



**PRESS
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SAINT-GOBAIN ARCHITECTURE STUDENT CONTEST 2026

June 23 - 25, 2026 in Belgrade, Serbia

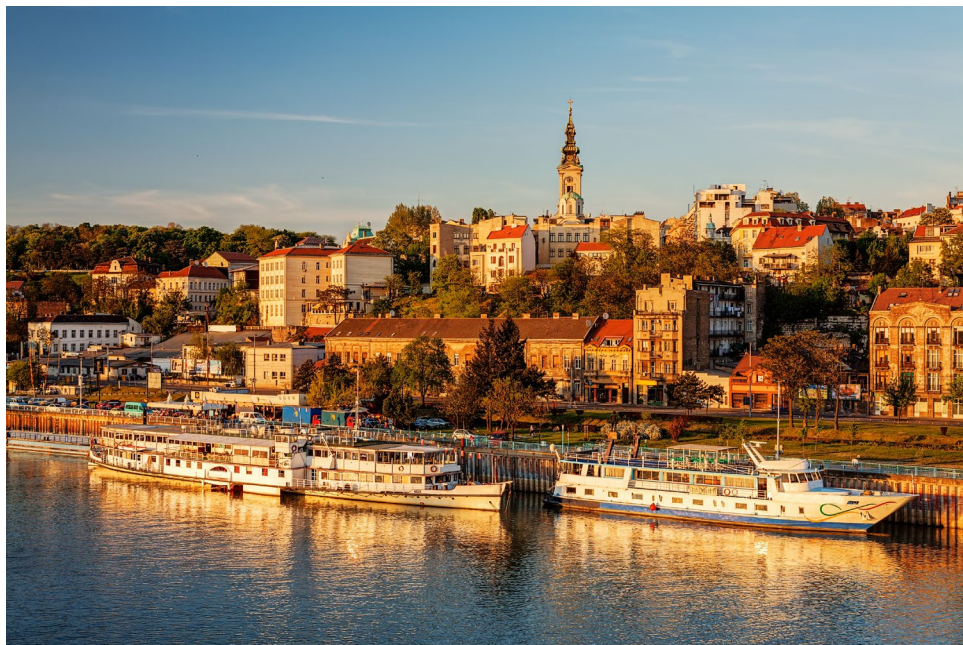




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PATRICK DUPIN'S EDITORIAL

GROUP CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



The 21st edition of the Saint-Gobain Architecture Student Contest once again highlights the energy and commitment of a new generation of architects. Through 34 innovative projects, architecture students from around the world have reimagined part of Belgrade's riverfront, creating a vibrant destination that connects nature, sport, and community, while bridging heritage and modernity.

These proposals reflect the complexity of today's challenges: combining new construction and renovation, adapting to local environments, and designing spaces that enhance quality of life while preserving resources. They also align with Belgrade's ambition to build a more resilient and sustainable future.

Participants have come together with one shared ambition: to imagine new ways of living in the city. After months of work and collaboration, they have shown that rethinking urban spaces—making them more sustainable, inclusive, and inspiring—is not only necessary, but possible.

At Saint-Gobain, this vision is shared. For over 360 years, the Group has been committed to developing solutions that support more sustainable construction. And as cities continue to grow and evolve, the role of architects—especially the next generation—has never been more essential.

More than a competition, the Architecture Student Contest is a platform for exchange, learning, and connection. It brings together talents from around the world and fosters relationships that will shape the future of the built environment.

This year's edition sends a clear message: a new generation is ready—ready to take on the challenges of tomorrow and to help make the world a better home.



ARCHITECTURE STUDENT CONTEST 2026

Belgrade, Serbia

About this year's contest

The 2026 edition of the international student competition, organized by the Saint-Gobain Group in close cooperation with the City of Belgrade, the Academic Yachting Club Belgrade, the Green & Blue Corridors Association and the Serbia Green Building Council, asks the contestants to imagine the transformation of a section along **Belgrade's Sava riverfront**. The challenge is to **develop a visionary "Sports and Recreation Hub"** that revitalizes an existing cement factory site and renovates the adjacent Academic Yachting Club Belgrade into a **dynamic and more sustainable public space**.

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 21ST EDITION WERE:



To **provide the waterfront** with a year-round, **vibrant hub** for **sports, recreation, and community life** by balancing **modern development** with **heritage**, addressing environmental concerns, ensuring inclusive public access, and integrating seamlessly with the city and its transport network.



Design **new sports facilities** and propose how the rest of the site could be shaped, including the **layout of buildings and green spaces**.



To provide **renovation** proposals for the ground floor and 1st floor of the **Academy Yachting Club Belgrade**.



To **incorporate sustainability** - circularity, embodied carbon, and energy efficiency- to reduce the environmental footprint.



View of the plot for the new athlete accommodation



Academic Yachting Club Belgrade



[Contest Task Presentation Video](#)



[360° View of the Contest Task Site](#)



[Read the full Contest Task](#)

Judging criteria

The projects are evaluated based on **architecture** and **sustainable construction criteria** for both the new building and the renovation proposals.



The architecture criterion considers design excellence, functional concept, adaptation to the context and interconnectedness with other buildings.



The sustainable construction criterion considers evaluation of carbon and energy, resource and circularity, and health and well-being, quality of construction details with regards to building physics, and the proper use of products.

The proposals must take into account Belgrade's transition towards a more resilient and more sustainable city.

Belgrade is undergoing a profound **urban transformation**, with its **riverfronts** along the Danube and Sava emerging as key catalysts for **sustainable development**. The **Belgrade Waterfront project**, one of the largest urban regeneration initiatives in the region, reflects the city's ambition to **reconnect** with its rivers while **accommodating growth** through mixed-use development, new public spaces, and improved **mobility** infrastructure. As part of a broader master plan that includes EXPO 2027 and a future metro system, the waterfront is envisioned as an accessible, vibrant, and environmentally responsible urban territory.

Students were invited to tackle climate and environmental challenges through more **sustainable construction solutions** by prioritizing low-carbon design, energy efficiency, passive strategies, resilient riverfront architecture, flexible programmatic



solutions, and the integration of **green** and **permeable landscapes** that enhance biodiversity and public access to the river.

The contest encourages a holistic architectural approach; one that views the site not as an isolated object, but as part of a larger environmental and social system contributing to **Belgrade's vision of a sustainable, inclusive, and climate-responsive riverfront city**.

KEY FIGURES OF THE 21ST EDITION

National Stages

1.436

STUDENTS

547

TEACHERS

239

UNIVERSITIES

International Stage

34

COUNTRIES

250

PARTICIPANTS

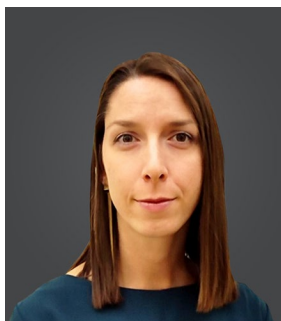
Find out more on the [Architecture Student Contest website](https://www.architecturestudentcontest.com).

INTERNATIONAL JURY 2026



**Nebojša
ANTEŠEVIĆ**

Museum of Applied Arts,
Belgrade



**Bojana
ZEKOVIĆ**

Green Building Council
Serbia
University of Belgrade



**Jugoslav
JANJIĆ**

Dizajn Arhitektura



**Vladimír
HAIN**

Slovak University of
Technology, Bratislava



**Sofia
GALÁN RIVERA**

Arup



**Daniel
FÜGENSCHUH**

Architects Council of
Europe



**Pascal
EVEILLARD**

Saint-Gobain



**Pierre-Alain
GILLET**

Saint-Gobain

Nebojša ANTEŠEVIĆ



Architectural Curator – Museum of Applied Arts, Belgrade

Nebojša Antešević (1985), PhD, MSc in Architecture and MA in Applied Arts, is the Architectural Curator of the Museum of Applied Arts of Belgrade. He completed his studies in architecture at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade (2011). He earned his PhD in the field of History of Architecture at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade (2022). He completed his postdoctoral specialization at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb (2023/24). He has held teaching associate positions at both the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade and the Department of Art History at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade. He is a research associate at the Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia and a scientific-professional associate of the Milan Zloković Foundation.

He was one of the recipients of an award for contributions to the development of architectural policy (2023), also receiving an award at the Salon of Architecture (2024). His research focuses on Yugoslav and Serbian architecture, architecture in tourism, and contemporary Serbian architecture. He is the author of numerous academic and professional papers, exhibition catalogues, books and exhibition reviews, critical essays, and interviews with prominent architects.

Bojana ZEKOVIĆ

President – Green Building Council Serbia

Assistant Professor – Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade

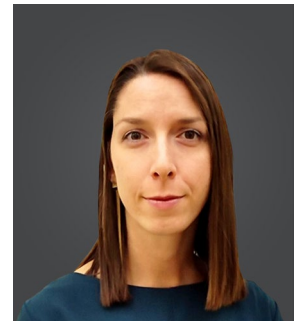
Bojana Zeković is an assistant professor at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Architecture (UoBFoA). Her fields of interest and research are energy efficiency and bioclimatic principles in architecture, green building certification systems and building technologies. She focuses on theoretical and practical manifestations of environmental tendencies in architecture and design.

As part of the team of researchers from the Faculty of Architecture, she took part in a project coordinated by GIZ with the topic of Energy Efficiency in Serbia (2010-2019), investigating energy performance of Serbian housing and public building stock and developing national and local building typologies, resulting in a series of scientific monographs and platforms.

Bojana has participated in several international research projects (TABULA/EPISCOPE, HORIZON 2020 EMBuild, Erasmus + KLABS, HERSUS). She has also taken part in and been awarded in domestic and international architectural competitions: as a student in the Isover MultiComfort student competition (2009, 2010), as a team member of nekolikoArhitekata (2011 - present), as an associate at Studio OBE (2017) and Spring studio (2024). She supports and mentors student teams in international student competitions (Solar Decathlon Middle East - SDME 2018), Saint-Gobain Architecture Student Contest (editions 2022 - 2025).

She is the President of the jury in the energy efficiency category for the EKOOPŠTINA contest, the General Manager of the Architecture Summer School for the students of ESTP Paris at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Architecture (2023-2024), as well as the Faculty Representative (since 2021) and President of the Serbian Green Building Council (since 2024).

Bojana is the author and co-author of numerous papers published in international and national scientific journals, conference proceedings and monographs.



Jugoslav JANJIĆ



Architect, Owner and Managing Partner – Dizajn Arhitektura

Jugoslav Janjić is the Chairman of the Committee for Designing in the Construction and Production of Building Materials in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, and a Member of the Professional Association of the Serbian Engineers Chamber.

Passionately following his design philosophy that refuses to agree to architecture the purpose of which is lost, Jugoslav Janjić has succeeded in maintaining the team's clarity of focus in all the projects regardless of their scale. An unrelenting determination and a history in professional sport has taught him to look at every challenge as an opportunity. Through a career now spanning three decades, he has gained strategic vision that has allowed him to position D/A (Dizajn Arhitektura) as one of the key figures in Serbian architecture and a company able to answer any demand, both locally and internationally.

Vladimír HAIN

Associate Professor, Engineer Architect – Institute of Structures in Architecture and Engineering Buildings, Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava

1st Prize Winner – Architecture Student Contest 2009

Vladimír Hain, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the Slovak University of Technology (STU) in Bratislava. He graduated from the Faculty of Architecture of STU Bratislava (renamed the Faculty of Architecture and Design – FAD STU – in September 2020) in 2011. Since his doctoral studies in the field of Architecture and Monument Restoration, he has focused on sustainable architectural design, digital technologies and their application in architecture, particularly in the presentation of industrial heritage monuments.

He has actively participated in several international conferences and has co-organized and curated multiple exhibitions.

He regularly publishes in professional journals, takes part in architectural and urban planning competitions, and together with his colleagues has received several national and international awards, including the 1st Prize of the Saint-Gobain Architecture Student Contest 2009.

He works as an Associate Professor in the vertical studio Data[LAB], teaches Architecture, and is the guarantor of the course Architecture and Mixed Reality at FAD STU.

He gained valuable experience in sustainable design, mixed media presentations and digitization through a one-year Erasmus study program at Hogeschool voor Wetenschap & Kunst in Ghent, Belgium, as well as through cooperation with Design Factory n.g.o.

He has also appeared as a speaker at the 5th and 6th annual international professional conferences on BIM and digitization, in 2017 he actively participated in VR EXPO in New York, and in the Milan Design Week in 2024 and 2025.



Sofia GALÁN RIVERA



Associate, Spain Building Envelopes and Façades Leader – Arup

Sofia Galán Rivera leads Arup's Building Envelopes and Façades team in Spain, with over twenty years of experience in the sector, seventeen of which have been focused on the design and refurbishment of architectural envelopes.

Her methodology focuses on sustainability, circularity, and decarbonization, systematically incorporating these principles from the initial concept phase through to onsite construction. She collaborates actively with the industry in developing circular strategies and processes, driving innovative solutions that respond to current climate challenges. Her experience spans large-scale projects, both nationally and internationally, underpinned by a strong technical background in a wide range of materials and construction systems.

Daniel FÜGENSCHUH

President – Architects Council of Europe

From Innsbruck to Europe — Committed to Baukultur

Daniel Fügenschuh began his architectural career in Innsbruck, completing his first built project in 1996, shortly after graduating. After establishing his first studio in London in 2000, he returned to Austria and founded his practice in Innsbruck in 2004, where he continues to work today. Grounded in this practice, he has consistently championed a high-quality built environment and the values of Baukultur. Since 2010, his commitment has extended into professional representation, including four years chairing an architecture center in Innsbruck, where promoting architectural culture and public engagement formed a central part of his work.

His understanding of political strategy and European regulatory frameworks deepened during the EU infringement procedure on Austria's professional law. As President of the Architects' Section of the Federal Chamber of Civil Engineers (BKZT), he played a key role in the negotiations following the 2019 ECJ judgement — advocating for professional standards that underpin quality in Baukultur.

Since 2022, Daniel has served on the ACE (Architects Council of Europe) Executive Board, contributing to the ACE Think Tank and the EU-funded ARCH-E project, both strongly aligned with strengthening architectural policy and Baukultur across Europe.

He is also a member of the UIA (International Union of Architects) Council (2023–2026), representing Region 1, and has previously served as President of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Civil Engineers.

On 13 November 2025, Daniel Fügenschuh was elected President of the Architects' Council of Europe for the 2026 – 2027 term.



Pascal EVEILLARD



Director of Sustainable Construction – Saint-Gobain

Pascal Eveillard is the Director of Sustainable Construction of the Saint-Gobain Group. Pascal is strongly committed to the promotion of sustainable construction, the development of more sustainable construction products and solutions, and public affairs at European and international level.

He is particularly involved in organizations such as the World Green Building Council and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. He is an active member of the steering committee for the European Commission's LEVEL(S) project on indicators for sustainable buildings.

Pascal is the Vice-President of Eurima, the European association of mineral wool insulation manufacturers, and Vice-President of CPE, Construction Product Europe. He holds a master's degree in management from ESCP-BUSINESS SCHOOL and a post-master's degree in communication.

Pierre-Alain GILLET

International Marketing Director Building Solutions – Saint-Gobain

Pierre-Alain Gillet is currently International Marketing Director Building Solutions at Saint-Gobain, with over 34 years of leadership experience at Saint-Gobain, spanning research, innovation, and strategic market development.

Trained as a materials scientist with a Master of Research from the Université du Maine (Le Mans, France), he began his career in R&D, driving advances in electrochromic glazing and energy efficient coatings.

He subsequently held key marketing roles across Glass, Insulation, and Gypsum, leveraging deep technical expertise to shape global strategies and strengthen the Group's value proposition.



Today, Pierre-Alain drives end market solutions development for sectors such as hospitality, healthcare, education, or data centers, supporting architects, designers and main contractors in delivering high performance, sustainable buildings worldwide.

PRESENTATION OF THE ARCHITECTURE STUDENT CONTEST

21 years of history

From its 1st edition in 2004 to this edition in 2026 in Belgrade, Serbia, the competition has been organized every year, save for 2020 due to Covid. **A whole generation of students has taken part in the Architecture Student Contest to contribute to the reflection on how to shape the future of sustainable architecture.**

Philosophy and objectives



The Architecture Student Contest is an international competition based on Saint-Gobain's vision of sustainable construction. Students must submit ideas that consider existing constraints while addressing sustainability criteria.

The competition was first organized in 2004 by Saint-Gobain Isover in Serbia and became an international event in 2005.

The goal of the Architecture Student Contest is to have the students work on a project related to a “real” client request. The competition is a great chance for architecture students to gain professional experience while discovering the importance of sustainability in modern construction.

THE ORGANIZATION

The Architecture Student Contest is a two-step competition:

National Stages

Competitions organized by each country, where universities from the same country compete against each other.

One winning team from each National Stage is invited to defend their project and represent their country in the International Stage.

International Stage

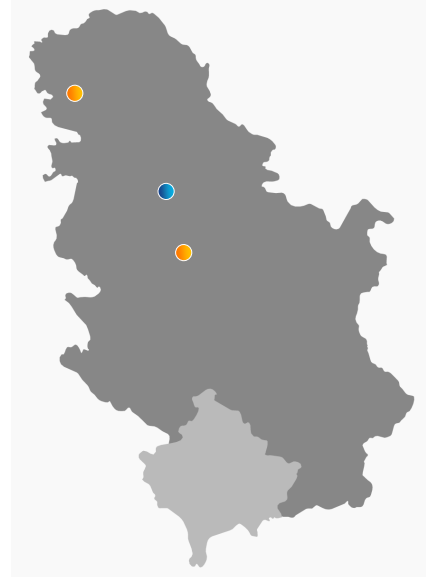
The 21st edition of the International Stage takes place this year from **June 23rd to 25th in Belgrade, Serbia.**

During the International stage, each team has five minutes to present their project to the International Jury, who will then choose the winners of the contest.

SAINT-GOBAIN IN SERBIA

Worldwide leader in light and sustainable construction, Saint-Gobain designs, manufactures and distributes materials and services adapted to the residential, non-residential and infrastructure markets. Its integrated and innovative solutions provide sustainability, performance and well-being for its customers. In line with its **Lead & Grow strategy**, the Group positions itself as a trusted partner for customers by offering high value sustainable solutions for building and infrastructure renovation and construction.

In **Serbia**, Saint-Gobain develops its activities through complementary businesses that serve the construction market with a comprehensive and synergistic range of solutions. **Isover**, **Rigips®** and **Weber** provide systems for insulation, interior solutions and building finishes, contributing to safer, more comfortable and energy efficient buildings. Since the end of 2022, these business activities have operated with a **shared market presence**, reflecting the Group's solutions driven approach and its ambition to actively support the development of **modern and sustainable construction** in Serbia and the wider region.



- Headquarters (Belgrade)
- Weber factories (Apatin and Topola)

Saint-Gobain's presence in Serbia dates back to **1996**, with the opening of a local representative office of **Saint-Gobain Rigips® Austria**. In **2002**, the creation of **Isover Jugoslavija d.o.o.** marked the official entry of Isover mineral wool into the regional market, followed in 2004 by the launch of the **Isover Multi Comfort House Student Competition**, which later became the **Saint-Gobain Architecture Student Contest**. **Weber** entered the Serbian market in **2007** through the acquisition of the former Elba factory in Apatin and strengthened its footprint in **2012** with the acquisition of the Karbon factory in Topola. These successive milestones have laid the foundations for a strong local presence, now fully aligned with Saint-Gobain's long-term ambition to **lead the construction sector and grow through solutions**.

As Saint-Gobain Serbia continued to strengthen its market presence, the company expanded its local portfolio to better address the evolving needs of customers and industry professionals. This development was further enriched by the introduction of additional Saint-Gobain brands and solutions, including **Saint-Gobain Glass**, **Adfors**, **Ecophon**, **Norton**, and **Sekurit Service**, broadening the Group's offering across construction, acoustic, industrial, and automotive sectors.

SAINT-GOBAIN IN SERBIA

Number of Industrial
Sites in Serbia:

2

Number of employees
in Serbia:

100

Number of Saint-Gobain
brands in Serbia:

3

APPENDIX



HISTORY OF THE ARCHITECTURE STUDENT CONTEST

Year, Contest Task and venue of the International Stage

	2005	Passive Hotel Bansko, Bulgaria
Renovate a construction hall and turn it into a disco Sighisoara, Romania	2006	
	2007	Detached house for one family Belgrade, Serbia
Multicomfort House School Dubrovnik, Croatia	2008	
	2009	Multicomfort Office Complex Ljubljana, Slovenia
Renovate a Post-industrial Building Situated in Paris Innsbruck, Austria	2010	
	2011	Design a skyscraper according to Multicomfort Criteria in Manhattan Prague, Czech Republic
Multicomfort Sustainable Community in Trent Basin area, Nottingham, UK	2012	
Bratislava, Slovakia	2013	Development of Glückstein Quartier, Mannheim, Germany
	2014	Belgrade, Serbia
School of tomorrow, Gaziantep, Turkey	2015	Residential building for EXPO Astana 2017, Kazakhstan
Bucharest, Romania	2016	Astana, Kazakhstan
	2017	Renovation of existing 2 MF block Madrid, Spain
Community in Brest, Belarus	2018	
Brest, Belarus	2019	Rehabilitate and reconnect the urban area around the Crescenzago subway station in Northeast Milan
Creating a comprehensive vision for the Dubai Culture Village Dubai, UAE	2020	Milano, Italy
	2021	Design a Sustainable Development Park combining residential, educational and recreational functions, Saint-Denis -Paris
Postponed due to Covid-19 situation	2022	Paris, France
	2023	Revitalization with public and cultural use of the plot included in the Boavista Landfill urban area
Revitalization of an area located next to the Warszawa Wschodnia railway station Warsaw, Poland	2024	Lisbon, Portugal
	2025	Renovate and change the use of an abandoned school building in Chimilin into a multi-use building activities and design a new residential building for students in Les Grands Ateliers
Renovation of an office building into student accommodation and demolition of an existing building to build a new one, while respecting the natural park that surrounds the area Helsinki, Finland	2026	Nord-Isère, France
Design athlete accommodation facilities and renovate the Academic Yachting Club with site integration and connectivity Belgrade, Serbia		

ARCHITECTURE STUDENT CONTEST 2025

ARCHITECTURE STUDENT CONTEST 2025

International Stage 2025,
in Nord Isère, France

[Promotional video](#)



1ST PRIZE OF THE 2025 EDITION IN NORD ISERE, FRANCE

[France - From Knowledge to Making](#)

Ecole Nationale D'Architecture et de
Paysage de Bordeaux



From Knowledge to Making

[Learn more about the winners
of all the previous editions](#)



ABOUT SAINT-GOBAIN

Worldwide leader in light and sustainable construction, Saint-Gobain designs, manufactures and distributes materials and services adapted to the residential, non-residential and infrastructure markets. Its integrated and innovative solutions provide sustainability, performance and well-being for its customers.

The Group is guided by its purpose:

“ **MAKING THE WORLD
A BETTER HOME** ”

€46.5 BILLION
IN SALES IN 2025

162,000
EMPLOYEES
IN 80 COUNTRIES

COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING NET
ZERO CARBON
EMISSIONS BY 2050

MEDIA RELATIONS

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For more information about Saint-Gobain,
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us on [LinkedIn](#)