

Tasmeem Doha is an international design conference hosted by Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar. For five years we have gathered scholars and practitioners in the fields of graphic, interior and fashion design to discuss current issues in design while engaging with our students and community members. The student project is an opportunity to involve students from all over the world in the conference and the issues it addresses. The top five entries will receive travel and accommodation to attend Tasmeem and the preconference student/speaker workshop. This year the theme is **Design at the crossroads: the intersection of change and the future**. In our unique position as an international design conference hosted by an American university in the Middle East, we have many intersections to contemplate. In Qatar and the Arabian Gulf, Bedouin traditions merge with modernity and East and West converge in multicultural cities. Design ideology is also in transition to a 21st century ethos. In this rapidly changing environment, it is essential to consider all paths before forging ahead.



Student Project

GIVE ME SHELTER – changing lives, changing spaces

When you reach a juncture, you pause, consider the possibilities and proceed. One of the many crossroads the world is facing is the changing paradigm of living spaces. The population is increasing while available land and resources are decreasing. In 35 years the population of the world will increase by two and half billion to nine billion persons. The Middle East is the fastest growing area. It is estimated that countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia will need to build 150,000 housing units every year until 2020 to accommodate their projected housing needs. Other parts of the world, however, are experiencing a decrease in population. In Seoul, South Korea, for example, the birthrate has dropped 30 percent since 1993, in part due to the lack of room for children in the cramped high-rise apartments. The way in which living spaces are experienced is changing as well. With people spending more time working, the traditional boundaries of work and home no longer apply.

Look around you and consider your own environment. Define a problem and develop a solution.

- Consider issues of self-identity in individual dwellings, group identity in building small neighborhood communities, and identities of uniqueness in cities and countries.
- Consider cultures at the crossroads of great change and what can be done to support and energize them to play an active and creative role in the nature of their development.
- Consider the environmental and personal costs on communities on the verge of great change.
- Consider utopian dreams of what may be.

Think beyond the obvious solution of designing a dwelling and utilize your strengths in your desired field of study.

The judges look forward to your daring and creative concepts and how they may manifest both visually and verbally.

Submission requirements

All projects should be submitted on CD/DVD following these guidelines. Entries not adhering to these guidelines will not be considered.

- For poster or image entries, use .tif, .jpg, .gif, .pct or .png formats.
- For audio entries, use .mp3, .wa or .aiff formats.
- For video/moving-image entries, use .mov, .avi or .wmv formats.
- Static or print-related projects must have pixel dimensions of 1280 (pixels) width by 720 (pixels) height and have a resolution of 72 pixels per inch. Video/moving-image entries must have a resolution at least 720 x 576 pixels. Additionally, all submissions should include an audio file in which you describe your design process in 60 seconds or less.

Shipping to Doha, Qatar will be arranged and paid for by the organizers of Tasmeem Doha 2008 through DHL. DHL offices in the cities of participating schools are notified that VCUQ will pay for the shipment.

A committee of design faculty and senior administrators from VCUQ will review all entries and select the top five. Designers of the top five entries will receive travel and accommodation to attend Tasmeem Doha 2008 and the pre-conference student/speaker workshop. Winners will be contacted by January 30, 2008.

The organizers of Tasmeem Doha 2008 are interested in the dialogue of problem-seeking and design solutions through the interaction of students and instructors. It is requested that all submissions be created within an undergraduate teaching environment such as a class project or charette. The project may be assigned as an individual or group project; however, only entries submitted from individuals or groups of two will be eligible for an award. All entries must be conceived in response to this specific project and executed between June 2007 and January 2008.

Selected entries will be prominently exhibited during Tasmeem Doha 2008, March 3 through 6, at Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar and posted on the Tasmeem website, <http://tasmeem.qatar.vcu.edu>.

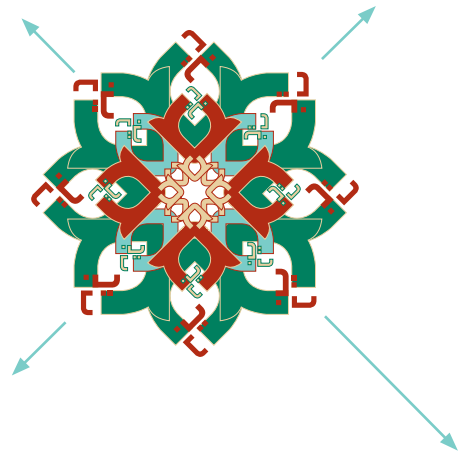
Submission deadline is January 15, 2008.

Send submissions on CD/DVD to:

Kevin Sellars
Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar
P O Box 8095
Doha, Qatar

Direct inquiries to ksellars@qatar.vcu.edu

Please keep a copy of your work; submissions cannot be returned.



All CDs must be labeled with the following:

Name and email address of student(s)

Name and email address of instructor

Academic Institution

Course in which project was executed

List of CD content



VCUQatar

Virginia Commonwealth University