



Sqratch Challenges

Edition I

INHABIT EDITION 1

Join Us In Reimagining Living Spaces That Promote Digital Detox And Well-Being

2026

INHv1

About Sqratch

We're A Rebellion.

SQRATCH is a platform built for designers who believe the discipline can do better. It exists for those willing to question defaults, challenge comfortable solutions, and sit with the discomfort of unfinished ideas. We are less interested in flawless outcomes and more invested in the thinking that leads to them the revisions that didn't happen, the critiques that lingered, the drawings that taught more than the final render. Through competitions, discourse, and practice-led inquiry, SQRATCH creates space for work that resists easy answers and begins again with greater clarity, intent, and rigor.

Welcome.

This Is Where Your Best Work Begins Again, With A *Sqratch*.





Context

By 2050, urban residents live in a perpetual state of digital overload, with constant notifications triggering dopamine spikes and crashes that heighten stress and social isolation. This has fueled a global mental health crisis, with excessive social media use contributing to a 25% increase in anxiety and depressive disorders among young adults.

In response, governments alongside nonprofit organizations have launched an experimental initiative: the Digital Detox Township. These self-reliant enclaves ban digital devices and promote real-world connections through thoughtfully designed environments. As internet-free sanctuaries, Digital Detox Townships integrate sustainable systems, communal spaces, and activity hubs to help reset the human psyche and restore mental well-being.



The Task

We invite you to design a housing complex within or near an urban setting that enables people to unplug, reconnect with each other, and renew their well-being. The goal is to envision a self-sufficient, community-driven environment for the year 2050, where architecture fosters mindfulness, real-world connection, and ecological harmony.

1. Site & Context

Choose an ***urban, peri-urban, or isolated site (12.4 acres / ~50,000 m²)***. It could be a vacant lot, abandoned site, or urban fringe—but must support the vision of a Digital Detox Township.

Justify your selection based on the city's projected future, ecological potential, and socio-cultural context.

2. User Group & Housing Typology

Imagine the ***future inhabitants in 2050***—their habits, stressors, and lifestyle needs.

Propose a housing typology that responds to:

Climate and culture

Privacy and community balance

Flexible, intergenerational living



The Task

3. Design Intent & Responsibilities

Mental health and social isolation in a hyper-digital world

Urban and ecological regeneration

Cultural continuity and emotional well-being

How architecture can promote slow, intentional living

4. Off-Grid Living

Integrate self-sustaining systems, including:

Renewable energy sources

Passive climate strategies

A circular food economy

5. Program Elements Include:

Recreational and mindfulness spaces

Private nooks and Communal areas

Any additional features that enrich a holistic, screen-free lifestyle

Guiding Question

How will your design help people reconnect—with themselves, others, and nature in a digitally saturated future?

Design Parameters

1. Climate & Culture

Choose any urban or peri-urban setting.

Explain:

Why you selected this context

What this city may look like in 2050

Who the people inhabiting it might be (demographics, lifestyle, digital habits, etc.)

The program and functioning of your proposed detox township in response to the context

The cultural, ecological, and social forces of your chosen region must guide your design narrative. How does your township reflect and respond to these projected realities?

2. Site & Form

Total area: 12.4 acres (≈50,000 m²)

Choose a specific city and identify a precise site within it (e.g., disused railway yard, peri-urban buffer zone, or abandoned industrial site).

Describe the site conditions, surrounding environment, and how your design will transform or revive it.

Ensure the site layout, circulation, and form-making support unplugged living, nature integration, and slow movement.



Design Parameters

3. Unit Types

Define your own housing typology based on user needs.

Conduct a user analysis for 2050: Who are they? How do they live, unplug, interact?

Propose a spatial strategy to accommodate these inhabitants considering density, privacy, shared rituals, and adaptive reuse (if applicable).

Clearly show how your layout and unit arrangements promote communal interaction, individual privacy, and contextual sensitivity.

4. Passive & Off-Grid Systems

Your township should prioritize climate-responsive and self-sufficient systems, such as:

Urban farming or permaculture zones, water recycling systems, and low-energy infrastructure. These systems should be seamlessly integrated.

5. Communal and Activity Spaces

Design shared spaces that promote real-world engagement, mindfulness, and tactile experiences.

Consider Gathering areas and Productive spaces (Ensure that the scale, placement, and purpose of each space arises naturally from your site narrative and supports the detox lifestyle.

Submission Guidelines

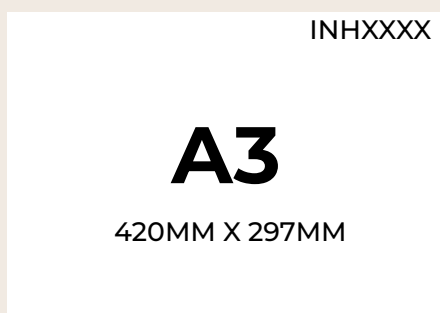
- The entry must be submitted on or before **11:59 pm IST on 15 July, 2026**
- The entry can only be **submitted online**.
- **On registration, a unique ID** will be generated which should be clearly marked on your submission on the *top-right corner*.
- The A3 panels **should not have your name or contact details**. Revealing the name of the participating team in the panels may result in disqualification.
- Please plan accordingly to ensure that the entry is **uploaded within the given deadline**. Any submission/s delivered later than the above-mentioned date will be disqualified, regardless of the reason.
- **The scale of the drawings is to be determined by the participants**, based on what best conveys their proposal.
- Participants may use **views, sketches, walkthroughs, or any other medium** they find suitable to effectively explain their design proposal



Submission Guidelines

- Participants may submit a **maximum of 12 sheets, each in A3 size.**
- The presentation should be **supported by a brief Synopsis** narrating your design narrative. (**Maximum of 2 A4 size pages**) providing your narrative.
- Preferred submission formats (**Panels- pdf, 3D views jpg, Walkthrough- mp4, Synopsis- MS Word**).
- Maintain the size of your entire submission packet **within 10 MB.**
- All entries must be prepared **using metric units** of measurements.
- **All text must be in English.**
- The presentation/report must mention the source, where applicable.

SHEET TEMPLATE



Name your file as your TeamCode, e.g. INHXXXX.PDF

Every participant is eligible to submit **Multiple entries.**
(Each entry needs to be sent in separately with its unique ID)

Participants must not combine multiple entries.

Evaluation Criteria

Entries will be evaluated holistically across the following criteria :

- **Social Impact:** We're looking for designs that don't just house people they bring them together. Show us how your spaces spark real interactions, shared routines, and moments of collective life across generations.
- **Well-Being Design:** Good design should feel like a deep breath. Think about how light, air, and material choices help people slow down, focus, or simply feel good in their space.
- **Technical Feasibility:** Your idea shouldn't need a miracle to get built. Keep it grounded show us how it works, how it lasts, and how the people who live there can care for it with ease.
- **Process Clarity:** Reveals design evolution with annotated sketches and diagrams of microclimate mapping, movement studies, iterative massing and courtyard tests showing how each decision emerged from rigorous analysis. Process sketches are highly encouraged.
- **Visual Storytelling:** Employs a cohesive graphic language renders that capture communal vitality and quiet refuge, alongside intuitive diagrams guiding viewers through spatial flows and resource loops with minimal text, consistent typography, iconography, and color accents.



Eligibility Criteria

- **The competition is open to all.**
- **Participants can register *Individually* or in teams of *up to 3 Members*.**
- The participating team must fill in all the details required in the registration form for them to be considered as valid entry.
- Employees of the organisers are not eligible to enter the competition.
- Firms interested to participate may register on the website by filling in the registration form.
- Participants are expected to take careful note of all the conditions. Non-compliance may result in disqualification.

The Timeline

February 09, 2026	Competition Launch
February 15, 2026	Early Bird Registrations Open
March 15, 2026	Standard Registrations Open
June 15, 2026	Late Registrations Open
July 15, 2026	Competition Submission Deadline
July 30, 2026	Announcement of the Leading Entries
August 15, 2026	Announcement of the Winner

All the Deadlines are 11:59 pm IST

Registration Fees

Category	Early	Standard	Late
Indian Nationals	₹1500	₹2000	₹2500
Foreign Nationals	\$45	\$60	\$70

Fees are per team (1–3 members), inclusive of Taxes.



The Prize



First Prize
₹60000

Cash Prize of INR 60000 + Acknowledgement
on social media and
website + Certificate



Second Prize
₹40000

Cash Prize of INR 40000 +
Acknowledgement on social
media and
website + Certificate

Third Prize
₹25000



Cash Prize of INR 25000
+ Acknowledgement on
social media and
website + Certificate



RESOURCES

- **Auroville, India – Intentional Community Living**
 - <https://auroville.org/>
 - <https://auroville.org/page/architectural-case-study-on-auroville-by-medha-halapnavar>
- **Green Village, Bali – Bamboo Architecture and Sustainable Living**
 - <https://www.archdaily.com/296667/the-green-village-pt-bambu>
 - <https://greenvillagebali.com/>
- **Findhorn Ecovillage, Scotland – Sustainable Community Development**
 - <https://www.be-st.build/case-studies/east-whins-eco-village/>
 - <https://ecovillagefindhorn.com/>
- **Horizon House, California – Rammed Earth Construction**
 - <https://kuthranieri.com/horizon-house/>
- **Earthship Biotecture, New Mexico – Off-Grid Sustainable Housing**
 - <https://earthship.com/>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgUkjbMhF18>

