

# Mexico Mass Timber Challenge

EDICIÓN 2025

MAY 14<sup>th</sup>

WEBINAR 1:  
TIMBER DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>

WEBINAR 2:  
SUSTAINABILITY IN TIMBER

JULY 2<sup>nd</sup>

WEBINAR 3:  
INNOVATION IN CONSTRUCTION  
AND TIMBER

JULY 31<sup>st</sup>

**FINAL DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS**

AUGUST 8<sup>th</sup>

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

WORKSHOP-PAVILION

SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

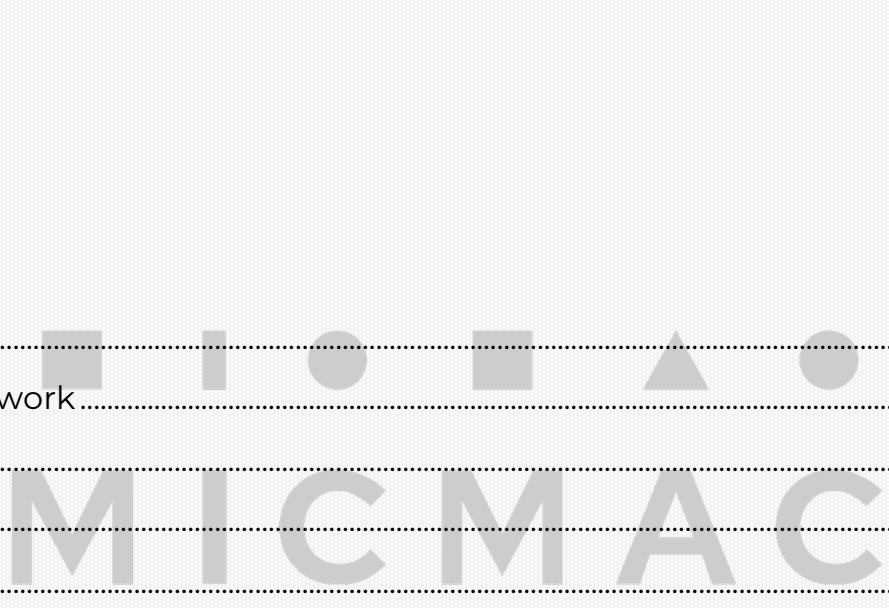
MEXTROPOLI 2025

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[micmac.mx/en/challenge](https://micmac.mx/en/challenge)

 — @micmac.mx



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# MASS TIMBER CHALLENGE

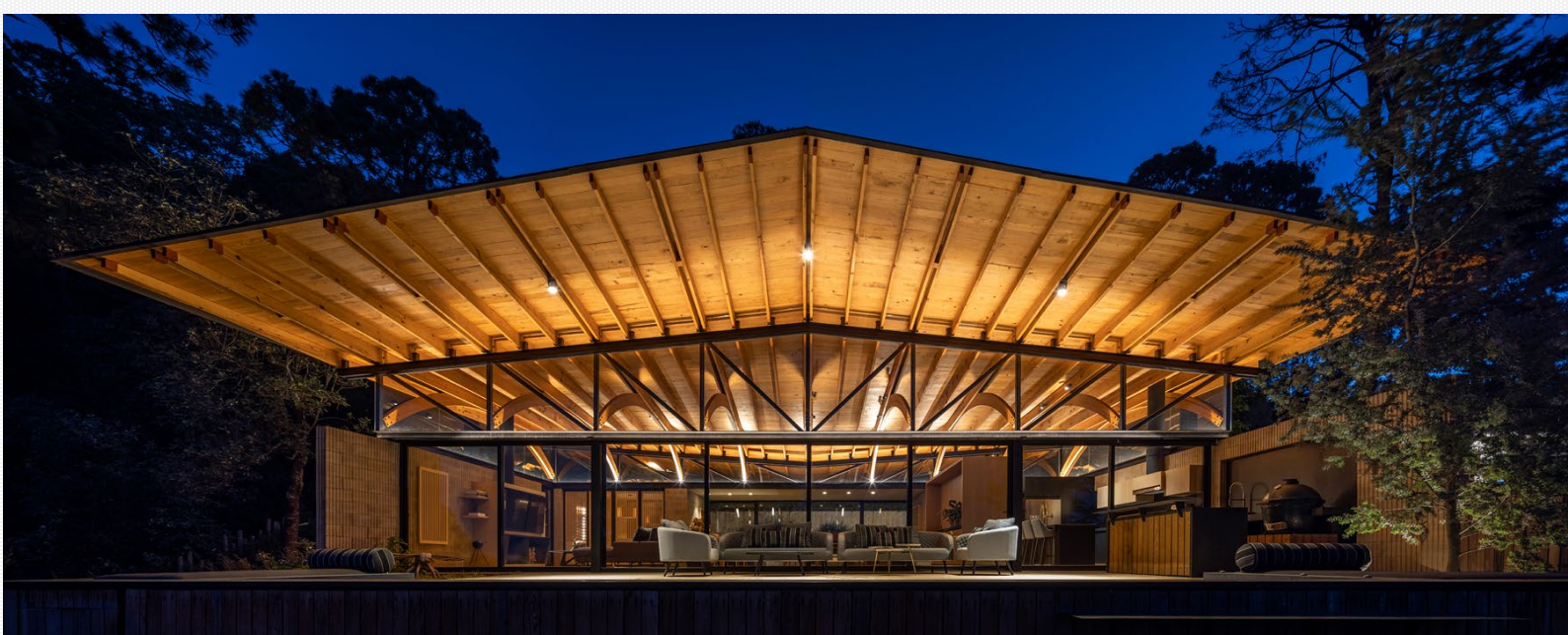
## Introduction

According to an article published by Forbes México in September 2022 titled “Mexico needs to build 800,000 homes annually: study”, Albert Saiz, a professor at MIT, concluded that in order to close the housing gap in Mexico, it is necessary to build 800,000 new homes per year, increase construction investment by 1% of GDP, and address the issue of informal housing.

Based on this information, we propose the following analysis:

According to an Eje Central article published in March 2025 titled “How much will homes cost under the National Housing Plan?”, the estimated budget for a social housing unit in Mexico is around 1.2 million pesos. This plan establishes that the homes will cost roughly \$60,000 USD and will have a surface area of 60 m<sup>2</sup>.

Based on this premise, the proposal invites architects to design a free-format social housing module, with a maximum budget of \$60,000 USD and a size ranging from 5 to 15 m<sup>2</sup>. The designed module will be exhibited during the Mextrópolis event and showcased at Centro Cultural Laguna for four months. This module will serve as a space for reflection and dialogue within the framework of the festival, promoting discussion on architecture and possible solutions to the shortage of social housing in Mexico.





## Legal Framework

This is an international, anonymous competition, open to all disciplines and ages, and it will be conducted in a single phase. Submission is digital and governed by the terms set forth in the administrative and technical guidelines. By formally entering the competition, participants agree to fully accept all parts of the contest without appeal, including all regulatory, technical, and procedural provisions established in the administrative and technical guidelines.

## Organization

The Mass Timber Challenge 2025 is organized by MICMAC, which will be responsible for managing the technical-administrative information both prior to and following the competition, answering participant inquiries, and providing official responses. **MICMAC** will also draft the minutes of the jury's plenary session and the award announcement, as well as oversee all actions necessary for the smooth development of the competition.

**MICMAC** will also coordinate the recognition and promotion of the winning project, in collaboration with the winning team.

## Participants

Professionals or students from anywhere in the world may participate individually or in teams. Teams may include members from any discipline, though it is recommended that at least one team member be an architect. Each team must have a designated representative, who will serve as the main point of contact.

Only one proposal may be submitted per team.

The following individuals may not participate:

- Members of the current competition jury or of MEXTRÓPOLI.
- Individuals who have family ties to jury members; spouses or individuals with proven affective, cohabitation, or professional relationships (e.g., employee/employer or business partners) during the call period.

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MICMAC



## Prototype

The objective is to design a 10 m<sup>2</sup> housing module adaptable to various uses, for example:

- 5 m<sup>2</sup>: smart, transformable module.
- 10 m<sup>2</sup>: bedroom module, wet module (kitchen and bathroom), or entrance module with terrace.
- 20 m<sup>2</sup>: living room module.

The module must be made of at least 65% timber.

The structure must be easy to assemble and disassemble, allowing for rapid reconfiguration. The walls should be modular, offering various typologies for users to adapt based on their needs.

## Anonymity

Submissions must be identified with a code provided at registration. The names of the participants or the name of their architectural firm, if applicable, must not be included.

Proposals that violate this anonymity requirement will be automatically disqualified.

## Deliverables

Two digital sheets sized 60 x 90 cm in PDF or JPG format, with a maximum file size of 20 MB, allowing for email submission. The file name must match the code provided during registration.

The sheets must include (in free format):

- Architectural plans (at least 1)
- Renderings (at least 1)
- Diagram of sustainable performance and/or ESG criteria (at least 1)
- Wall construction details (at least 1)
- Roof construction details (at least 1)
- Explanatory text of 200 to 300 words

Participants may also include diagrams, elevations, sketches, collages, or any other representation technique that helps convey the project idea.

Descriptions or texts may be submitted in either Spanish or English.

## Evaluation Criteria

1. Affordability (5 points)
2. Sustainability (5 points)
3. Constructibility (5 points)
4. Originality of the solution (5 points)



## **Jury**

The jury will independently and autonomously select a single proposal from those submitted on time and in compliance with the contest guidelines.

The jury and organizers may disqualify entries for the following reasons:

- Late submissions or failure to comply with the contest rules
- Breach of anonymity through any means of authorship disclosure or graphic identifiers
- Any proven attempt to communicate with or influence jury members

## **Prizes**

1st Place: \$1,500 USD

2nd Place: \$1,000 USD

3rd Place: \$500 USD

The five finalist teams will have the opportunity to participate in a timber construction workshop.

Winning teams will receive recognition in publications, and the winning module will be built as a pavilion.

## **Intellectual Property Rights**

Participants will retain intellectual property rights over their submitted work but will grant the organizers rights for exhibition, reproduction, and publication related to the competition. Organizers are obligated to credit the authors in all publications, exhibitions, or related events.

Authors also agree to mention the contest organizers in any subsequent publications that include their proposals.

Submitted proposals may not be used to develop projects by architects, engineers, or technicians other than the original authors.

The winning module may be exhibited in the future as part of initiatives aimed at institutionalizing timber construction for social housing in Mexico. Organizers are obligated to credit the authors in every such instance.



## Additional Conditions

This competition is completely free of charge. Any attempt by third parties to request money from participants is strictly prohibited. Any misuse of this document or requests for payment will be considered a violation of the competition's conditions..

## Timeline

### **May:**

- May 14: 1st Webinar – Timber Design & Construction

### **June:**

- June 4: 2nd Webinar – Sustainability in Timber

### **July:**

- July 2: 3rd Webinar – Innovation in Construction and Timber

### **July:**

- July 31: Submission deadline and finalist selection

### **August:**

- August 8: Winner announcement
- August 10–15: Workshop – Pavilion Construction

### **September:**

- September 19–21: MEXTRÓPOLI 2025