



## Introduction

Kehilla Residential Programme invites architects, students, artists, builders and design professionals (individuals or teams) to submit design proposals for the fifth annual Sukkahville Design Competition. This open design competition asks entrants to design and build a contemporary interpretation of the temporary, free standing Sukkah on Nathan Phillips Square in front of Toronto's City Hall to commemorate the holiday of Sukkot.

In keeping with the mission of Kehilla Residential Programme, the Sukkahville design competition is an opportunity to produce innovative design ideas in the context of affordable housing in our cities. Held prior to the Jewish festival of Sukkot on Nathan Phillips Square in front of Toronto's City Hall, Sukkahville helps raise funds and public awareness for its Rental Assistance Program. Through this interactive design-build exhibition Sukkahville transforms a public space into a laboratory for architectural experimentation.

## The Challenge: Re-Imagining the Sukkah

A Sukkah is a temporary structure constructed for annual use during the week long Jewish festival of Sukkot. The original source for this tradition is Leviticus 23:42-43, where it is described as a reminder of the booths that the children of Israel dwelt in after God brought them out of their slavery in Egypt. Many later interpreters have understood the Sukkah as symbolizing the frailty and transience of life and shelter.

While building a Sukkah is a particular Jewish ritual observance, it represents many conceptual themes surrounding the essential nature of dwelling, which are universal in nature. Proposing an innovative Sukkah design which delicately balances the inherent dichotomies of new/old, open/closed, temporary/permanent is the challenge inherent in this competition. In other words, what should a contemporary Sukkah look like—while maintaining a diverse and rooted meaning of space and place.

## Design Criteria

Designs must adhere to the following design criteria:

### Base

- The footprint of the Sukkah must be no smaller than 27" x 27", but no larger than 100 square feet.
- The Sukkah may not be anchored to the site, but must be stabilized or weighed down without penetrating or damaging the hard surfaces or exceeding the maximum permitted footprint.

### Height

- The height of the Sukkah must be taller than 38" high, and no taller than 30'-0".

### Walls

- The structure of the walls can be made from any kind of materials and can be spaced up to a maximum of one foot apart.
- The sukkah must have at least two complete sides and part of a third side, at least 16" wide. There should be a sense of enclosure to the sukkah.
- The bottom edge of the sides must be within 12" of the ground.
- Walls must be sturdy enough to withstand the impact of ordinary winds.

### Roof

- The roof structure material must be constructed with a natural material.
- In addition, the roof structure must be partially covered with a material that grows from the soil and is completely detached from the ground. (examples: leaves, branches, branches with leaves)
- This roof design and its covering should be loose enough so that one can see the sky, yet thick enough so that it provides some protection from the elements. While innovative roof and wall shapes and geometries are encouraged, the sukkah must provide a sense of shelter and offer respite from the elements.

### General Design Considerations

While a sukkah is traditionally built anew each year, a sustainable design approach which minimizes waste and disposal of the sukkah materials, is strongly encouraged.

To assist with the design challenge, ask yourself the following questions:

1. If I stand in my sukkah during the day, will there be more shade than sun?
2. Are the walls more closed than open?
3. Is the roof made out of natural material, which has been detached from the ground?

If the answer to any of these questions is "no" your entry will be disqualified.

## Selection Process

All Sukkah design submissions will be selected by our panel of accomplished jurors and a Rabbi advisor based upon the Design Criteria (see Design Criteria section below) . Eight finalists will be awarded the opportunity to build their designs during Build Day, a one-day period of time kicking-off the public festivities.

After the eight finalists have finished building their designs, the jury will evaluate all constructed Sukkahs and award Grand Prizes. 1st and 2nd place will be given to the top two projects during the Awards Ceremony. A People's Choice Award will be announced at the conclusion of the festival after the public has been given a chance to vote for their favorite design. Finalists are obligated to disassemble their design at the end of the festival.

### Timeline

March 26, 2015	Call for Proposals
May 15, 2015	Registration deadline at 11:59 EST
June 19, 2015	Submission deadline at 11:59 EST
July 17, 2015	Finalists will be notified
TBD	Construction Period
Sept 24, 2015	Build Day at Nathan Phillips Square
Sept 25-27, 2015	Public Display
Sept 25, 2015	Awards Ceremony at 12:00pm
Sept 27, 2015	Takedown* from 4:00pm - 7:00 pm

\*It is essential that sukkahs be constructed in a way such that they can be disassembled and removed during the allotted time slot.

### Build Stipend and Recognition

Eight finalists will be notified on July 17, 2015. Finalists will be responsible for procuring construction materials and/or building prefabricated components during the time leading up to Build Day. A stipend of \$3,600 per winning design will be awarded to assist with construction, materials and transportation costs.

Prize money will be awarded for 1st Place, 2nd Place and People's Choice Award winners.

Throughout the process and during the event, finalists will be given the opportunity to be published in various media sources and everyone will be given the opportunity to receive social media exposure.

### Evaluation

We are looking for entries which will challenge our notions of what embodies a sukkah, while effectively engaging traditional aspects of this particular building type.

Eight finalists will be selected on the basis of:

- Creativity of response to creating a sukkah.
- Originality, coherence and clarity of the design.
- Constructability, ease of on-site installation and deconstructability.

## Apply

### Submission Requirements

To successfully submit your design, please follow the instructions below:

- 1) Pay\* the competition registration fee of \$36.00 CAD at [www.sukkahville.com/registration](http://www.sukkahville.com/registration) AND complete the registration form by May 15, 2015.
- 2) You will receive a registration number via email.
- 3) Digitally submit your competition panel by June 19, 2015 at 11:59pm EST through [sendspace.com](http://sendspace.com). Please send an email to [info@sukkahville.com](mailto:info@sukkahville.com) to confirm your submission. Please make sure you save a copy of the sent email to sendspace to confirm your submission. Your submission will be confirmed by email.

\*Note that all surplus funds from Sukkahville are utilized by Kehilla Residential Programme to promote the cause of establishing new affordable housing for the local Jewish community.

### Application Materials

- One high resolution PDF presentation layout per entry. Tabloid size (11"x17"). 10mb maximum.
- One low resolution PDF copy of the above layout. 1mb maximum.

Please name your digital files as follows:

YourRegistrationNumber\_YourSukkahTitle\_highres.pdf

YourRegistrationNumber\_YourSukkahTitle\_lowres.pdf

The presentation layout is at the discretion of the entrant. Presentation layouts should be completely anonymous and only include the registration number in the top left corner.

## About Kehilla Residential Programme

Kehilla Residential Programme is a non-profit housing agency whose mandate is to identify and champion housing initiatives responsive to the needs to the Jewish community and its neighbours in the greater Toronto area. Established in 1982, Kehilla is an affiliate agency of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Under its mandate, Kehilla has been both a leader in the development of many affordable housing initiatives, as well as in offering property management services for community housing projects. With the goal of raising awareness to support Kehilla and its initiatives, the Sukkahville competition has been instituted to bring focus to the many significant affordable housing issues that are prevalent in our own community. Feel free to send us any questions or concerns you may have by email or by phone.

## Jury



**Ken Greenberg** is an urban designer, teacher, writer, and Principal of Greenberg Consultants. He is also a co-founder and a Visiting Scholar at the new City Building Institute at Ryerson University in Toronto. A frequent writer for periodicals, he is the author of *Walking Home: the Life and Lessons of a City Builder* published by Random House.





**Alex Bozikovic** writes about architecture and urbanism for *The Globe and Mail*. He has won a National Magazine Award and has written for other publications such as *Dwell*, *Toronto Life*, and *The Literary Review of Canada* as well as making contributions to various books including *Concrete Toronto*.





**Jennifer Keesmaat** is the City of Toronto's Chief Planner and is committed to creating places where people flourish. Over the past decade Jennifer has been repeatedly recognized by the Canadian Institute of Planners and OPPI for her innovative work in Canadian municipalities. Her planning practice is characterized by an emphasis on collaborations across sectors, and broad engagement with a range of stakeholders including NGOs and residents associations.

**Shauna Levy** is the President at Design Exchange, Canada's Design Museum. Under her leadership, the institution has transformed into a world-class cultural institution. Previously, she co-founded Toronto's Interior Design Show. She places a high value on the role that design plays in the community, advocates for design that is culturally relevant and accessible for everyone, and is committed to sharing these design stories locally and internationally.

**Chris Pommer** is a founding partner at PLANT Architect Inc, and has been involved in numerous award-winning interdisciplinary projects that reach into the domains of architecture, landscape, ecology, and art. He has taught and lectured at various North American universities on PLANT's unique and experimental approach to tackling architecture and landscape design challenges, and the integration of those disciplines.

## Contact Information

 @kehillarp  
 kehillaresidentialprogramme  
 @kehillarp  
 kehill

 416.932.1212  
 info@sukkahville.com  
 www.sukkahville.com  
 www.kehilla.ca

Kehilla Residential Programme  
262 Ridley Boulevard  
Main Floor Office  
Toronto, ON M5M 4N6