

National Design Competition for The Philippines  
[www.compete.design](http://www.compete.design)

# COMPETITION BRIEF

An aerial photograph of a coastal region, likely in the Philippines, showing a mix of urban development and green spaces. A yellow dashed line, resembling a road or a path, winds through the landscape. A yellow crosshair is positioned on the left side of the map. The map is overlaid with several concentric, semi-transparent green circles and a large, light gray, stylized 'S' shape that frames the central area.

RE-TERRA

2021

RETERRA2021\_V01062021



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## OVERVIEW

**RE-TERRA 2021** is a national design competition for The Philippines urgently calling upon current students and recent graduates of architecture, design, and planning to conceive of innovative, transformative, and downright ingenious proposals to *re-terraform* three expository sites in Pasig City back to their *innate* fertility and abundance.

## MISSION

The continuing global pandemic has been exposing both the systematic and environmental vulnerabilities of urban life. Yet, these vulnerabilities also present unprecedented design opportunities.

In particular, although Metro-Manila's already acute Food *In*-security has been escalating into a true Food Emergency, **RE-TERRA 2021** believes this emergency can be countered, and lasting Food Security established, by integrating *every* means of agriculture into *every* mode of urbanity.

Accordingly, **RE-TERRA 2021** seeks design ideas, strategies, and tactics for *re*-conceiving, then *re*-making, *every* means of food production, storage, preparation, and consumption into essential, integral components of *every* mode of the infrastructure and architecture of three expository sites in Pasig City, one of The Philippine's largest and densest metropolises.

## VISION

Commensurate with the renowned fertility and singular abundance of their 7,641-island nation, **RE-TERRA 2021** envisions a future where Filipinos can proudly thrive on the agricultural prowess of both their countrysides and even their largest, densest cities.

**RE-TERRA 2021** aspires for its winning proposals to serve as inspiration and prototypes for other metropolitan areas in The Philippines, thereby contributing to the eventual realization of localized Self-Sufficiency, establishment of lasting Food Security, and restoration of both pervasive and encompassing Urban Buffers.



# RE-TERRA 2021 JURY

## RE-TERRA 2021 THE JURY



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Dept. of Agriculture  
The Philippines



**Vico Sotto**

Mayor  
Pasig City  
The Philippines



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Ambassador for  
Food Security  
The Philippines



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## RE-TERRA 2021 PRIZES

4 Finalist winning teams will be announced on Feb. 20, 2021.

Finalists will then be invited to publicly present (in-person or live-stream, TBA) their Design Proposals at the **RE-TERRA 2021 Final Round** on Mar. 16, 2021 to determine the First Place winner and the 3 Finalists.

**The First Place Winner will receive PHP 250,000 plus gifts and prizes.**

**Each of the three Finalist Winners will receive PHP 50,000 plus gifts and prizes.**

Subsequently, the First Place and three Finalist winning teams will be invited to present their Design Proposals to both The Philippines' Department of Agriculture and the Mayor of Pasig City for further assessment and potential realization.

## RE-TERRA 2021 TIMELINE

**Early Registrations Begin**  
OCT 23, 2020

**Regular Registrations Begin**  
NOV 11, 2020

**FAQs Close**  
DEC 12, 2020

**Registrations Close**  
DEC 15, 2020

**Submissions Due Online**  
JAN 22, 2021 @ 11:59PM  
UTC +8:00 (Manila)

**4 Finalists announced**  
FEB 20, 2021

**Final Round Public Event**  
MAR 16, 2021



# TERRAFORMING OUR CITIES



Pasig River and the Metro-Manila Skyline. (Canva)

Ever since we left our farms to live and work near each other, we have been “terraforming” the resulting cities to cater to all our needs, whether as individuals, communities, societies, or even nations. All, that is, except for one crucial need: food production. Instead, when we urbanized, we also began literally outsourcing our food production, keeping it far and away from where we actually lived, interacted, and multiplied. After all, both animal and plant agriculture usually require plenty of space and ready access to “free” light, water, and nutrients – none of which our terraformed cities readily provided.

Usually, our countrysides supply and our cities consume, especially in the age of industrialized farming, for better or worse. That is, Food Security can be taken for granted. When Metro-Manila urbanized, however, it closed waterways, partitioned lands, and aggregated incredible densities – all with minimal planning. As a result, its urban environments are woefully underdeveloped and underutilized with respect to food importation, distribution, and production, particularly as Metro-Manila has become one of the world’s largest and densest megalopolises, with a still-rising population of over 16 Million.

In Metro-Manila, instead of Food Security, Food *In*-security is the byword, as the convergence of our chart-topping density, infamous traffic, contaminated waterways, notorious corruption, explosive urbanization, and susceptibility to natural disasters regularly converge to cause some of the world’s highest per-capita food prices, which frequently results in world-leading statistics for urban hunger and malnutrition. When compounded with the large percentage of its population (almost one third) living in informal settlements, and therefore commonly without means of food refrigeration and preparation, Metro-Manila’s overall availability, access, and utilization of food is undeniably and consistently deficient, especially considering the innate fertility and abundance of its setting.



## PANDEMIC 2020+



Jeepney passengers seated between plastic barriers, wearing face masks and shields, due to still-rising COVID-19 infections in Quezon City. (August 19, 2020, Reuters/Eloisa Lopez/USNews)

In the wake of the continuing global pandemic, however, Food *In*-security no longer describes Metro-Manila's situation. Rather, after 6 long months of quarantine and lockdown, it is on the brink of a full blown Food Emergency. During this period, for example, even as "Social Weather Stations" recorded the doubling of families (over 4.2 million!) experiencing involuntary hunger, farmers and fishermen were losing a third of their perishable production when their trucks were unable to cross indiscriminately barred roadways, their ships were unable to offload at deserted ports, and supply and demand was severely unbalanced by ubiquitous 4-hour-long queues to enter markets. Alarmingly, the lockdown so restricted workers' movements that fields were left unharvested or unmanned. As a result, farmers are beginning to report the loss of their production for the rest of the year, as their crop rotations must be precisely timed. Once the narrow window for planting passes, their fields must lay fallow until next year. In other words, not only is the prevalent Food In-security becoming an Emergency, the Emergency may well be lasting.

Certainly, both governmental and private enterprises have been addressing this emergency. For instance, the Department of Agriculture's flagship "Plant, Plant, Plant" initiative has been amplifying its support for urban agriculture, specifically at smaller, household scales. As well, the agro-social startup AGREA's online platform, the "Move Food Initiative," has been connecting individual city consumers with countryside suppliers. Further, the Asian Development Bank's "Bayan Bayanihan" program has been feeding families directly, having already supported over 162,000 families in just three months.



## RE-TERRA 2021

As commendable and timely as these examples are, the scale, variety, and pervasiveness of the problems underlying Metro-Manila's Food Emergency are such that it remains far from definitively addressing, much less countering, this emergency.

In order to adequately counter this Food Emergency in the short term and, moreover, in order to revert Food In-Security back to Food Security in the long term, *we must mobilize Metro-Manila on all fronts.*

To begin with, we must recruit everyone, especially **future architects, designers, and planners**. Further, they must be tasked with the conception of programs even more unconventional than green roofs or vertical greenhouses, invocation of technologies even more adaptable and contextual than hydroponics and the like, and development of practices even more ambitious and pervasive than establishing community farms or kitchens. More pointedly, they must adopt comprehensive strategies for combining urbanization with agriculture, so that food production, storage, preparation, and consumption are treated as part and parcel of urban infrastructures and programs.

This means, for example, inserting *every* means of agriculture into *every* mode of urbanity, including housing, commerce, transportation, education, and even leisure. Tactically, these strategies must then be deployed everywhere, so that every component and every feature of Metro-Manila's incredibly varied and dense urban fabric can be mobilized.

Our future architects, designers, and planners must, therefore, **re-consider** the uses of every open lot and leftover space, **re-imagine** the possibilities of every structure and every surface, and **re-evaluate** the porosities of every boundary and every division.

In other words, Metro-Manila's imminent Food Emergency can only be countered, and its Food Security *re-established*, through the realization of innovative, transformative, and downright ingenious proposals to **RE-TERRAFORM** Metro-Manila back to its *innate* fertility and abundance.

**RE-TERRA 2021** aspires for its winning proposals to serve as inspiration and prototype for other metropolitan areas in The Philippines, thereby contributing to the eventual realization of localized Self-Sufficiency, establishment of lasting Food Security, and restoration of both pervasive and encompassing Urban Buffers.



# PROGRAMS, TECHNOLOGIES, AND PRACTICES

**RE-TERRA 2021** calls for deploying programs, technologies, and practices capable of re-terraforming the expository site back to its *innate* fertility and abundance.

**RE-TERRA 2021 Programs** may include the following:

1. Community Agriculture.
2. Community Cooking, Refrigeration, and Grocery Shopping.
3. Community Composting and Recycling.
4. Community Seed Bank and Agricultural Research Facilities.
5. Integration with adjacent waterways for agricultural Circulation/ Distribution/Storage.
6. Other Programs for promoting Food Security in urban environments.
7. Other Programs deemed essential for project self-sufficiency.

**RE-TERRA 2021 Technologies** may include the following:

1. Combinations of vertical and horizontal soil agriculture.
2. Hydroponics, which utilizes water and nutrients to sustain plant growth.
3. Aeroponics, which utilizes mist and nutrients to sustain plant growth.
4. Aquaponics, which utilizes both aquaculture (farming fish) and hydroponics.
5. Solar Farming, which utilizes solar panels to ensure project self-sufficiency by sustainably and reliably generating electricity, especially for above energy-sensitive agricultural technologies such as Hydroponics and Aeroponics.
6. Beekeeping, which utilizes bees for honey production or to assist with pollination in urban environments.
7. Rainwater Retention, which harvests The Philippines' plentiful rainwater to promote localized self-sufficiency.
8. Other Technologies for promoting Food Security in urban environments.
9. Other Technologies deemed essential for project self-sufficiency.

**RE-TERRA 2021 Practices** may include the following:

1. Circular Economy.
2. Urban Farm-to-Table Consumption.
3. Other Practices for promoting Food Security in urban environments.
4. Other Practices deemed essential for project self-sufficiency.



## DESIGN GUIDELINES

**RE-TERRA 2021** seeks architectural design proposals explicitly, creatively, and provocatively answering these 8 questions:

- 01 How can every manner of agriculture be integrated into every mode of urbanity? That is....
- 02 How can urban spaces, alleys, niches, and interstitials be mobilized towards any and every manner of agriculture?
- 03 How can architecture and infrastructure be mobilized towards any and every manner of agriculture?
- 04 How can Filipino urbanites contribute to any and every stage, any and every scale, and any and every type of urban agriculture?
- 05 How can localized self-sufficiency be normalized for Filipino urbanites, suburbanites, and even ruralites?
- 06 How can conventional farms and traditional farmers still benefit from urban agriculture?
- 07 How can urban agriculture engage and involve every scale and every disposition of urban communities, especially those of the informal?
- 08 How can urban agriculture provoke or engender new modes of urbanity?

**RE-TERRA 2021** calls for Design Proposals offering answers to the above questions at three expository sites in Pasig City:

1. 2,400 sqm open lot in Agapito Subdivision, Barangay Santolan.
2. 2,500 sqm linear park on the Buting Creek waterfront, Barangay Buting.
3. 4,300 sqm linear park on the Pasig River waterfront, Barangay Kapasigan.



## SITE 01



### SITE 01: F. Agapito Subdivision, Barangay Santolan

SITE 01 is the first expository site of 2,400 sqm through-lot in F. Agapito Subdivision, at 301 Yakal Santolan, Marcos Highway, Pasig City. It is bounded to the north by a private property fronting Marcos Highway, at the south by residences, at the east by Mahogany St., and at the west by Yakal St.

SITE 01 is distinguished by existing structures, including: Basketball Court (covered), a two-storey Daycare and Small Chapel of lightweight structure. Barangay Santolan has a community/barangay of 53,254 residents, where 28.08% of these residents are children under 14 years old, 68.19% make up the economically active age of 15 to 64 years old, and 3.72% are senior citizens aged 65 years old and over.

SITE 01 can be accessed through Yakal Street and Mahogany Street. Nearby establishments include Ayala Malls Feliz, Dee Hwa Liong Academy, CCF Feliz, Philippine Animal Hospital Association, among other residential developments like One Spatial Pasig and Mireya Residences.

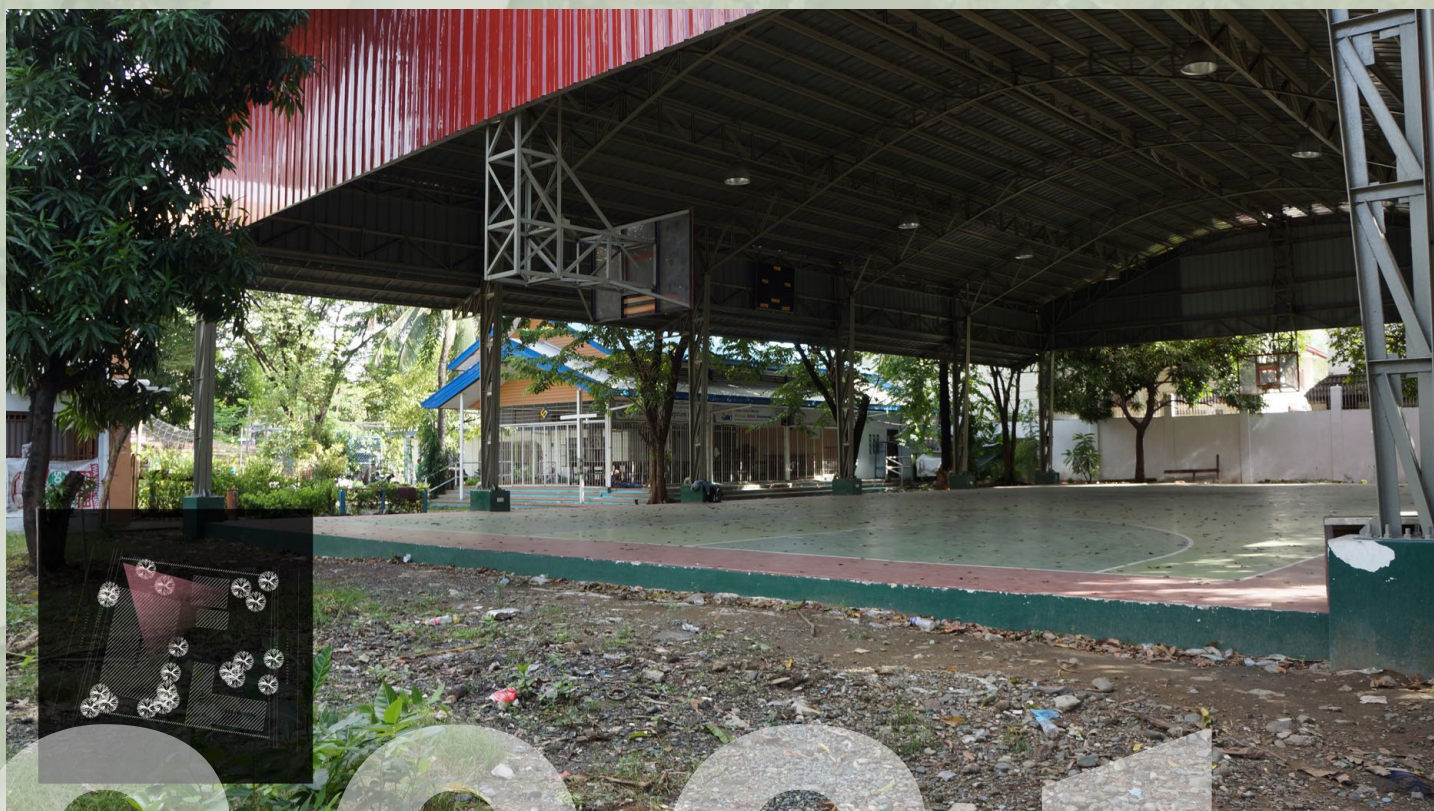
Note: CAD files and site photos will be distributed to registered competitors upon their completion of the competition registration process.



## SITE 01



SITE 01: F. Agapito Subdivision, Barangay Santolan





## SITE 01

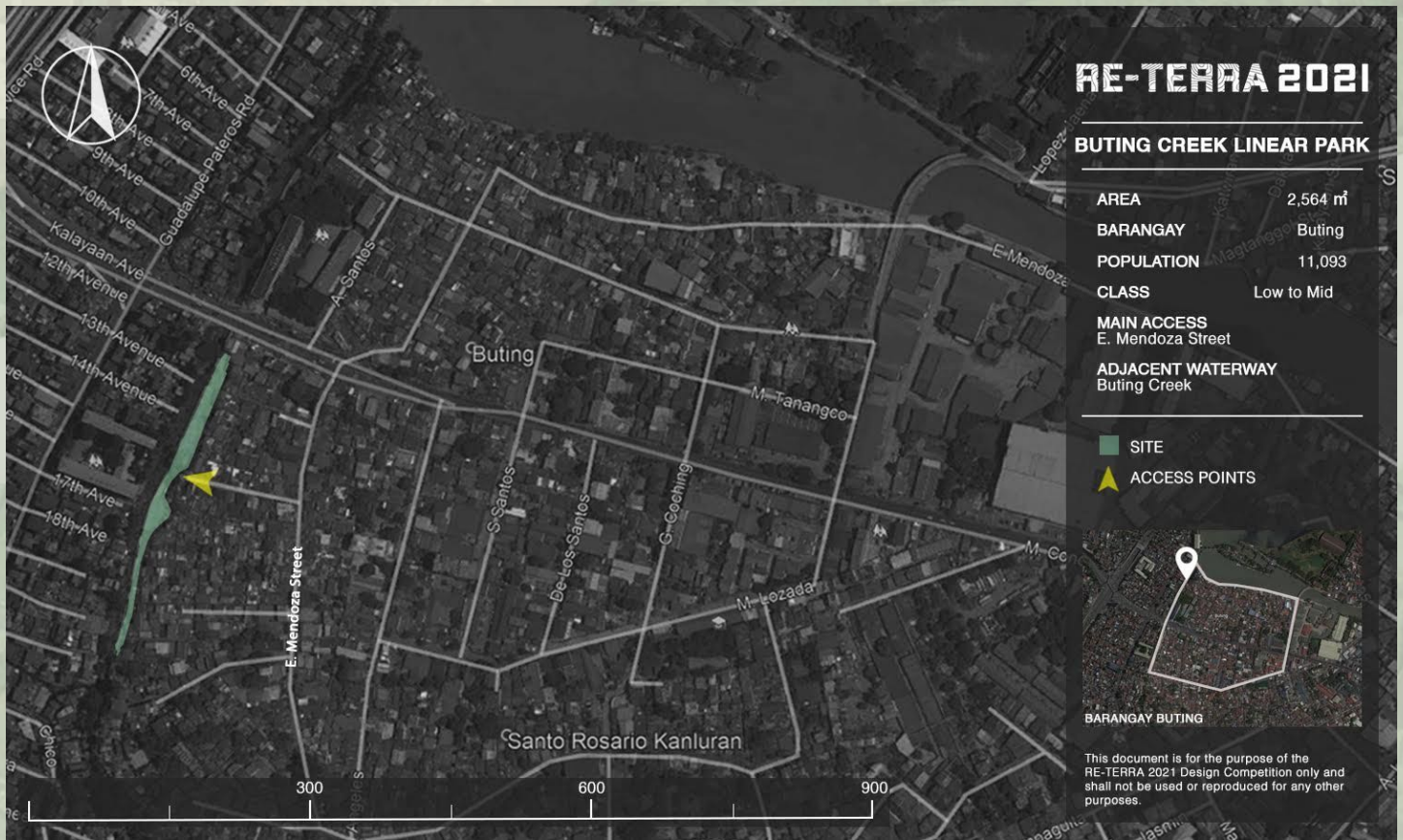


SITE 01: F. Agapito Subdivision, Barangay Santolan





## SITE 02



### SITE 02: Buting Creek Linear Park, Barangay Buting

SITE 02 is a 2,500 sqm paved Linear Park in E. Mendoza St. Brgy. Buting, Pasig City. It is bounded at the north by the Sumilang Bridge on San Guillermo Avenue, at the south by a private property, at the east by a residential area, and at the west by the Taguig River.

SITE 02 is distinguished by one tree in the middle. Barangay Buting has a population of 11,093 residents where 27.04% of these residents are children 14 years old and under, 68.02% make up the economically active age of 15-64, and 4.93% are senior citizens aged 65 and over.

SITE 02 can be accessed through a private 3-m wide road along E. Mendoza St. and through the Vargas Bridge pedestrian access. Nearby establishments include the Buting Senior High School and Elementary School, Buting Market, San Guillermo Pasig Church, and the Buting Barangay Hall.

Note: CAD files and site photos will be distributed to registered competitors upon their completion of the competition registration process.



## SITE 02



SITE 02: Buting Creek Linear Park, Barangay Buting





## SITE 02



SITE 02: Buting Creek Linear Park, Barangay Buting





## SITE 03



### SITE 03: Kapasigan Linear Park, Barangay Kapasigan

SITE 03 is 4,300 sqm paved Linear Park with an accretion in North Espiritu St. Brgy. Kapasigan, Pasig City, with an average width of 10.50 meters and a length of 416 meters. It is bounded at the north by the Rizal High School, at the south by the San Jose Covered Court, at the east by a residential area, a ferry station and the Kapasigan Basketball Court, and at the west by the Marikina River.

SITE 03 is distinguished by a raised 3 meter linear promenade and a 6 meter road lot. Barangay Kapasigan has a population of 5,523 residents where 25.87% of these residents are children 14 years old and under, 68.42% make up the economically active age of 15-64, and 5.70% are senior citizens aged 65 and over.

SITE 03 can be accessed through Dr. Pilapil St., Dr. Maldo De Rosario St. and Blumentritt St. Nearby establishments include the Kapasigan Barangay Hall, Kapasigan Basketball Court, Child's Hope - Pasig City Children's Hospital, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig, San Jose Covered Court, and Victory Church Pasig.

Note: CAD files and site photos will be distributed to registered competitors upon their completion of the competition registration process.



## SITE 03



SITE 03: Kapasigan Linear Park, Barangay Kapasigan





## SITE 03



SITE 03: Kapasigan Linear Park, Barangay Kapasigan





## ELIGIBILITY

**RE-TERRA 2021** is open to all Filipino Nationals who are current students and recent graduates of architecture, design, and urban planning. Submissions are welcome from either individuals or teams of up to 5 members. If submitting as a team, team members may include students and graduates from fields adjacent to architecture, design, and urban planning, such as engineering, environmental science, agriculture, landscape architecture, and interior design. However, the Team Captain must be a current student or recent graduate of architecture, design, and urban planning.

To register your team, please complete the Registration Form on the **RE-TERRA 2021** website ([www.compete.design](http://www.compete.design)) and upload the following documents for every member of your team.

For students:

1. Scanned copy of your Certificate of Enrollment issued by your college/university.
2. Scanned copy of your college/university ID.

For recent graduates:

1. Scanned copy of your diploma issued by your college/university.

Note: Registered and licensed architects or other professionals are NOT eligible to participate in **RE-TERRA 2021**.



# SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Submissions must take the form of **two A2-sized Design Proposal boards** submitted as **two PDF files, maximum file size of 25Mb each**. The two A2-sized Design Proposal Boards must together include the following materials:

1. RE-TERRA 2021 Registration Number at the top right corner of each panel.
2. Project Title.
3. Project Descriptive Text (minimum 300 words) and essential annotations.
4. Minimum 2 rendered perspectives.
5. Site Development Plan at 1:100 minimum. SDPs need **not** be continuous nor whole.
6. Minimum of 2 Floor Plans, 2 Elevations, and 2 Sections, scale per competitors.
7. Essential Sun / Light / Shadow / Agricultural studies, as deemed by competitors.
8. Essential Circulation (vehicular, waterways, pedestrian, food, and/or resource) studies, as deemed by competitors.

In addition, submissions may opt to include a **90-second, 25Mb maximum** video presentation or walk-through of the Design Proposal.

Please note:

1. Names, photographs, or any other personally identifying information or data of team members must not be included on digitally uploaded files. Any such inclusion, even if unintentional or in error, will disqualify the submission.
2. The digital PDF file must be saved with a filename per: **RETERRA2021-Panel#-RegistrationNumber.pdf**. The digital video/walk-through must be saved with a filename per: **RE-TERRA2021-Video-RegistrationNumber.mp4**.
3. For any questions, please contact the competition organizers via email at **reterra2021+Questions@compete.design**. You will receive a reply within 72 hours.
4. The link for uploading all submissions will be distributed via email at least 14 days before the submission deadline.

## ANONYMITY

All submissions must strictly adhere to the anonymity requirements. Submissions can only be identified and/or referenced by official RE-TERRA 2021 Registration Numbers.

No potentially identifying information, such as names, photographs, imagery, graphics, or document meta-data may be included in any uploaded submission material. If any such information is found in the submission material, the submission will be rejected and disqualified from consideration.



# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following terms and conditions apply to RE-TERRA 2021, which is organized by ARK Competitions Inc. By registering for RE-TERRA 2021, competitors agree to being contacted by email, SMS, and phone for matters regarding their registration, deadlines, payments, and RE-TERRA 2021 news. Competitors' completed registration for RE-TERRA 2021 and payment of registration fees constitute confirmation that competitors have read, understood, and agreed to the following Terms and Conditions.

## PUBLICITY

By submitting to **RE-TERRA 2021**, competitors grants consent and license to ARK Competitions Inc. for the use of competitors' names, designs, and representations of their designs in any media, anywhere in the world, without compensation or credit, for ARK Competitions Inc. promotional and editorial purposes.

## PROPRIETARY RIGHTS

By submitting to RE-TERRA 2021, competitors affirm that their entry is original and does not infringe upon the rights of any persons or entities. Competitors acknowledge that they own and are solely responsible for, or otherwise control, all of the rights to the content or entries that competitors submit; that use of the content or entries that competitors supply do not violate the Terms of Use and will not cause injury to any persons or entities; and that competitors will indemnify RE-TERRA 2021, ARK Competitions Inc., and their affiliates from all claims resulting from submitted materials. RE-TERRA 2021 is not liable for any copyright or trademark infringement on the part of the competitors. Competitors are advised and required to obtain third party consents where required by law or by best ethical practices.

## OWNERSHIP OF WORKS

Competitors own the Intellectual Property rights to the original work they submit for RE-TERRA 2021. While ARK Competitions Inc. and its approved affiliates, sponsors, and partners will not own the original Intellectual Property rights for works submitted to RE-TERRA 2021, ARK Competitions Inc. and its approved affiliates, sponsors, and partners are hereby granted the royalty-free, perpetual right to use the submitted work in connection with ARK Competitions Inc.'s publicity and promotional efforts. ARK Competitions Inc. sponsors or partners do not own design entries, original research, or design materials that ARK Competitions Inc. sponsors unless a written license or other transfer of rights in those works is executed by competitors and acknowledged in writing by all parties, including ARK Competitions Inc. Competitors will be credited with their names/authorship via watermarks or image captions wherever their works or photos of their works are included in any publications by ARK Competitions Inc., its approved affiliates, sponsors and partners.

## DISCLAIMER

By submitting to RE-TERRA 2021, which is organized by ARK Competitions Inc., participants hereby release RE-TERRA 2021, ARK Competitions Inc., the ARK Competitions Inc. Advisory Council and Community Board members, their sponsors, the jury, other participants and their respective affiliates, agents, directors, officers, employees, volunteers, families and shareholders from all liability of any kind relating to RE-TERRA 2021 and related publications, correspondence, media, and events organized by ARK Competitions Inc.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Can you provide guidelines for the OPTIONAL video submission?**

**Answer:** The OPTIONAL video submission should not exceed 25Mb in file size. For example, a 90-second long, 1080 wide x 720 tall, video file running at a framerate of 24fps (cinematic) and compressed to Netflix standard (1080p25 @ 5.8Mbps) has a file size of 23.49Mb. As noted below, the video file should be saved with file name per: RE-TERRA2021-Video-RegistrationNumber.mp4.

In addition, the video submission should NOT supplant the otherwise comprehensive presentation of your design proposal on your two A-2 boards. Rather, the video submission should be considered a mere supplement to your presentation. As such, the video component may consist of: 3D walk-throughs, audio narrations, or other forms of audio/visual presentation. However, the video component may not include any imagery or representation of any of the Competitors.

**Should we submit design proposals for all three sites?**

**Answer:** Every submission (and associated registration number) must comprise the design proposal for just ONE of the three expository sites. If you would like to submit proposals for more than one site, you must register for a new registration number for each site, then submit the associated design proposals separately.

**Can we remove existing structures on the sites?**

**Answer:** As noted in the Competition Brief (v.11022020), you may exercise the option to retain, retrofit, re-develop, or remove existing structures at your discretion.

**Can we build on the accretion area?**

**Answer:** You may extend your program onto the accretion area, but not necessarily the structure. Please note that the accretion area currently has a small hut and rows of vegetation, but Pasig City has informed us of seasonal flooding of this area during heavy rains. Also, please keep in mind the easement regulations of the National Building Code.

**What is the design and construction budget for the competition?**

**Answer:** As RE-TERRA 2021 is a "Call for Ideas" competition, our sponsors and partners have not mandated a project budget. As such, the Feasibility of Concept should be considered, but without sacrificing innovation or downright ingenuity.

**The scale of 1:100 doesn't fit the A-2 boards. Can we use a smaller scale?**

**Answer:** Yes. You may use 1:500 for the Site Development Plan and 1:200 for the Floor Plans, which can then be divided into sections.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Clarifications on the Barangay Kapasigan Site

For the Barangay Kapasigan site, we studied PD 1096 and IRR of PRRC and learned that:

- (1) A 10-meter easement must be provided from the Pasig River, so a % of the site is not buildable.
- (2) The 3-meter elevated promenade is also not buildable.

So we would like to clarify if the 6-meter road lot adjacent to the promenade needs to retain its use for vehicular access, or if we can occupy the area for other uses.

**Answer:** As per the Water Code and PRRC, the easements from bodies of water are for the purpose of public use in the “interest of recreation, navigation, floatage, fishing and salvage”. If the spaces placed within the easement is for public use and interest, then it is allowed, so long as there is still proper access to the water.

The 6-meter road is actually a part of the property and CAN BE utilized, though it is being used as street parking at the moment.

## Is there is a grading map or topography map for the sites, specifically for Buting Linear Park?

We noticed that the Buting Linear Park is elevated from the creek water level based on the Google Street View, but we are not sure how high the elevation actually is. We also think the residential area behind the linear park has a lower grade level compared to the park, but we can't confirm without visiting the site in-person.

**Answer:** Unfortunately, we are not able to provide specific data or section/elevation drawings indicating heights or elevations. Given that RE-TERRA 2021 is a Call-for-Ideas Competition, we encourage you to focus on conceiving innovative, CONCEPTUAL design proposals. As such, you may infer heights from our site photos or the information you are able to gather from Google Street View.

## Competition FAQs were finalized and closed on Dec. 29, 2020.

Regardless, if you have any lingering questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: [reterra2021+Questions@compete.design](mailto:reterra2021+Questions@compete.design).



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**in partnership with**



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