



## BEACONHOUSE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Main Campus, Tarogil Road, 13 Km, Off Thokar Niazbeg,

Raiwind Road, Lahore - 53700, Pakistan.

Tel: +92-42-38100156

Email: info@bnu.edu.pk Website: www.bnu.edu.pk



### **Mosque as Community Center – An Architectural Design Competition for Students and Alumni.**

In traditional Islamic thought, the Mosque was the first example of a Community Center. The layout of the Mosque of the Prophet (PBUH) in Medina, the first Mosque of the Muslim World, was based on ideas of simplicity, humility, accessibility, rationality, orientation, optimization, and efficiency. The residents of Medina could come together to use this space for various communal functions. In doing so, it became apparent that the mosque was not simply a place to connect with the Divine but a space deeply rooted in the ideals of community, sharing, and exchange of ideas, values, and knowledge. In today's rapidly transforming world, it has become imperative to re-examine the typology of the Mosque, especially in a university setting. The monumentality and grandeur associated with today's Mosques is completely at odds with the intended simplicity of the concept and the first Mosque of the Prophet (PBUH) in Medina.

The Razia Hassan School of Architecture at Beaconhouse National University (BNU), in partnership with BankIslami, announces an Architectural Design Competition that will examine the typology of the Mosque as a student community and well-being center on the BNU campus. The competition is open to:

- (i) students nationwide; and
- (ii) alumni of accredited universities who have graduated in the last five years (no earlier than 2019).

The campus of BNU is set on 32 acres of land near Jati Umra in Lahore. Designed by the award-winning architectural firm Nayyer Ali Dada and Associates (NADA), the campus features sensitive use of material, form, and scale to create an environment conducive to learning, promoting the exchange of ideas, and fostering creativity. BNU is a Not-for-Profit University comprising eight schools housed in individual blocks surrounding a polygonal central green court. The campus design encourages chance encounters among students through features like seating steps, bridges, and podiums, exemplifying "place-making". The predominant use of red brick as the primary material honors the region's ancient building traditions while aligning with contemporary architectural values.

The Mosque/Student Community and Well-being Center must integrate seamlessly with the existing campus facilities to enhance circulation and functionality. It may stand independently or interact innovatively with existing buildings. Due to space constraints, the proposed design may incorporate multiple levels while maintaining a modest footprint. If you would like to visit the campus, please send us an email to arrange your visit.

#### **Programmatic Requirements:**

1. Prayer Space for 70 boys with ablution area and shoe racks.
2. Prayer Space for 30 girls with an ablution area and shoe racks.
3. Two stepped workshops/classrooms, each for 60 persons.
4. 10 offices for student activities, counseling, and societies (including 4 offices for 8-10 people each).
5. Seminar/Roundtable room for 25 people.
6. Student well-being/community room for 50 people.
7. Toilet facilities.

#### **Requirements for the Competition:**

1. Plans

Plans are cut at each level of the proposed design, including the roof plan. Minimum scale for plans 1/8" = 1'-0"

The site plan may be at a smaller scale as required.

Section cut lines, level tags, structural grid lines, etc should be marked on plans.



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### 2. Sections

Section cuts through critical parts of the proposed design-a minimum of 4 sections is required. The sections should be clearly labeled with level tags and grid lines and showcase the quality of the proposed space. Minimum scale: 1/8" = 1'-0".

### 3. Elevations

Four elevation drawings as appropriate to the proposed design. These drawings should include level tags, section cutlines, grid lines etc, and showcase materiality.

Minimum scale: 1/8" = 1'-0.

### 4. Renders

A minimum of 4 external and 4 internal renders of the project. These renders need to suggest the atmospheric qualities of the proposed design.

Entrants should feel free to add to this list of requirements to unfold/represent their projects.

### 5. Panel Size

The panel size for submission is 40" X 80", horizontally laid out. The required information needs to be composed within this panel size.

## Registration and Timeline:

- Participants must register on the BNU website to receive the detailed Competition Booklet, including campus drawings, photographs, and videos. Registration deadline: 15 July 2024.
- Submission deadline: 1 September 2024, 6 pm.
- Jury deliberations: 14-15 September 2024.
- Exhibition of submissions and awards ceremony: Late September 2024 (exact date TBD).

## Jury Members:

1. Mr. Nayyer Ali Dada, Architect.
2. Professor Sajida Vandal, Architect, CEO THAAP.
3. Mr. Ghayoor Obaid, Architect.

## Prizes:

### - Alumni Category:

- Winning Proposal: Rs 300,000.00
- First Honorable Mention: Rs 75,000.00
- Second Honorable Mention: Rs 75,000.00

### - Student Category:

- Winning Proposal: Rs 300,000.00
- First Honorable Mention: Rs 75,000.00
- Second Honorable Mention: Rs 75,000.00

This competition aims to redefine the Mosque within a university context, emphasizing its role as a hub for community engagement, spiritual reflection, and student well-being, while respecting both historical precedent and contemporary architectural principles.