Design a chapel
embraced by the horizon

# Belvedere Chapel



Design Brief by
@aureacompetititions

# Belvedere Chapel


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Photo by Dane Deaner
on Unsplsh

The Chapel - Berger Parkkinen + Architects
Foto di Ana Barros

# Intro

## The Chapel



A chapel is a small-scale architectural space intended for prayer, meditation, or spiritual reflection.
Traditionally associated with Christian worship, a chapel may be part of a larger building (such as a church, monastery, or institutional complex) or exist as a standalone structure, often situated in isolated settings or locations of particular landscape significance.

Unlike churches, chapels are characterized by a greater sense of intimacy: they are spaces designed for a small number of individuals, where the relationship between space, light, and silence becomes central.
Throughout history, chapels have taken many different forms, reflecting the cultures and periods in which they were built, while consistently maintaining their primary purpose: to provide a space for connection, whether religious or personal.

In the contemporary context, the meaning of a chapel has expanded. It is no longer necessarily tied to a specific faith, but can be interpreted as a universal space, open to anyone seeking a moment of pause, reflection, or contemplation. In this sense, the chapel becomes an essential architectural device, capable of expressing the concept of spirituality through elements such as light, materiality, proportion, and its relationship with the surrounding landscape.



Visitors Center - Marina Gavrilova.

# Location

## Montereale Valcellina

Located on the edge of the Friulian Prealps, Montereale Valcellina is a place where the landscape reveals itself in a powerful and primordial way. Just a few kilometers from Pordenone, this territory preserves a rare balance between untouched nature and human presence, where time seems to flow at a different pace.

The Cellina stream, with its clear and ever-changing waters, carves through the land and defines the space, while the Magredi stretch out as a luminous, mineral landscape—almost abstract in character. Montereale is not merely a place, but an experience: shaped by profound silence, crisp light, and authentic materiality.

Within this context, every architectural intervention becomes a measured act, capable of engaging in dialogue with the strength of the landscape and becoming an integral part of it.



Photo by andarpervalli.it


Satellite View - Google Earth

Foto di
Aurea Competitions

# Location

## A Panoramic Summit



The project envisions the creation of a contemporary landmark capable of emerging within a rare and irreplaceable setting.

The site stands out for its extraordinary landscape quality: an open vantage point that, on one side, overlooks Montereale Valcellina and extends across the Magredi plains, while on the other it faces Lake Ravedis.

The plot contains the remains of the Castle of Montereale Valcellina, making it a place rich in history and tranquility—an ideal setting for a thoughtful and conscious design exercise.

The site's topography, characterized by natural slopes, introduces a dynamic design condition to be interpreted freely: either by embracing the existing terrain or redefining it through a more radical architectural gesture.

Within this scenario, the idea of the chapel takes shape, conceived as a device capable of activating the site while amplifying its silence and contemplative power.

A space suspended between isolation and visual connection with the surrounding territory, observing the landscape from above without ever imposing itself upon it.

The intervention may choose either to integrate seamlessly with its environment or to establish a more distinct and contrasting dialogue, transforming the chapel into a recognizable and intentional landmark.

# Location

## The Remains of the Tower

Photo by
Aurea Competitions

The Castle of Montereale Valcellina stands on a strategic hill overlooking the Valcellina Valley, occupying a dominant position between the Friulian plain and the pre-Alpine region. Already mentioned in the 13th century, it was associated with the Patriarchate of Aquileia and several local noble families, serving both defensive and territorial control functions. The complex experienced periods of conflict and gradual abandonment between the Middle Ages and the early modern era, eventually falling into ruin.

Today, the site preserves stone masonry remains, including a quadrangular structure composed of four perimeter walls. The project must take these remains into account, as they cannot be demolished. Participants are granted complete freedom of interpretation: the ruins may be incorporated actively or passively, enclosed within the new design, placed alongside it, or used as an integral component of the architectural intervention.



# Project

## Competition Objectives

The competition invites participants to reflect on what it means to design the sacred today. The goal is to create a contemporary chapel capable of engaging with the landscape and offering an authentic spiritual experience, regardless of religious belief.
Participants are encouraged to explore the theme of spirituality through:

- Relationship with the landscape: integration or contrast;
- Materiality: thoughtful use of local and/or contemporary materials;
- Symbolism: explicit or abstract.

The project must include a main contemplative space accommodating approximately 4–12 people and have a total floor area between 20 and 60 m².

Both smaller-scale micro-architectures and slightly larger proposals will be accepted.
There are no restrictions on the design approach, provided that the built structure remains within the plot boundaries indicated in the site plan.

This competition aims to encourage participants to create spaces that inspire wonder at first sight.

Any additional spaces or facilities for visitors are left to the participant's discretion.

Photo by Aurea Competitions





Spiritual Enclosure - Rubén Valdez
Photo by César Béjar Studio

# Evaluation

## Evaluation Criteria

The jury will evaluate the submitted proposals according to the following criteria:

- **Originality of the concept;**
- **Aesthetic quality;**
- **Conceptual strength;**
- **Graphic representation.**

Projects that succeed in approaching, in terms of intensity and expressive value, true works of art will be particularly appreciated.

For proper design development, photos, videos, and floor plans are available in the competition's Drive folder.




Santa Maria Goretti Church - Mario Cucinella Architects
Photo by Duccio Malagamba

# **Submission** Schedule

**Early registration**
from 21.06.2026 to 12.07.2026
(h 3:00 pm CET)

**Standard registration**
from 12.07.2026 to 30.08.2026
(h 3:00 pm CET)

**Late registration**
from 30.08.2026 to 15.09.2026
(h 3:00 pm CET)

**Submission deadline**
15.09.2026 (h 3:00 pm CET)

**Announcement of finalist**
05.10.2026 (h 3:00 pm CET)

# Guidelines

- Participants have full freedom regarding aesthetic and design choices;
- The tree located at the center of the walls may be removed;
- The method of enhancing the walls is completely open;
- There are no height restrictions;
- It is not necessary to design the access path, which will be the same for everyone from the north/north-east side;
- The building footprint must remain within the boundaries of the plot indicated in the site plan.
- A strong sense of landscape sensitivity is recommended.

**Constraints:**

- It is not permitted to contact the municipal administration, as it is not part of the competition organization;
- It is not permitted to demolish the remaining sections of the walls.

**Coordinates:**

- 46.168580695314155, 12.6578354686324

# **Submission** Required deliverables

### One A1 board

- A1: [59,4 × 84,1 cm]
- File format: jpg
- File name: n° order (ex. 12345)
- Max file size: 20 MB
- Orientation: horizontal
- Language: english

The board must include all necessary graphic information to best illustrate the project (title, diagrams, sketches, plans, sections, collages, model photos, renders, etc.).

All types of graphic representation are accepted.

### One descriptive text

- File format: docx/doc
- File name: n°order (ex. 12345)
- Lenght: max 400 words
- Page format: A4
- Orientation: vertical
- Language: english

The entry number (e.g. 12345) must be placed in the top-right corner of both the board and the descriptive text.

Neither the boards nor the descriptive text must contain any reference to the participants' identity (e.g. names, institutions, universities).



Vatican Chapel - Eduardo Souto Moura.
Photo by Alessandra Chemollo

# Submission

## Registration and Submission

Only one member of the team will complete the registration process:

On the website www.aureacompetitions.com, go to the competition section where you will find the registration option.
Here, enter all the required information and complete the registration process.

After completing the payment procedure, you will receive a confirmation email containing your Entry Number, which will serve as your identification code for the submission.

To submit the deliverables, you must access the same website and go to the “Upload Deliverables” section of this competition.
Once the submission has been completed, the participant will receive a confirmation email.

## Prize Pool

**1500€**

**First prize:** 700€
**Second prize:** 500€
**Third prize:** 300€

**4 Special Mentions:** free competition entry coupon.

**20 finalist:** published on Aurea Competitions’ channels.

# Jury

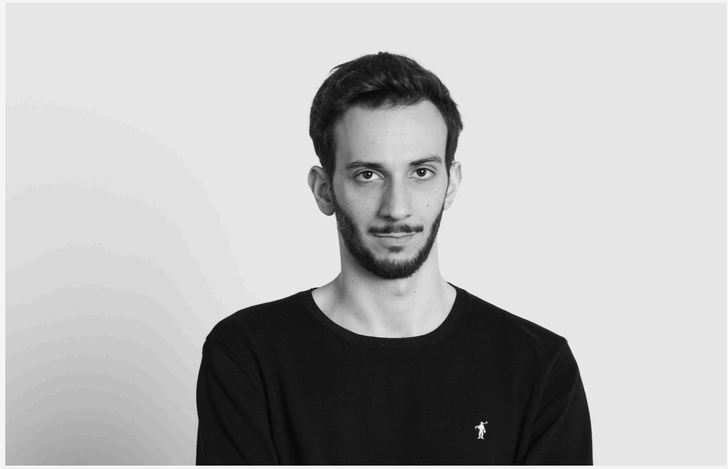
## Selected jury members



### Gabriella Coletta

Engineer-Architect | BIM Specialist

Coletta graduated in 2021 in Building Engineering–Architecture from the University of Padua, developing a strong interest in architecture as a tool for urban regeneration and enhancement of historical contexts. During her studies, she focused in particular on BIM methodology, consistently integrating it into architectural design practice. After graduation, she won a research fellowship that allowed her to join G124, a working group conceived and directed by architect and senator for life Renzo Piano, dedicated to the regeneration of urban suburbs. The experience resulted in a participatory project carried out in Rovigo, returned to the city as an urban regeneration intervention. Since 2023, she has been working at Stefano Boeri Architetti, focusing on BIM methodology applied to architectural design across different scales.



### Luca Sassi

LSA - Lauro Sacchetti Associati

Luca Sassi is an architect and content creator. After graduating in Architectural Design from the Politecnico di Milano, he worked in studios in Portugal and the Netherlands. He is currently a partner at Studio LSA in Reggio Emilia, where he works on architectural design and construction management, following projects at different scales. In parallel, he develops communication projects dedicated to design culture. In 2020, he founded Archisax, a channel through which he shares stories and insights related to architecture. He is also co-founder of Quota Zero, a media platform created to communicate architecture, urban planning, and design in a clear, accessible, and rigorous way. His work combines professional practice, communication, and design culture, with the aim of making these topics more understandable and widely shared.



### Marika Andrea Siviero

MCA - Mario Cucinella Architects

Siviero obtained a degree in Architecture from the University of Ferrara in 2022, with a thesis focused on the design of a therapeutic complex for the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of adolescent psychiatric disorders. During his academic career, he deepened his studies in architectural design and building technology, developing skills in 3D modeling and project management across different scales of intervention. He later gained experience in the various phases of the design process, from concept development to detailed design, with particular attention to the integration of spatial quality and functionality. Since 2023, he has been working with MCA – Mario Cucinella Architects as an architect.


Photo by Aurea Competitions

# Terms and Conditions

1.1. These regulations contain the rules governing the Competition.
1.2. The Competition does not constitute a prize-awarding event pursuant to Article 6 of Presidential Decree no. 430/2001, and the publication of these Regulations does not constitute a public offer. By paying the registration fee, the user declares that they have read, understood, and fully accepted the Competition Regulations.
1.3. This Competition is exclusively speculative, educational, and cultural in nature, with no intention of implementation. The projects concern real-world contexts, but they are not affiliated with, promoted by, authorized by, or in any way connected to the property owners, local public authorities, or any other parties having rights or authority over the sites subject to the design proposals. The Organizer does not hold any rights, authorizations, or mandate to promote the implementation of the projects or to contact the property owners or competent authorities. Participants acknowledge that the Competition constitutes a design exercise for educational purposes and professional visibility, without any guarantee or expectation of the realization of the proposed works.

2. GENERAL RULES

2.1. Participants may take part individually or as a group;
2.2. Participants may be students or not; they are not required to be experts in the disciplines related to the Competition.
2.3. Each group member must be at least 18 years old and under 29 years old.
2.4. There are no restrictions on the maximum number of members per group;
2.5. Group members may come from different universities, with no nationality restrictions.
2.6. The Prize amount is awarded regardless of the number of members in a group. Aurea will cover all bank fees related to prize payments. However, any fees charged by the winner's bank or resulting from currency exchange shall be borne exclusively by the winner. Prizes shall be paid following verification of the winners' identities and the signing of a self-declaration whereby the winners fully accept the Competition's Terms and Conditions.
2.7. Payment of a registration fee allows the submission of only one project. The submission of additional projects is permitted exclusively upon payment of as many registration fees as there are additional projects.
2.8. The Jury is composed of independent and impartial members. The Jury's decision is the result of a subjective and final evaluation that cannot be challenged. By accepting these Regulations, participants expressly waive any right to appeal or dispute the Jury's decision. In the event of the withdrawal of one or more Jury members, Aurea shall replace them with new members of equal authority and impartiality.
2.9. Participants are prohibited from contacting Jury members regarding any matters related to the Competition;
2.10. Participation is prohibited for anyone who has a family relationship within the second degree with one or more members of the Jury;
2.11. Accepted payment methods are: credit card and any other methods supported at the time of the transaction within the platform;
2.12. Competitors are prohibited from publishing or disseminating any Material relating to their Competition submissions before the announcement of the Winners;
2.13. Aurea Competitions reserves the right to modify the Competition dates, the composition of the Jury, or the methods for submitting projects. Any modification will be notified at least 48 hours before the submission deadline through Aurea's media channels;
2.14. Competitors must comply with the deadlines, procedures, fees, and submission requirements. It is recommended to complete each of these online procedures well in advance. Aurea Competitions shall not be held responsible for technical issues or network malfunctions;
2.15. Competitors must strictly comply with deadlines, registrations, and payments;
2.16. Authorship of each submission shall be attributed equally among all Team members.

3. GROUNDS FOR EXCLUSION

3.1. The occurrence of any of the following cases may result in the exclusion of participants and/or the group to which they belong from the Competition:
a. Any violation of the Terms and Conditions;
b. Submission of material through a procedure other than the one specified in the submission requirements;
c. Submission of material after the submission deadline;
d. Naming files differently from what is specified in the submission requirements;
e. Submission of boards and text files containing references to the identity of the participants (e.g., name, university, etc.);
f. Submission of boards containing texts not written in English;
g. Submission of material that is inconsistent with the principles of the Competition or considered incomplete;
h. Submission of a project that significantly differs from the purposes of the Competition;
i. Participants who have a family relationship within the second degree with one or more members of the Jury;
j. Submission of a project that is not new and original or that is not the result of the participants' intellectual activity (i.e., does not belong to them);
k. Aurea, through a technical and objective assessment, shall discard projects that do not meet the requirements listed in the Terms and Conditions or in the specific rules of the individual Competition and/or that fall under any of the cases listed above. Discarded projects shall not be evaluated or considered by the Jury. Disqualified participants and their groups shall not receive any refund;
l. By submitting their entries, participants expressly declare that they do not fall under any of the exclusion grounds listed above.

4. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

4.1. By participating in the Competition and accepting these Regulations, participants acknowledge that Aurea reserves the right to use the submitted material for publications and physical or digital exhibitions, as well as the right to use, adapt, modify, publish, display, reproduce, and distribute the projects for marketing and promotional purposes, in any manner or form and through any communication channel and/or medium, in accordance with the "Right of Reproduction and Right of Publication" (Article 12 of Law no. 633/1941, namely the Italian Copyright Law);
4.2. Aurea shall not be held responsible if the intellectual property rights of the uploaded projects do not belong, in whole or in part, to the participants, or if the applicants are not the holders of the rights to exploit the project, including the right to participate in a Competition of this type;
4.3. By taking part in the Competition and accepting its rules and Terms and Conditions, participants declare that they are the authors (and/or co-authors in the case of a team) of the uploaded materials;
4.4. The authors of the uploaded projects retain the moral rights of authorship over the project, including the right to always be identified as the authors and the right to object to unauthorized modifications.

5. AWARDING OF PRIZES

5.1. The schedule for the publication of the Competition results shall be considered temporary and subject to verification of compliance with the requirements defined in the Regulations;
5.2. Upon publication of the results, Aurea reserves the right to verify and collect copies of the Winners' identity documents and any documentation signed by the Winners as requested by Aurea;
5.3. The awarding of Prizes is subject to verification of the Winners' identities and to the signing by the Winners of a self-declaration confirming full compliance with the terms of the Competition Regulations;
5.4. For the awarding of the Prizes, the Winners must provide their bank account details when requested.
5.5. The prize fund is provided by Aurea Competitions, which shall pay the corresponding amounts directly to the Winners.

6. INDEMNIFICATION

6.1. Competitors agree to indemnify and hold Aurea Competitions harmless from any cost or damage arising from the violation of any third-party intellectual property rights;
6.2. Competitors agree to fully indemnify Aurea and its members and officers from and against all legal claims, liabilities, damages, losses, or any costs, expenses, and legal fees arising from any activity referred to in the Terms and Conditions or from participation in a Competition;

7. PRIVACY AND DATA PROCESSING

7.1. The processing of participants' personal data shall be carried out by Aurea Competitions solely for the purpose of participation in the Competition and the distribution of Prizes, in accordance with the Privacy Policy pursuant to Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679;
7.2. Competitors shall be responsible for the truthfulness and accuracy of the data provided, including personal data, and Aurea shall not assume any responsibility for the provision of false data. In any case, Aurea, in compliance with privacy regulations, reserves the right to verify the submitted data by requesting a copy of the identity document showing the personal details used during registration;
7.3. Aurea shall not be responsible for any false declarations of data made by competitors;
7.4. Data may also be processed through artificial intelligence systems, exclusively for purposes related to improving the service, in compliance with the GDPR.

8. WITHDRAWAL AND REFUND

8.1. In accordance with the Italian Consumer Code (Legislative Decree no. 206/2005), the right of withdrawal may be exercised within 14 days from the date of payment of the registration fee (including weekends and public holidays);
8.2. In any case, the right of withdrawal cannot be exercised after the submission deadline, nor if the participant has downloaded the Competition materials. Refunds shall be made in the same currency as the original payment and shall therefore be subject to exchange rates;
8.3. To exercise the right of withdrawal, please write to: aureacompetitions@gmail.com;

9. JURISDICTION AND APPLICABLE LAW

9.1. For any dispute relating to the interpretation, performance, or termination of this agreement, the parties agree that the Court of Pordenone shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

# Belvedere Chapel

## Design a chapel embraced by the horizon.

Belvedere Chapel is the third competition by Aurea Competitions. We apologize for any inconvenience.

For any information you can contact us.

aurea

www.aureacompetititions.com
aureacompetitions@gmail.com