

THE

NOW NOW

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION



Berggen, Stefan. Lucky Strike Richard Piper Entry. Photograph. Kyalami: Publishing 06 November 1971. <http://www.a2racer.com/>, Online Archive.

Calling all architects, designers, urbanists, engineers, artists, makers, and anyone with a passion for the future of our urban environments.

Participants can enter as teams consisting of 1 to 3 people, with only one team member required to register.

The deadline for applications is 30 October 2023 by 24:00 CAT

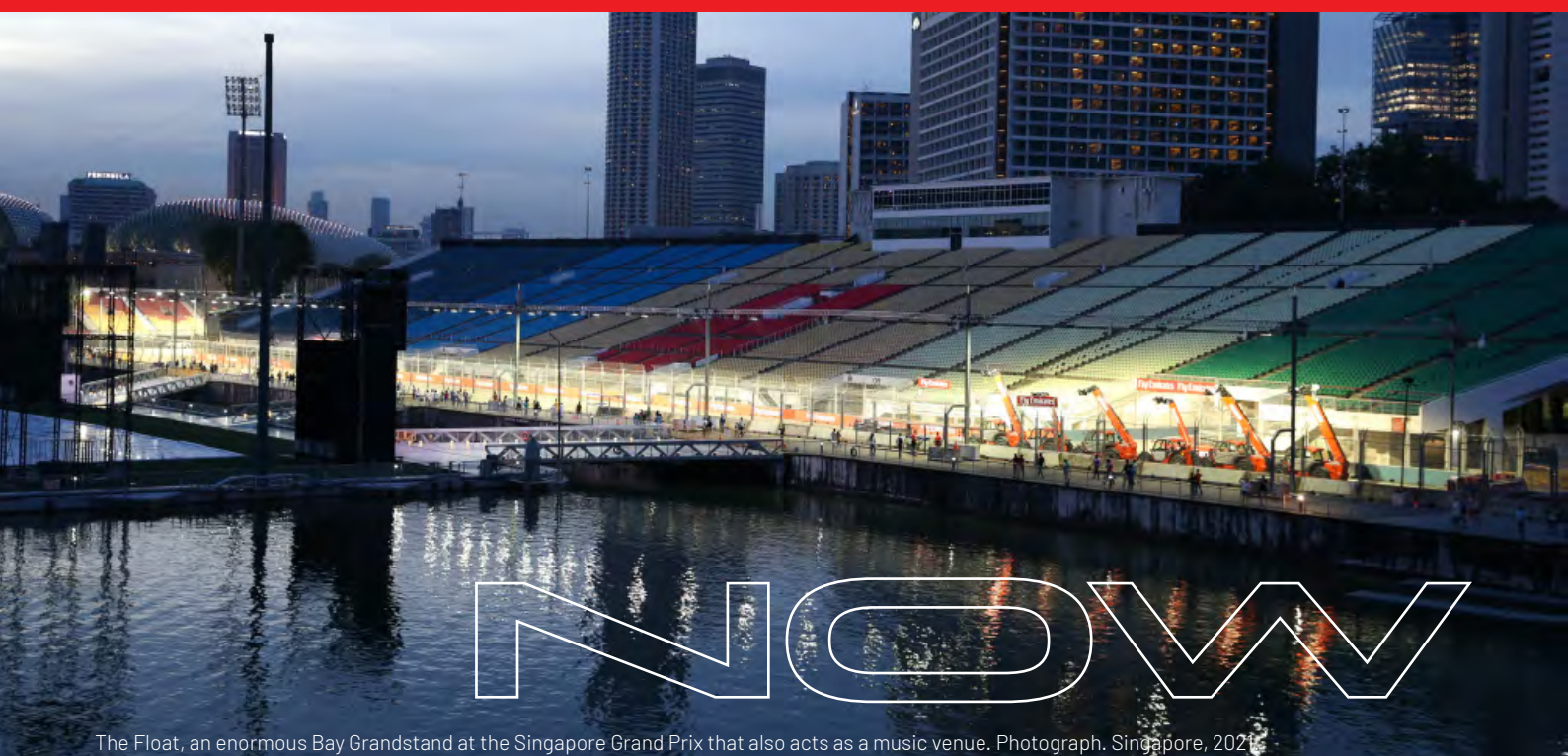


The Circuit: A Future pavilion for Formula-E challenges designers to create a pavilion for the annual Cape Town Formula E race, which is returning to the city. The pavilion should not only enhance the race experience but also consider the socio-political and socio-historic benefits of such an event. Entrants are expected to critically examine their design process and respond to questions of accessibility, inclusivity, gender, nationality, race, and more to offer a unique architectural and urban perspective on the racing experience in a city. This pavilion aims to create a platform for insightful discourse, serving diverse communities and adding value to the City of Cape Town.





Synovia 'Novisto' Smith spins her car at a Wheelz N Smoke event in Soweto, South Africa, 12 March 2022



The Float, an enormous Bay Grandstand at the Singapore Grand Prix that also acts as a music venue. Photograph. Singapore, 2021



Every Sunday, cops and street racers set aside their differences to celebrate speed together at Bragging Rights CPT at Killarney International Raceway in Cape Town, 2022

RACING IN SOUTH AFRICA

The rich history of South African motorsport is a testament to its enduring passion for high-speed racing. It began with a humble race at Newlands cricket ground between just two cars. In 1962, South Africa hosted its first South African Grand Prix amidst sports sanctions, marking a significant moment as a newly declared republic.

In Cape Town, car culture thrives with rally races at Killarney and illegal street racing that animates over thirty hotspots on weekends. Participants gather to compare vehicles, socialize, and place bets while evading the notorious Ghost Squad, tasked with apprehending these daring racers who take to the midnight streets.

Soweto's King Katra showcases a unique motorsport—car spinning. Originating on Soweto's streets, this sport combines drag racing with stunts and pays tribute to the past. Now a legitimate and profitable sporting code, car spinning attracts promoters, performers, and spectators in stadiums across the country.

Today, South African motorsport reemerges with a renewed sense of purpose and pride, embracing environmental responsibility. Homegrown racing heroes like Formula E sensation Kelvin van der Linde and MotoGP champion Brad Binder fuel the country's aspirations to shine on the international stage.

With the arrival of Formula E, South Africa experiences the return of high-speed motor racing, reigniting passion and nostalgia for a new generation of enthusiasts.

RACETRACK DESIGN

Racetrack design offers a fresh perspective on the relationship between cars and cities, taking into account the urban impact of roads. Racetracks that invert, switch, or repurpose infrastructure to create communal spaces can provide inspiration for seating, viewing areas, and additional infrastructure and programs.

Historic racetrack designs provide valuable insights into the architectural, urban, and landscape considerations involved in creating these unique racing venues. Formula one street circuit examples such as the Bahrain International Circuit, Circuit de Monaco, or Durban's street circuit of 2006 demonstrate the thoughtfulness and creativity required to harmonize sports and urban planning within the realm of racetrack architecture.

SHIFTING GEARS:

The shift from Formula One's high-octane roar to the eco-friendly buzz of Formula E has caused a seismic shake-up in the world of motorsports. For decades, F1 has been the pinnacle of racing, capturing the hearts of fans worldwide with its heart-stopping thrills. However, with the threat of climate change looming large, the need for a more sustainable and eco-friendly alternative has become increasingly urgent.

The Green Revolution marks a vital step towards a more sustainable future. As academics continue to study the environmental impact of motorsports, it's essential to support the move towards eco-friendly alternatives, promoting social responsibility and a brighter tomorrow for future generations.

[READ MORE ON CAPE TOWN'S
ILLEGAL STREET RACING SCENE](#)

[READ MORE ON CAR-SPINNING IN
SOWETO](#)



South African motor racing traces its roots back to the early 1900s, with the formation of the Royal Automobile Club and the emergence of inter-town records and races, setting the stage for its rich Grand Prix history.



In 1933, the visionary motoring editor Edward 'Brud' Bishop spearheaded the campaign for Grand Prix racing in South Africa, leading to the creation of the iconic East London Grand Prix circuit, which became a thrilling international event attracting top drivers from around the world.



The late 1930s marked a golden era for South African Grand Prix racing, featuring thrilling races with international entries, including the dominant Auto Union Type Cs, Bugattis, ERAs, and Maseratis, captivating crowds with their incredible speed and power.



The outbreak of World War II halted top-level motor racing in South Africa, but the sport would eventually return a decade later, with the need for reorganization and the development of new race tracks such as Killarney Racetrack next to Dunoon - paving the way for Formula One's continued presence in the country.

THE CHALLENGE:

Create a pavilion that not only showcases the latest advancements in electric racing but also creates a spatially immersive experience that inspires visitors to embrace sustainability. The design must consider materiality and technology to critically construct a dynamic and sensory environment that conveys a powerful message about the potential for electric racing to shape a cleaner, greener future – hosting visitors in a space that leaves a lasting impact on their perceptions of electric racing, sustainability, and the event as a whole.

The key question for designers to answer is: **How can a pavilion, as an architectural intervention for Formula E, effectively embody the spirit of electric racing while simultaneously inspiring visitors to embrace a more sustainable future?**

PROJECT BRIEF:

This competition seeks a sustainable and functional pavilion design for Formula E in Cape Town, prioritizing sustainability, aesthetics, and scalability. The pavilion must last for at least ten years, with maintenance and cost-effectiveness in mind. Designers must consider, In the socio-historical context of Cape Town, how might the pavilion bring people together while prioritizing innovative construction methods. The aim is to showcase architecture's power to promote cultural exchange, environmental stewardship, and technological innovation around a memorable event in the Mother City.

Glossary:

Formula E - A type of open-wheel electric auto racing that was introduced as an alternative to Formula One.

Infrastructure - The basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.

Green Revolution - A movement towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly way of life.

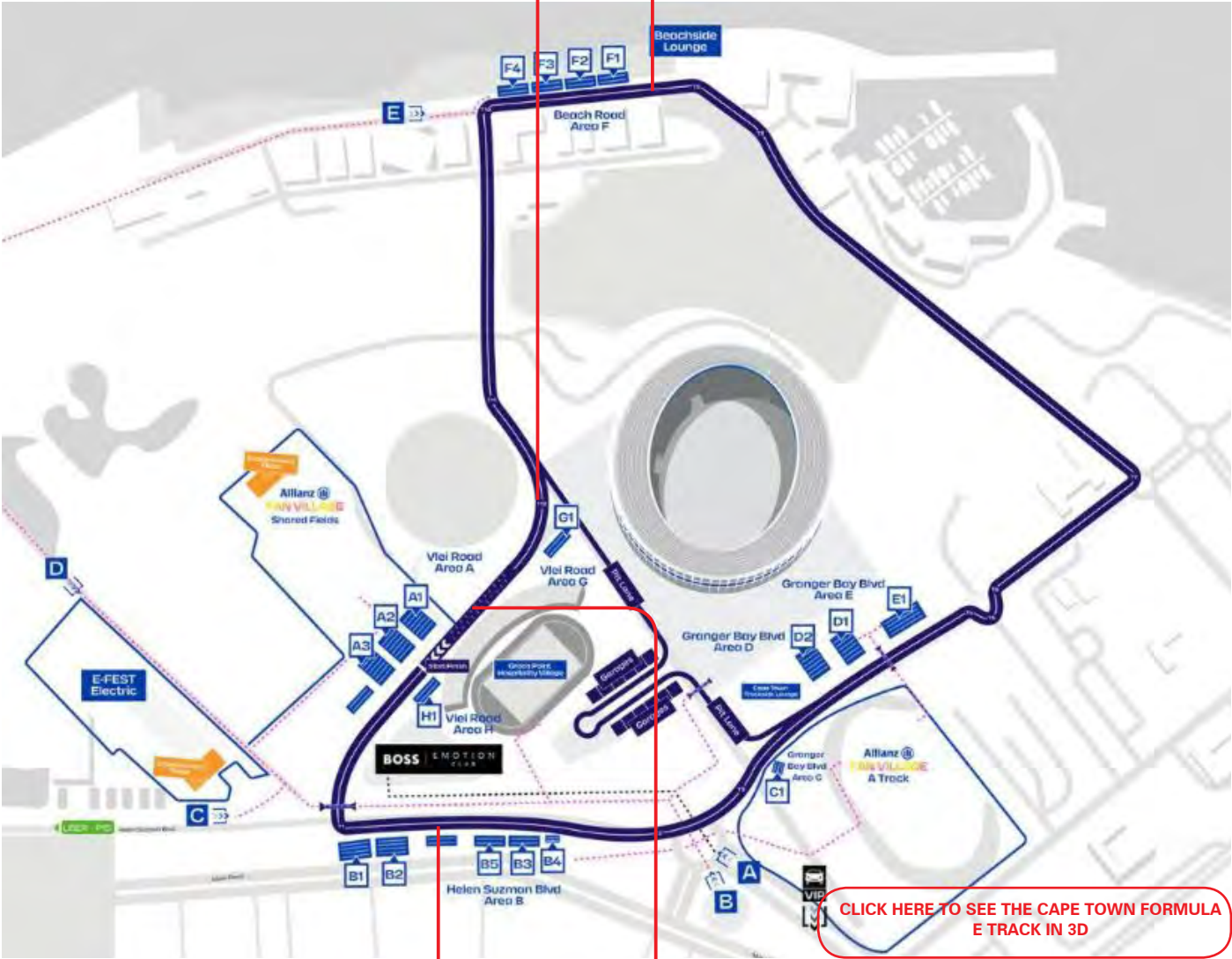
The Mother City - a nickname for Cape Town, South Africa

Pavilion - a free-standing structure usually built for shelter, entertainment or exhibition purposes

SITE:

The Cape Town Formula E track is a street circuit that runs within the city's roads allowing designers to choose a site situated around Cape Town's shorefront with optimal views of the track while ensuring accessibility, safety, and visibility.

Drivers navigate through narrow sections of the track, requiring split-second decisions and precise movements around obstacles such as chicanes, hairpin bends, and tight corners. The site analysis should consider factors like track visibility, noise levels, and accessibility to create a beautiful and functional pavilion that enhances the overall experience for participants and visitors, while also taking a position on how the design of a pavilion addresses larger social questions around race, gender, and class. Ultimately, the pavilion should offer a unique perspective on the excitement and energy of the event and be a distinctive addition to the race track.



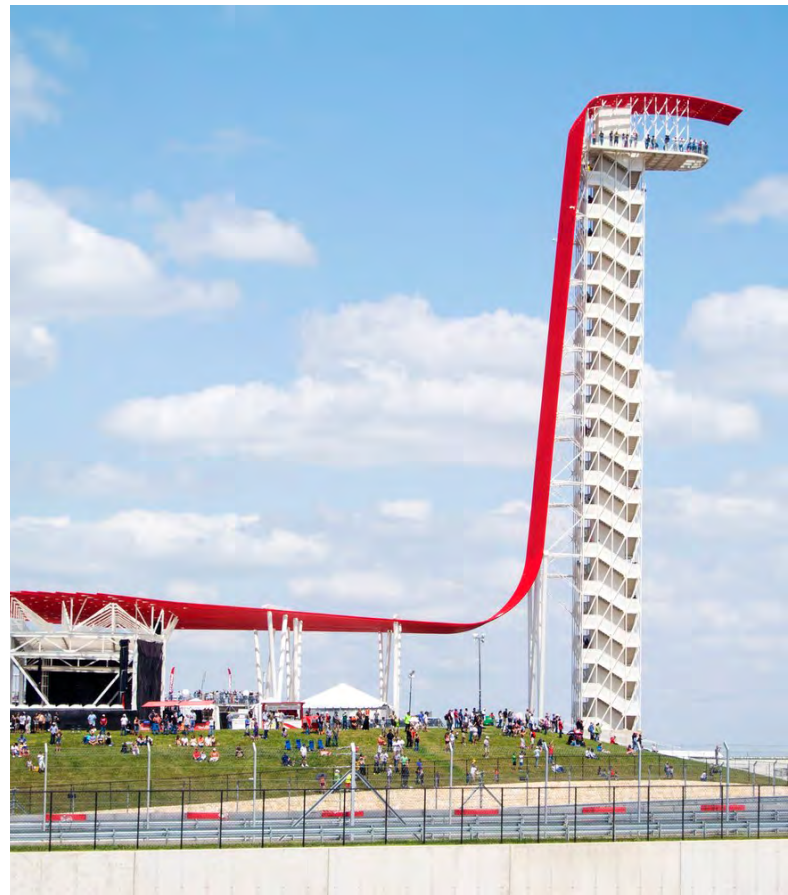
Images thanks to Cape Town Formula E, <https://capetowneprix.com/>, 2023.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. In the socio-historical context of Cape Town, how might the pavilion bring people together?
2. International events present a valuable opportunity to showcase a city's culture, attractions, and design excellence to visitors from around the world.
3. To achieve successful urban development projects, it is crucial to prioritize design excellence, environmental sustainability, economic viability, and social responsibility.
4. "Urban acupuncture" refers to the practice of implementing small-scale interventions to enhance the liveability and vibrancy of urban spaces.
5. Formula E events prioritize fan engagement through initiatives such as fan zones, autograph sessions, and a unique fan-vote system that boosts a driver's power during the race.
6. While the invention of cars, roadways, and traffic infrastructure has provided convenience and mobility, it has also been linked to negative urban consequences.

POINTERS / PARAMETERS

Positioning	• Proximity to the racetrack: The pavilion should be located within a maximum distance of 500 meters from any point on the racetrack. This ensures that the pavilion is easily accessible for spectators and teams, and allows for efficient movement of people and equipment. • View of racetrack: While priority should be given to ensuring that the pavilion provides a clear and unobstructed view of the racetrack, it can also be designed to include additional race-related services, such as fan zones, VIP areas, and podiums. This can enhance the spectator experience and create additional revenue opportunities for the event organizers. • Safety: The pavilion should be positioned in a way that prioritizes the safety of spectators, teams, and officials. This could include providing emergency exits, ensuring that the pavilion is located away from potential hazards such as sharp corners or crash zones
Size & Cost	• The size of the intervention should be less than 1500 sqm • The height of the intervention should not exceed 30 m in height • The pavilion should consider natural site lines, pedestrian and vehicular routes and be reasonable in cost – in relation to estimated ZAR2.13bn [\$115m] in direct and indirect economic impact generated by this event in the first year, including ZAR481m [\$26m] in global destination exposure (Western Cape Finance Minister, 27 February 2023,)
Functionality	• The pavilion should be designed to demonstrate multifunctionality. • It is up to participants to decide whether the pavilion should be a permanent or impermanent solution, taking into consideration that Formula E will be visiting Cape Town for the next 10 years (2023-2033). • The pavilion can incorporate additional programs that encourage entrepreneurial, educational, or recreational activities.
Accessibility	• Accessible to all



EVALUATION CRITERIA

The success of competition entries will be evaluated based on their clarity and relevance to the brief. Entries should be visually expressive, with clear and concise drawings and supporting visual evidence. Submissions must be in the A2 Portrait format, limited to a maximum of 2 panels, saved as a PDF with a file size below 10mb + a 300 word project write up. The judges will assess the entries based on their ability to meet the requirements of the brief. Winning entries may be published.



NOW

COMPETITION TIMELINE

Early registration opens:	June 20, 2023
Normal registration opens:	August 01, 2023
Registration & Submission deadline:	<u>October 30, 2023, 24:00 CAT</u>
Winners announcement:	November 30, 2023

HOW TO SUBMIT

- 1. Submission Criteria:** Participants are required to format their submission as: A2 portrait, maximum, PDF file format, 72dpi, file size below 10MB.
- 2. Additional Information:** Each competition entry should have an additional project description saved as an A4 pdf, Title + maximum 300 word count, font Arial, size 10.
- 3. Registration:** Participants must register for the competition submission on the official NowNow website (www.nownowcompetition.com) before submitting any entries. This ensures that the participant's submission will be considered valid and eligible for evaluation.
- 4. How to submit:** Participants can find the submission upload link on the official NowNow website (www.nownowcompetition.com). Once on the website, participants should select the relevant competition by clicking on it and clicking submit.
- 5. Disclaimer:** Participants should not include any personal information that could give away their identity or risk disqualification. Participants are to place their supplied competition code on each submitted panel in the bottom right corner, ensuring that it is clearly visible.

DO'S AND DON'TS:

- Participants may submit only one entry.
- Entries must be original and not previously published.
- The competition organizers reserve the right to use the winning designs for promotional and marketing purposes.
- Additional FAQ's can be found on our website (www.nownowcompetition.com). If you still haven't found what you are looking for please contact us at info@nownowcompetition.com

PRIZES

Win your Share of **R40 000** in Prizes. Winners will be contacted and announced on the 30th of November with details of the awards ceremony and how to claim their prize

1st **R25 000**
2nd **R10 000**
3rd **R5000**

The NowNow Architecture Competition
Cape Town
South Africa
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www.nownowcompetition.com