entries are digital, judgment will also be only digital, based on the shared presentation template size, participants should take this seriously into account when planning their text sizing and their overall visuals.

## Terms & Conditions

1. This is an open idea competition, there is no intention to build the project.
2. Although there is no intention to build the project, yet there is a will to publish the outstanding entries and to carry on the research on these in particular.
3. Competition is open to everyone, with no age limits, regardless of educational and professional background.
4. Entries can be made individually or by teams not exceeding five (5) participants.
5. Teams or individuals can submit more than one entry, as long as the entries are duly registered during the allocated time period and submitted before the deadline April 25th, 2025, 11:59pm CET
6. All submissions are done digitally, there is no paper nor model submission required.

7. Two categories of team registration are available:

- a. **Corporate**
- b. **Freelance**

The difference is that the corporate team will include the affiliated name of the University, the firm or the office the team would be representing. Whereas the freelance team only represent the individuals making it with no affiliation.

8. Registration **fees per Team** and dates are as follow

	<b>Freelance</b>	<b>Corporate</b>
a. Early bird registration (till Dec 10)	<b>60 EUR</b>	<b>90 EUR</b>
b. Regular registration (Dec 11 till March 5)	<b>75 EUR</b>	<b>100 EUR</b>
c. Late registration (March 5 till April 5)	<b>90 EUR</b>	<b>120 EUR</b>

9. The prizes are

- **1500 EUR Winning entry**
- **1000 EUR first runner up**
- **500 EUR second runner up**

10. After registering participants can ask for clarifications by emails till January 18.

After this date all questions (anonymously) and answers will be posted on the competition webpage.

11. Registration is final for the specific team members. No additions nor omissions can be made after registration.

12. Registration payment is final and no reimbursement will be made regardless of any reason.

13. All correspondences for queries and, or for technical assistance are done through **Dar[e]-europe** email [competition@dar-e.org](mailto:competition@dar-e.org)

14. Anyone directly affiliated to **Dar[e]-europe** cannot join the competition.

15. It is strictly forbidden to get in touch with any jury member, explicitly to communicate details about the competition and or the team registration number. This will result in automatic disqualification.

16. It is strictly forbidden to mark the submission sheets with anything that might reveal the team (logo, picture, names). This will result in automatic disqualification.

17. Participants are not allowed to show, communicate and, or advertise their entries on any digital means or any social network, including the metaverse, as well as minting pfp and nft, before the official results are out. Doing so will result in automatic disqualification.

18. While retaining your full ownership rights, yet by submitting your entry, you grant **Dar[e]-europe** the perpetual full and unconditional right to use your entry in any form that fits their present and future goals for, among other archiving, exhibiting, digital publishing, hardcopy publishing, promotion, promoting future similar events, or disseminating knowledge and knowhow in the field of energy reduction, comfort studies and sustainable environmental design, locally and or internationally.

19. It is agreed that outstanding proposals and their related explanatory text might be invited to be developed further in a joint collaboration between **Dar[e]-europe**, the **university of Seville** and the team to become worthy of publication in related conferences and or scientific journals.
20. Entrants retain their right to mint their entries, turn them into nft or pfp, but only once the results are out.
21. Entrants accept and agree that the jury decision is final and non-appealable, and that it is the combined and agreed decision of all the jurors together, where **Dar[e]-europe** coordinated the process.
22. It is the sole Participants' responsibility to acknowledge any external source used, may it be a figure or a text reference. Failing to do so and if noticed within the judgment process will result in automatic disqualification. **Dar[e]-europe** declines any current or future responsibility if such an incident occurs.
23. By registering and participating in the competition, participants agree to all the terms and conditions of the competition.
24. The competition language shall be English, and all submission text shall be in English. Yet, Spanish speaking teams can submit their entry text in Spanish, with a translated text into English by electronic means. The team should specifically mention that their Spanish text has been translated into English by which specific electronic page.

## About Dar[e]-Europe role

1. **Dar[e]-europe** is a registered limited company based in Seville, Spain. Its purpose is to Encourage, Support and Promote Sustainable Environmental Design. By launching targeted idea competitions Among the methodologies used to reach the goal is through Architecture Competitions as this one.
2. **Dar[e]-europe** is launching and managing the competition. **Dar[e]-europe** also coordinate the judgement process between the various global jury members,
3. **Dar[e]-europe** will not take part in the evaluation process.
4. **Dar[e]-europe** will check that all entries have followed the brief requirement and submissions are not missing any of these requirements.
5. **Dar[e]-europe** will go through the 2 pages proposed text to evaluate which are the ones worthy of further development.



## Dar[e]-Europe

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