

Press release - English version

Open Call

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Design New Housing Solutions for Asylum Seekers



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Open Call: Design New Housing Solutions for Asylum Seekers

The Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (abbreviation in Dutch: COA), in collaboration with Government Architect Floris Alkemade, organizes an open call for designs for innovative housing solutions to accommodate asylum seekers. A new, flexible stock of temporary housing units is required to adequately meet the dynamics of the inflow of asylum seekers, both now and in future. In addition, the initiative aims to boost innovations in the current market for flexible housing.

The COA invites professional designers as well as students to submit designs to this competition that may contribute to a solution for this urgent, social question: housing for asylum seekers. One of the matters to be addressed is how the COA can efficiently respond to the continually fluctuating demand for accommodation for asylum seekers and at the same time provide them with an adequate, temporary home: *A Home Away from Home*.

New techniques and materials

The COA is urgently in need of solutions that extend beyond the current accommodation methods. According to Government Architect Floris Alkemade, designing skills combined with new production techniques, revolutionary use of materials and technical innovations are key to these solutions. The focus of attention in this competition lies mainly on the level of flexibility of housing ideas as well as the possibility of a rapid production. But also sustainability and affordability in terms of transportation and exploitation are vitally important. Moreover, the designs have to be an asset to their environment, physically as well as socially.

Prototype

Two different types of designs may be submitted to the competition: in the first category ideas are provided for vacant buildings, so these can be easily converted into living spaces for asylum seekers (indoors). The second category focuses on solutions for available sites (outdoors). This competition consists of two rounds. The first round is set up as an idea competition. Out of the submitted ideas a jury selects a number of submissions per category, which are going to be further developed. Costs involved in developing the selected idea's will be provided for by COA. Eventually the COA intends to further develop a selected number of designs into prototypes, to test whether or not they are suitable for actual use.

Kick-off

A Home away from home will be launched on January 18th with a kick-off meeting. During this meeting various speakers will share their views on the subject and highlight the backgrounds of the competition.

Signing up

A Home away from Home is conceptualised according to the *Kompas bij Prijsvragen* of *Architectuur Lokaal*. The open call is hosted by www.nederlandwordtanders.nl, which is a platform that supports architectural and planning innovations. On www.nederlandwordtanders.nl/openoproep one can find more information about the competition and sign up for the Kick-off meeting on January 18th.

Jury

The jury consists of the following persons:

- **Floris Alkemade** – Government Architect
- **Carolien Schippers** – Manager of Housing COA
- **Jos Wiene** – Chairman of the Asylum Commission VNG and mayor of Katwijk
- **Shyam Khandekar** – Urban designer, planner and architect in India and Europa, also editor in chief of the magazine MY LIVEABLE CITY
- **Ferdows Kazemi** – Former refugee, now author and columnist
- **Adri Duivesteijn** – Former member of the Government's First and Second Chamber, Deputy Mayor of Den Haag and Almere and former Director of the Dutch Architectural Institution
- **Mick Eekhout** – Emeritus professor Productdevelopment TU Delft, owner and CEO of Octatube in Delft

Information for press

For more information about the competition and interview requests, please contact:

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