

An aerial photograph of a desolate, volcanic landscape. A dark, winding road curves through the terrain, which is covered in low-lying vegetation and patches of bare earth. In the lower right, a cave entrance is highlighted by several bright, white spotlights that create a strong contrast with the dark surroundings. The overall mood is mysterious and dramatic.

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

ICELAND CAVE TOWER

COMPETITION CONDITIONS

Partners:
Landeigendur Voga ehf
(Landowners of Vogar farmland)

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Bee Breeders Architecture Competition Organisers,
in partnership with
Landeigendur Voga ehf (landowners of Vogar farmland),
have prepared this document for the
Iceland Cave Tower
architecture competition.

Full Competition Terms & Conditions:
[ICELANDTOWER.beebreeders.com/terms](https://icelandtower.beebreeders.com/terms)

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Architecture Competition Organisers
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Introduction

The Grjótagjá caves in northern Iceland are home to some of the most beautiful geothermal pools in the world, and were made famous after appearing on Game of Thrones. Unfortunately, excessive tourism is damaging the natural surroundings of this delicate region.

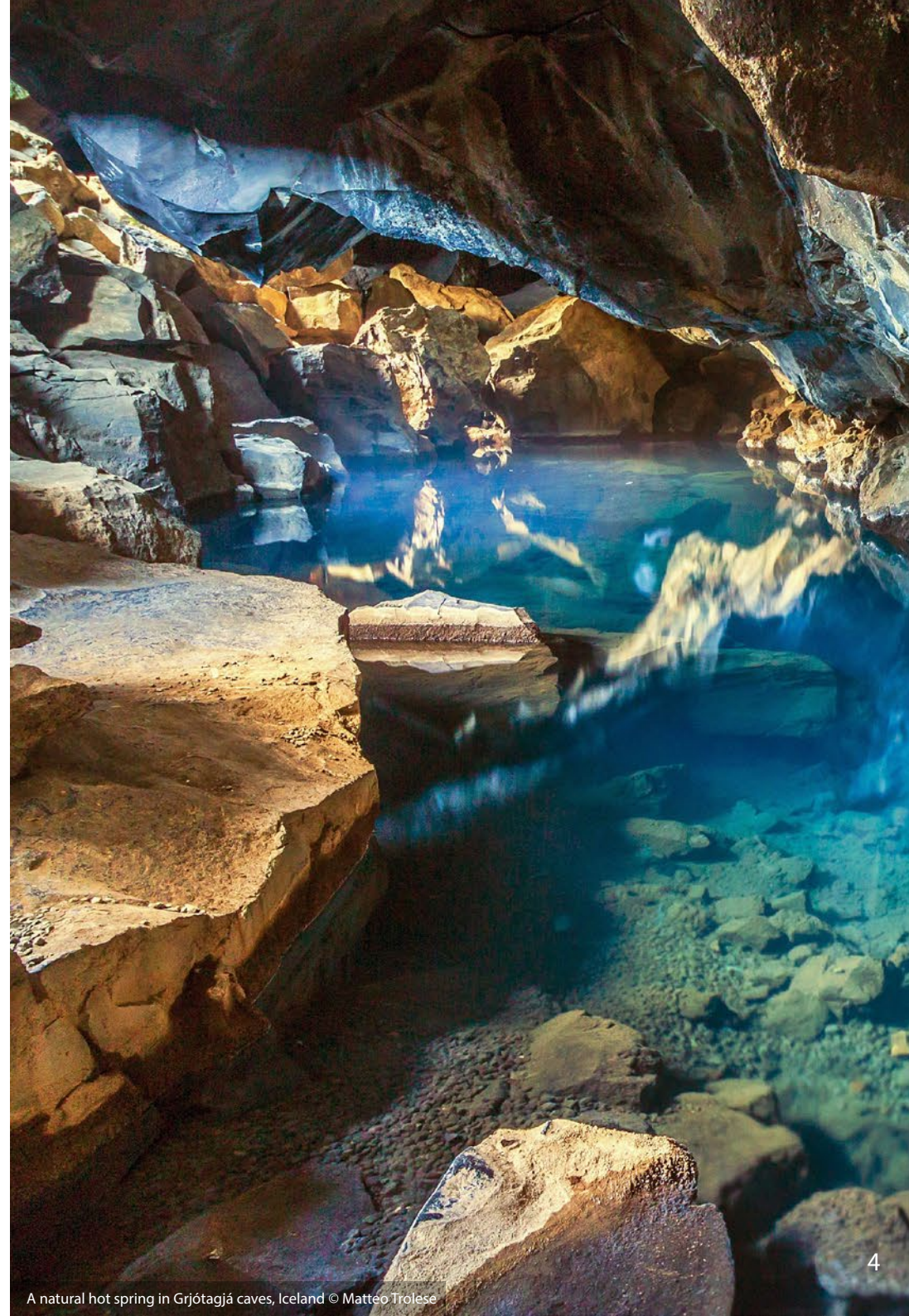
Run in partnership with the landowners of Vogar farmland, this is the fourth in Bee Breeders series of architecture competitions set in Iceland, and the jury are looking for solutions that provide simple amenities, as well as amazing architecture. The structure should include a small visitor center, a café, and a one-person office.

Grjótagjá

Grjótagjá is a collection of three small caves located near Lake Mývatn in northern Iceland, and features one of the country's most famous and beautiful geothermal hot springs inside. The caves are all in close proximity, with two of them just 50 meters apart, and are located on Vogar farmland.

Sitting on the tectonic divide between Europe and America, the caves were first discovered back in the 18th century when the outlaw Jón Markússon made them his home. The jagged rocks, total darkness, and the area's reputation for being the home of trolls made it the perfect hideout for the criminal, as most law-abiding citizens avoided the lava caves.

They became popular in 1940 when they were re-discovered by students travelling in Iceland. The landowners then created new entrances so that they could bathe in the geothermal waters. With an idyllic temperature of 39-40 degrees, the caves became popular with other locals, with one cave becoming a dedicated women's cave, Kvennagjá, and another for men, Karlagjá.





However, during the period between 1974 and 1985, the Krafla volcanic system erupted a total of nine times, which caused water temperatures to increase to 60 degrees; far too hot for people to bathe in. And though the temperatures started to cool after 1984, there is still activity nearby that makes the water temperatures unpredictable.

Grjótagjá is still one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Mývatn area, and the caves are now famous after appearing in an iconic love scene in Game of Thrones.

Aerial view of Krafla caldera © Jarrod Ryan Jooste

Vogagjá

Located on the same fissure as the Grjótagjá caves is Vogagjá, which sits about 800 meters south. Vogagjá became popular in the 1990s when the geothermal pools of its neighbour became too hot to bathe in. While Grjótagjá is often referred to as one of Iceland's best kept secrets, the fact remains that Vogagjá is an even better kept secret. Its caves and fissures are more difficult to find and more challenging to reach – by climbing over rocks and crawling down ridges.

Despite its beauty, bathing in Vogagjá is not allowed, with landowners putting up signs to inform and deter tourists from doing so. Unfortunately, the temptation is just too great; many visitors choose to ignore the warnings, and controlling unwanted tourist visits is very difficult.



With increasing numbers of tourists coming in search of the perfect Instagram spot, the natural lava fields are sustaining damage. Therefore, in order to protect the natural landscape, the landowners are looking to make the fissure safer and more accessible, with stairs and platforms situated at key points, so that visitors aren't forced to crawl around dangerous caves and rock outcrops.

There would be an entrance fee to bathe in the waters, making maintenance of the facilities and safety instructions possible.



Grjótagjá's vision for the future

In the future, the landowners would like to see the two of Grjótagjá's caves serving different, specific purposes, with Kvennagjá operating as a bathing spot, and Karlagjá functioning more as a tourist attraction for larger numbers of visitors to see the caves.

Due to its limited size, visitors to Kvennagjá would be restricted to 10–15 people at a time, making it more of a luxurious, private, relaxing experience for visitors. Meanwhile, Karlagjá would allow visitors to explore the caves in more detail, letting them see the steaming water and touch it to see how warm it is without actually getting in.

In order to accommodate two very different experiences, the landowners are looking for solutions to separate the two caves, and for those relaxing in Kvennagjá to feel as far removed from the tourists in Karlagjá as possible.

While Karlagjá would be free to access, visitors wishing to experience the hot waters of Kvennagjá would need to pay an entrance fee.



The competition

Iceland Cave Tower









The Iceland Cave Tower competition is the fourth in Bee Breeders series of architecture competitions set in Iceland, and is being run in partnership with the Landeigendur Voga ehf (landowners of Vogar farmland). For this competition, participants are tasked with creating designs for a stopping point for tourists to visit before exploring the caves. The jury is looking for designs for a viewing tower, one that can act as a landmark visible from a distance, as well as offering visitors views of the surroundings from its viewing platform.


As the tower will be straddling two continents, Europe and North America, visitors should be made aware of this fact upon entrance. The base of the tower should be able to accommodate a small visitor centre consisting of a one-person office and a small café. Participants are free to propose any additional functions, either including them all in one building, or designing a separate structures.



The landowners of Vogar farmland are also looking for a design solution for the local walking paths in order to better preserve the fragile natural surroundings. Participants are asked to create a path module that could be replicated throughout the terrain.

As winning designs will be put forward for consideration for construction, it is vital that solutions be eco-friendly in both their construction and operation.

Competition programme

<div>  Pinnacle (must be seen from a distance) </div>	<div>  Office (1 workstation) </div>
<div>  Observation platform (able to comfortably host 5 people at a time) </div>	<div>  Café serving beverages and snacks (maximum capacity 10 people) </div>
<div>  Visitor waiting area (able to comfortably host at least 5 visitors at a time) </div>	<div>  Toilets </div>
<div>  Information stand (posters, banners, flyers) </div>	<div>  Storage (10–15m²) </div>

<div>  Walking path module that could be replicated throughout the terrain as stairs, walking platforms and bridges between America and Europe </div>
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Service areas:	
<div>  Circulation should be explained </div>	<div>  Parking relocated further away from the cave. Required capacity 30 cars </div>

The COMPETITION PROGRAMME is flexible, open for modifications and improved development strategies.

The competition site



SITE COORDINATES:

@65.6263226,-16.8824532

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT
[ICELANDTOWER.BEEBREEDERS.COM](https://icelandtower.beebreeders.com)

*There are no set site boundaries. No CAD or PDF plans are available.
The site should be treated as a flatland.*

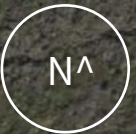




NORTH AMERICAN PLATE

EURASIAN PLATE

THE COMPETITION SITE







Project proposal requirements



Cost-effective construction for remote areas



Resistant to heat, cold, rain, snow, and wind



Environmentally responsible and energy-efficient



Able to generate its own power and provide safe drinking water



Low maintenance in terms of effort and costs

The project qualities listed above are minimum requirements; the competition brief is open to adaptation and improved development strategies.



Prizes

Monetary award

3 winning proposals, 3 special award recipients and 6 honourable mentions will be selected.
Bee Breeders will award a total of 10,000 € in prize money to competition winners as follows:

Total prize fund

10,000 €

1st Prize
5,000 €

2nd Prize
2,000 €

3rd Prize
1,000 €

ARCHHIVE BOOKS Student Award
500 € Cash prize + 50 € ARCHHIVEBOOKS.com gift card

“Vogafjós Farm Resort Favourite” Award
1,000 €

Bee Breeders Green Award
500 €

+ 6 honourable mentions

More information about the special awards at [ICELANDTOWER.beebreeders.com](https://icelandtower.beebreeders.com).

Prizes

Publications

The winners will get international art and design media coverage and will be featured on the Bee Breeders website.

A full list of media partners who have committed to present the competition winners in their publications can be found at ICELANDTOWER.beebreeders.com

Certificates

Bee Breeders will acknowledge the outstanding performance of all winners and honourable mentions with Certificates of Achievement.

Construction

As the Landeigendur Voga ehf (landowners of Vogar farmland) have expressed an interest in the construction of this guest house, designs will need to be in keeping with both the look and purpose of the context, while having the potential to become an iconic landmark in its own right.



Competition schedule

- 🚩 Early Bird Registration
MAY 22 – JUNE 30
- 🚩 Advance Registration
JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 22
- 🚩 Last Minute Registration
SEPTEMBER 23 – NOVEMBER 17



Closing date for registration
NOVEMBER 17, 2020



Closing date for submission
DECEMBER 16, 2020 (11:59 p.m. GMT)



Announcement of the winners
MARCH 2, 2021

Registration fees

	Architects, designers, enthusiasts, and companies	Students*
Early Bird Registration	70 €	60 €
Advance Registration	90 €	80 €
Last Minute Registration	110 €	90 €

* See requirements here:

beebreeders.com/competition-registration-types

Discounts for architecture students

Bee Breeders architecture competition organisers would like to hear from representatives of universities, schools, and colleges offering architecture/design studies.

Contact us to receive special student rates for group registration (discount applies for 3+ registrations from one university/school), as well as further information and support to get your students involved in architecture competitions.

Send us a request from your university email address along with basic information about you and your university/school.

Please note that only recognized university staff can apply for the reduced student rate.

Submission requirements

- Participants are required to upload **four** (4) A2 landscape-orientated presentation boards (must not exceed 5MB per jpg) with sketches, renderings, plans, sections, elevations, diagrams, and/or other presentation tools to explain their proposal.
- No video files are accepted.
- All information provided in writing must be in English.
- All submissions must be uploaded via the beebreeders.com upload panel. Access information and instructions on how to upload the presentation boards will be issued to participants via email immediately after successful registration.
- Presentation boards must not indicate any information related to an individual's/team's identity.

Participants who do not comply with the requirements will be disqualified without refund.

Recommended submission content

- Visualisations and artist impressions to illustrate how the proposal fits in with the quality, value, and significance of the context.
- Concept designs, which highlight that all aspects of the design are of the highest quality and in keeping with the design brief and the proposed site.
- The main points of proposed plans and sections, multiple perspectives demonstrating the spatial quality of the structure, as well as operational needs, and accessibility requirements.
- Demonstration of project feasibility in regards to environment, climate conditions, life-cycle, and responsible use of materials.
- Demonstration of project construction, materials, functions, management and maintenance; approach to environment and sustainability.

Presentation deliverables set

- Elevations (suggested scale 1:50)
- Sections (suggested scale 1:50)
- Floor plans (suggested scale 1:50)
- Enlarged sections and elevations highlighting key spaces or relationships (suggested scale 1:10)
- Details (suggested scale 1:5):
 - Envelope
 - Key materials
 - Site or landscape
- Axonometrics providing information on building systems or illustrating key architectural concepts
- Diagrams:
 - Circulation
 - Public versus private space
 - Lighting
 - Landscaping
 - Transportation
 - Energy systems
- Perspectives:
 - Primary interior spaces
 - Primary site locations

Please note the PRESENTATION DELIVERABLES SET listed above is a suggestion only. Participants can choose to use the entire list, a selection from it, or propose a completely different set that would explain their design in the most efficient manner.

Jury & evaluation process

Jury

The competition jury consists of two jury panels:

- Core jury panel
- Consultative jury panel

Full jury panel members list is published at ICELANDTOWER.beebreeders.com.

The core and consultative jury panels will be responsible for setting the criteria that participants need to fulfill, based on the site and brief, and will evaluate each submission accordingly.

Participants are advised to research both the working site and previous similar case studies as part of the design process.

Iceland Cave Tower is a project competition, which encourages participants to experiment with the limits of architecture. The jury may choose to reward projects that show a high degree of creativity, even if they breach any of the rules, as long as it's justified.

Evaluation process

Selecting top 3 winners:

Step 1: Consultative jury panel will produce a shortlist of 40 from all submitted entries.

Step 2: Consultative jury panel will select 9 competition finalists from the shortlist.

Step 3: Core jury panel will evaluate the 9 finalists and select the top 3 winning projects and 6 honourable mentions.

ARCHHIVE BOOKS Student Award:

Step 1: Consultative jury panel will produce a shortlist of 40 from all submitted student entries.

Step 2: Consultative jury panel will select 9 competition finalists from the shortlist.

Step 3: Core jury panel will evaluate the 9 finalists and select the winning project.

Green Award:

Step 1: Consultative jury panel will produce a shortlist of 40 from all submitted entries.

Step 2: Consultative jury panel will select 9 competition finalists from the shortlist.

Step 3: Core jury panel will evaluate the 9 finalists and select the winning project.

“Vogafjós Farm Resort Favourite” Award:

Step 1: Consultative jury panel will produce a shortlist of 40 from all submitted entries.

Step 2: Vogafjós Farm Resort selects their 1 (one) favourite project.

Tell the world your story!

Video and interview

Shortly prior to the results announcement, selected competition winners and honorable mentions will be contacted and asked to answer a series of interview questions (**in writing**) and submit a video about themselves. These will be published with the competition results.

There is a tight deadline to announce the winners on time, therefore interview questions will need to be returned within **2 days**, and videos submitted within **2 weeks** of being requested. Hence, we advise participants to consider ideas for their video and answers to their questions in advance so that they are able to submit the relevant material on time.

Please note – both the interview and video submission is **OPTIONAL**. However, we do recommend that all participants submit as much material as possible in order to maximise the publicity and media attention their work will receive.

Read more about:



The video submission –
<https://beebreeders.com/submit-movie>



The interview – <https://beebreeders.com/interview>

Competition documentation

The following information is available for download at
ICELANDTOWER.beebreeders.com:

- Full competition brief
- Site photographs

All information can be downloaded as often as required; no additional information or materials will be provided after registration.

The brief and all associated documentation for this competition are created for the sole purpose of an academic exercise and are not legal documents.

The provided materials, or alternatives, can be used, created, or sourced at the participant's discretion.

Eligibility

The competition is open to all. No professional qualifications are required. Design proposals can be developed individually or by teams (4 team members maximum).

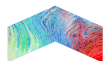
People who have direct personal or professional relationships with jury panel members or organisers may not participate in this competition.

Media partners

A full list of media partners who have committed to present the competition winners in their publications can be found at
ICELANDTOWER.beebreeders.com

For potential media partners who are also interested in covering the present competition and its winners, please contact us at
hello@beebreeders.com

Competition press kit (in English) and banners are available at
ICELANDTOWER.beebreeders.com/press



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