



IABSE Future of Design London 2026

Design Competition: Re-imagining Large Re-Locatable Structures in Stone and Timber

1.0 Brief

As we look ahead to a future of low-carbon, circular infrastructure, this design competition invites participants to re-imagine major World Cup venues as reusable, relocatable structures built primarily from stone and timber.

Participants must select **one** of the following options for a major tournament venue:

- The main stadium or a principal component, e.g. stand, roof, etc.' or
- A key pedestrian bridge / elevated pedestrian route forming the principal approach to the stadium.

Your task is to re-design the chosen piece of infrastructure so that it can be disassembled, transported, and re-assembled in a new location, while still being recognisable as the same landmark.

To show the versatility of the proposed design for future World Cup events, consider it to be relocated between the following three locations (on the following side), as if it were reused for each tournament in turn:

- Krestovsky Stadium, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 2018.
- Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor, Qatar, 2022.
- MetLife Stadium, New York/New Jersey, United States, 2026.

Your design should:

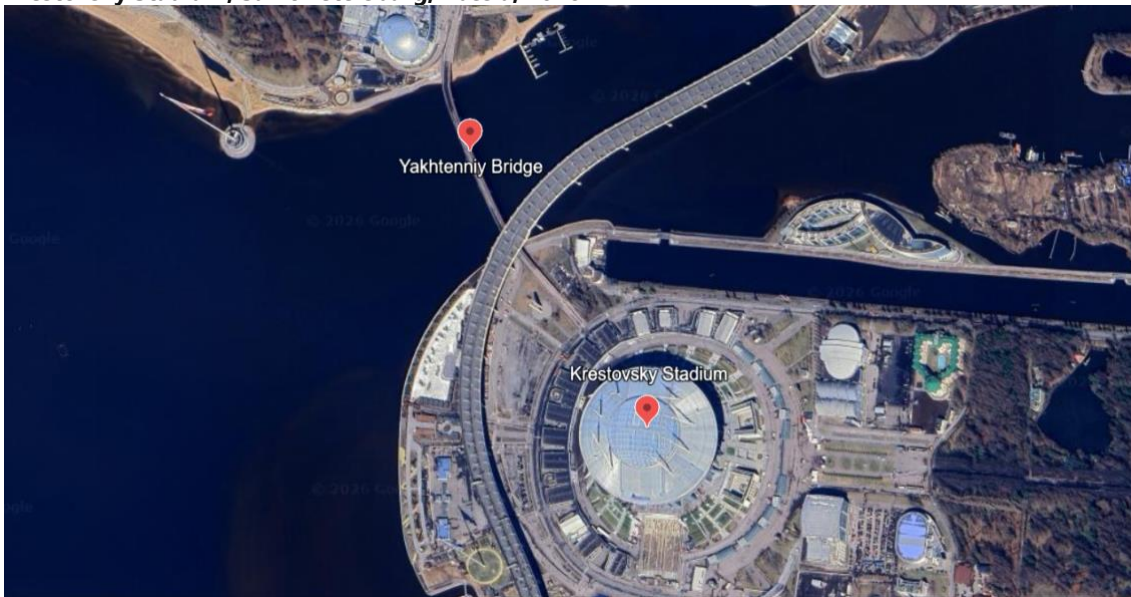
- Use **stone and timber to form the primary load-bearing system**. Limited use of steel, concrete, cables, fasteners, or other materials is permitted where necessary for connections, durability, or construction.
- Demonstrate **circular-economy thinking** by clearly showing how the structure is disassembled, transported, and re-assembled on a new site.
- Explore how **contemporary construction and digital fabrication techniques** (for example off-site prefabrication, advanced connection systems, or robotic / automated assembly) could enable this approach to stone and timber construction.

Submissions should be visual-led. Use a single A1 board to communicate your proposal, combining:

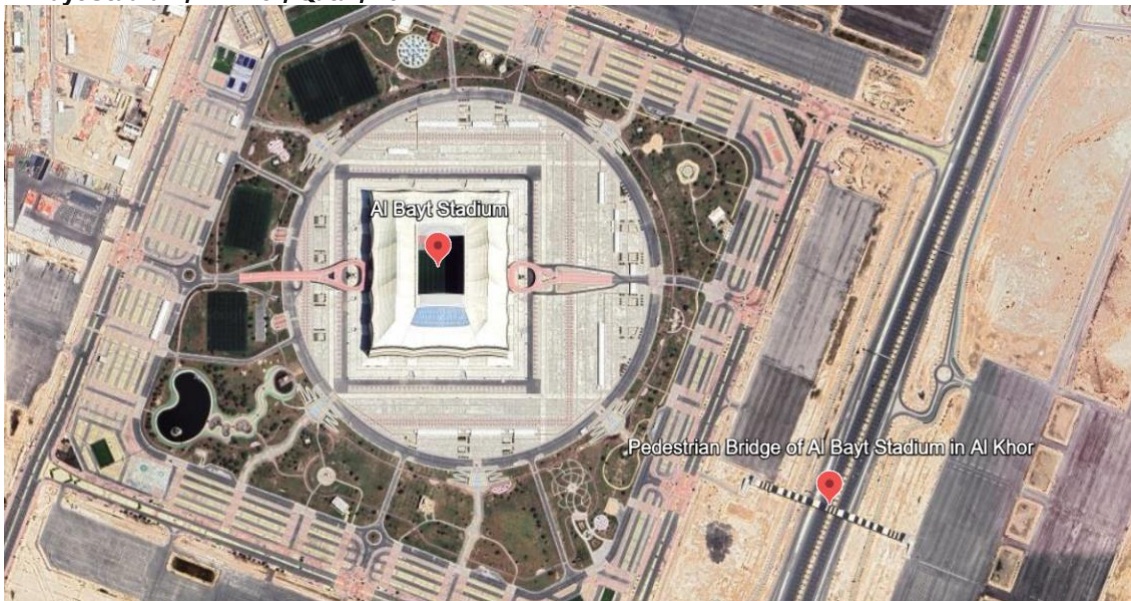
- Diagrams or sketches of the existing landmark and your re-imagined stone/timber solution.
- Exploded views, sequencing diagrams, or simple details that explain how the structure is assembled, disassembled, and re-assembled.
- Short captions and minimal text to clarify your key ideas and construction / deconstruction strategy.

Imagination, clarity of concept, and creativity are more important than detailed calculations or fully resolved engineering design.

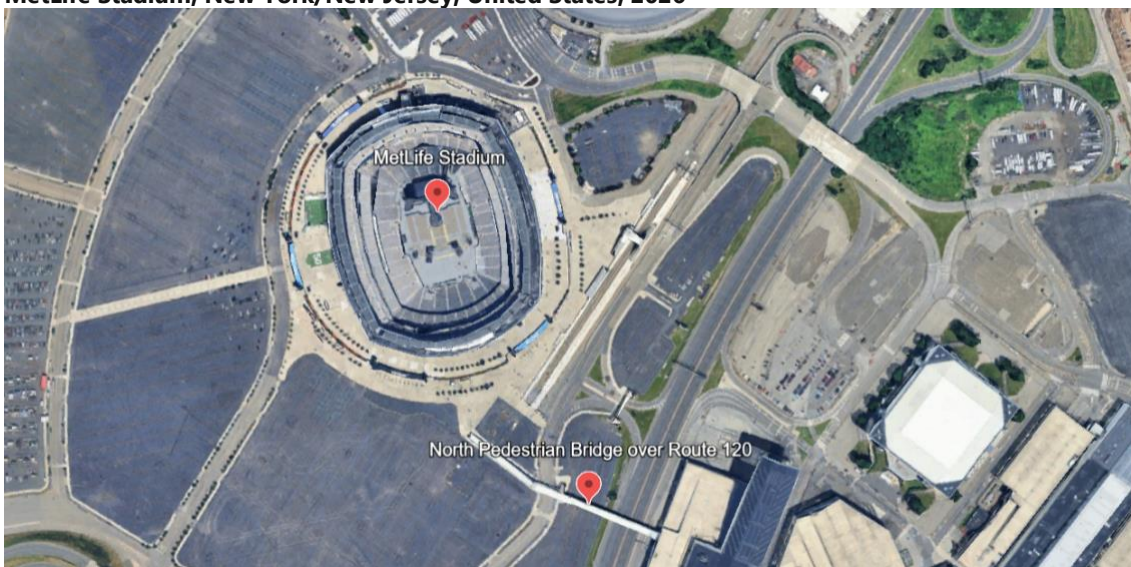
Krestovsky Stadium, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 2018



Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor, Qatar, 2022



MetLife Stadium, New York/New Jersey, United States, 2026



2.0 Judging Criteria

The submissions will be evaluated by a jury of practicing engineers and architects on the following criteria:

- **Concept and vision:** strength and originality of the idea; how convincingly it re-imagines a landmark as a relocatable stone and timber structure.
- **Circularity and adaptability:** quality and clarity of the construction / deconstruction / re-use strategy.
- **Innovation in materials and techniques:** thoughtful use of stone and timber with contemporary construction methods.
- **Clarity of communication:** how clearly the A1 board explains the proposal using visuals, diagrams, and concise text.

Please note that the judging criteria emphasize the response to the brief rather than the mode of presentation. Prizes will be awarded at the jury's discretion.

3.0 Submission Details

3.1 Format

Participants are required to submit one A1-size poster in PDF format. Please submit your design via the following form [here](#). To ensure fairness in the judging process, please do not include any identifying marks (such as entrant names, company / organisation names, or logos) on the posters themselves. Instead, provide the name(s) of the participant(s) separately within the email body.

Each submission can include a variety of content types, such as text, graphs, images / renders, sketches, and drawings, provided they fit within the A1-size poster.

3.2 Judging and Awards

The winner of the competition will be announced at the conference and will also have the opportunity to give a short presentation during the event. Therefore, shortlisted entrants are strongly encouraged to attend.

The organising committee will print the shortlisted submissions. These posters will be displayed for public viewing throughout the conference and will be available for collection at the end of the day.

3.3 Participation

Submissions can be made individually or in teams of up to four members. A prize of £200 will be awarded to the winning submission.

4.0 Programme

Indicative programme (to be updated with actual dates):

Date	Item
June 2026	Design brief issued
3 rd September 2026	End of questions period. Any questions about the brief or the competition should be sent to events@iabse.org.uk . Answers will be made available to all competitors and published on the IABSE UK website.
10 th September 2026	Deadline for competition submission
17 th September 2026	Shortlisted entries notified
24 th September 2026	Display of shortlisted entries and winner announcement

