



2024/25

MICRO HOME

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

BUILDnER
Architecture Competitions



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Buildner Architecture Competition Organisers
in partnership with
Kingspan
have prepared this document for
the purpose of arranging the
Kingspan 2024/25 Microhome
architecture competition.

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contact@buildner.com
architecturecompetitions.com

BUILDNER
Architecture Competitions



Igniting architectural innovation

BUILDNER is the global leader in organizing architecture competitions, we invite you to embark on a transformative journey of design excellence.

With our unwavering commitment to pushing boundaries and inspiring creativity, **BUILDNER** provides a platform for talented architects and designers to showcase their visionary ideas and shape the future of the built environment.

Join us as we unlock extraordinary possibilities and set new standards in architectural innovation.

buildner.com

10+
years of experience

100+
successfully completed
competitions

300+
guest jury members

Buildner and Kingspan:

A Progressive Partnership Pioneering Small-Scale Architecture

The Kingspan 2024/25 Microhome is an exciting development in the evolution of the Microhome Architecture Competition, marking the seventh edition of this esteemed event. This special edition is hosted by Buildner in a key partnership with Kingspan, the global leaders in high-performance insulation and energy-efficient building envelope solutions. This collaboration showcases a mutual vision and shared objectives, amplifying the reach and impact of the competition with a substantially increased prize fund of €150,000.

Buildner and Kingspan's partnership embodies a united commitment to drive forward the frontier of architectural design, particularly in the realm of small-scale, sustainable, and affordable living solutions. The shared ethos rests on the belief that innovative design, quality, and sustainability are of paramount importance, and that they can create transformative solutions without being restricted by size.





Kingspan 2024/25 Microhome

Kingspan 2024/25 Microhome invites participants to conceptualize an off-grid modular dwelling that would accommodate a hypothetical young professional couple. This scenario serves as the benchmark family size for the competition. The total floor area of the structure should not exceed 25 m^2 , thereby encouraging participants to push their creativity and innovate within these parameters.

The competition challenges participants to radically rethink spatial organization, to introduce distinctive aesthetics, and to implement state-of-the-art technologies and materials. The end objective is to propel the micro home from a mere architectural form to a revolutionary genre in its own right.

There are no geographical restrictions on the hypothetical sites for these designs, allowing for unlimited creativity. Whether urban or rural, any location worldwide can be the backdrop for these micro homes. Designs that prioritize sustainability and present solutions to economic, social, and cultural challenges through fresh architectural methods will receive preference.

Kingspan 2024/25 Microhome is an opportunity to contribute to the evolution of residential architecture. It looks forward to uncovering visionary designs and innovative ideas that are poised to redefine the future of micro-living.



Building programme

Participants are asked to present designs for a home that would provide comfortable accommodation for a hypothetical young professional couple.

Recommendations for the construction process:		
\$ Cost-effective	 Environmentally responsible	 Energy-efficient
Recommendations for the finished structure:		
Space Efficient  Maximum allowed building footprint – 25 m² Landscape elements, paths, non-essential structures (terraces, outdoor canopies, etc.) are not considered to be buildings.	Off-grid  Conceptual suggestions for electricity generating systems, water collection and filtration systems, as well as waste management strategies should be suggested.	Zoning  Sleeping area  Living / working area  Cooking area  WC, Shower  Small storage

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

Essential design considerations



Community integration:

Evaluate how the micro home design fosters a sense of community, encourages social interaction, or contributes to the local social fabric. This may include the incorporation of communal spaces, shared facilities, or design elements that encourage neighborly interaction without compromising privacy.



Sustainability and environmental impact:

Assess the implementation of green technologies, renewable energy, waste reduction, and water conservation methods that not only make the dwelling self-sustaining but also minimize its impact on the surrounding ecosystem. Emphasize a lifecycle approach that considers sourcing, construction, and long-term maintenance.



Affordability and accessibility:

Measure the economic feasibility and accessibility of the micro home for different income levels, particularly for those in underserved or marginalized communities. This could include cost-effective construction methods, materials, or financing models that make the dwelling more attainable.



Adaptability and scalability:

Evaluate how the design can be adapted or replicated in various contexts or communities. Consideration for modularity, local materials, and the ability to scale the concept to create micro home communities could make the design more versatile and broadly applicable.



Educational and social awareness component:

Assess the potential of the micro home design to serve as a model or educational tool that promotes awareness of sustainable living, community building, or other social values. This could include interpretative elements, public accessibility for tours, or collaboration with educational institutions for ongoing study and awareness-raising.

The competition site

Competition entries can be designed for any hypothetical site, regardless of size or location, be it urban or rural, worldwide. Designs showcasing sustainability and addressing economic, social, and cultural challenges via innovative architectural approaches will be preferred.



Prizes

Monetary awards

TOTAL PRIZE FUND

100,000 €

3 winning proposals, 2 special award recipients and 6 honourable mentions will be selected. Buildner will award a total of 100,000 € in prize money to competition winners as follows:

1ST PRIZE

40,000 €

2ND PRIZE

20,000 €

3RD PRIZE

10,000 €

BUILDNER STUDENT AWARD

10,000 €

BUILDNER SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

10,000 €

+ 6 honourable mentions



Kingspan[®]

Award

The Kingspan Award is a distinct honor given to participants who choose to integrate any of the selected Kingspan products into their design. The use of these products is optional, but participants who choose to do so have an opportunity to contend for this additional award. The products selected for this competition from the Kingspan portfolio include LEC (lower embodied carbon) insulated panels which lend themselves to rapid building and ease of deconstruction at end of life, acoustic ceiling tiles, natural daylighting sun-tubes, and rainwater harvesting systems.

To be eligible for the Kingspan Award, participants must declare the use of Kingspan products during the project submission process, through the upload panel. A brief description outlining which products have been used and how they have been incorporated into the design will be required as part of the submission.

A noteworthy aspect of this competition is that a single project has the potential to win both the primary competition prize and the Kingspan Award. This dual-win possibility provides participants with an added incentive to explore and integrate Kingspan's innovative solutions into their entries.

THE KINGSPAN AWARD

10,000 €

Prizes

MICROHOME magazine

Selected winners, honourable mentions and submissions that were not selected as shortlisted will be included in the next ARCHHIVE BOOKS annual MICROHOMES magazine.



Certificates

Buildner will acknowledge the outstanding performance of all winners with Certificates of Achievement.



Publicity campaign

Media

Buildner's publicity campaign offers extensive exposure to the architectural community, ensuring that the results of the competition are seen by a vast audience:

BUILDNER'S TWO MILLION

The results are published on buildner.com, a leading website in the architecture industry, attracting over one million unique visitors annually. Additionally, the campaign extends to Buildner's social networks, which boast over 800,000 followers combined, and through newsletter campaigns reaching over 200,000 subscribers.



As part of the collaboration between Buildner and ArchDaily, the competition winners will be showcased on ArchDaily, a leading architecture news platform.

This feature will greatly boost the winners' visibility to millions of architecture professionals and enthusiasts worldwide, increasing their chances for new opportunities, attracting new clients, and establishing their reputation in the industry.

BUILDNER EXTENSIVE MEDIA NETWORK

Buildner leverages an extensive network of media industry leaders to publish the competition results. This broadens the audience further, ensuring that participants' work is showcased across multiple platforms known for their influence and reach in the architecture and design sectors.

Publicity campaign

Interview & Movie

After participants submit their project, they have the opportunity to upload a questionnaire (in writing) and a video about themselves **on the Buildner project upload panel**, up to five days before the results announcement. The specific submission deadline is indicated in the project upload panel.

These submissions are **OPTIONAL** but highly recommended in case the project is selected amongst the winners to maximize the publicity and media attention their work will receive.

Questionnaires and videos will be published for winners and honorable mentions with the competition results on Buildner's website.

Videos will be published for all participants, including winners, on Buildner's YouTube channel.

Read more about:



The interview – architecturecompetitions.com/interview



The video submission – architecturecompetitions.com/submit-movie

Explore the movies received from Buildner Architecture Competition winners and honorable mentions here - youtube.com/@buildner



Competition schedule

Preliminary registration deadlines

- 🚩 Early Bird Registration
JULY 31 - SEPTEMBER 26
- 🚩 Advance Registration
SEPTEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 5
- 🚩 Last Minute Registration
DECEMBER 6 - FEBRUARY 13

It is still possible to participate in this competition after the preliminary deadlines, however, a higher late registration fee will be charged.



Closing date for questions & answers
FEBRUARY 19, 2025

In order to guarantee equal opportunities to all competition participants, no new questions will be answered after this deadline!



Closing date for registration
FEBRUARY 13, 2025



Closing date for submission
MARCH 18, 2025 (11:59 p.m. London time)



Announcement of the winners
APRIL 29, 2025

Registration fees



Please find registration fees listed at the competition website **microhome.info**

Discounts for architecture students

Buildner 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.

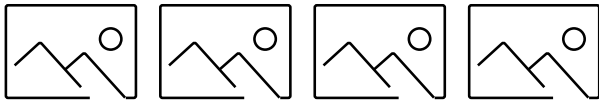
Buildner Architecture University rankings

Explore the Buildner's list of the world's 1000+ most competitive architecture universities –
architecturecompetitions.com/architecture-university-rankings

Submission requirements

- Participants are required to upload **four (4) A2 landscape-orientated presentation boards** (must not exceed 10 MB per jpg) with sketches, renderings, plans, sections, elevations, diagrams, and/or other presentation tools to explain their proposal.

up to 4 panels



- No video files are accepted.
- All information provided in writing must be in English.
- All submissions must be uploaded via the architecturecompetitions.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.

Your project in the media

Participants are required to submit a cover image and a project description in the project upload panel. These will be used for publication purposes and will not be seen by the jury. The image and text need to be submitted in the project upload panel at the time of project upload.

Cover image

Participants can choose and upload **one project preview image from their presentation** that best describes their project.

- The project preview image would need to be at least 2000x1680 pixels large, orientated horizontally, no more than 10 MB in size, and in jpg/jpeg format.
- The project preview image will be used for promotional materials to showcase the project in case the project is selected as the winner.
- Please note: the competition jury will not see the selected project preview image.

Project description

In the project upload panel, participants will be asked to add their project description. Please note that this will not be seen by the jury but will be used mainly for publication purposes. In the project description, please include the following:

• **Project overview:**

Provide a brief summary of the project.

• **Assignment:**

Explain the task or problem you were assigned to solve.

• **Objectives:**

Outline the main goals and objectives of the project.

• **Design concept:**

Describe the design concept and the inspiration behind it.

• **Approach and strategy:**

Detail the approach and strategy you used to tackle the project.

• **Key features:**

Highlight the key features and unique aspects of the design.

• **Materials and techniques:**

Mention the materials and techniques used in the project.

• **Challenges:**

Discuss any challenges you faced and how you overcame them.

• **Results:**

Share the outcomes and results of the project.

Recommended submission content

- Illustrations to depict how the microhome design complements both its immediate environment and the wider urban or rural landscape. This could involve showcasing its integration within a bustling cityscape or a serene countryside.
- Concept designs that emphasize high-quality features in accordance with the design brief, and that appropriately respond to the challenges and opportunities of the proposed site. Detailed plans and sections that illustrate key aspects of the design, along with multiple internal and external perspectives showcasing the spatial quality of the microhome. These should also show the design's operational needs and its accessibility features.
- Evidence of project feasibility considering environmental factors, local climate conditions, lifecycle considerations, and responsible use of materials.
- Detailed plans, sections, and perspectives, both internal and external, to demonstrate the spatial efficiency of the microhome, alongside its operational needs and accessibility considerations.
- Explanation of the proposed construction processes, materials used, functional attributes, management and maintenance strategies. Also, participants should outline their approach to environmental considerations, energy efficiency, sustainability, indoor environment quality, and logistical challenges.
- Visualizations or artist's impressions that clearly communicate how the microhome fits within its context, taking into consideration its relationship with both the natural environment and any existing architectural elements.

OPTIONAL

Recommended submission content for

Kingspan® award

In addition to the general submission content, participants striving for the Kingspan Award should also include comprehensive information detailing the utilization and integration of Kingspan products in their designs.

The following aspects should be considered:

1. Product selection description:

A detailed explanation of the chosen Kingspan products from the provided list (refer to appendix). This should explain why these specific products were chosen and how they align with the design objectives.

2. Product integration illustration:

Graphical representation or sketches showing how the selected Kingspan products have been integrated into the design. The illustrations should highlight the positioning and purpose of each product in the microhome.

3. Benefit analysis:

A discussion on the potential benefits of using the selected Kingspan products in the design. This can include energy-efficiency, whole life carbon reduction, circularity, re-use, cost-effectiveness, occupant health benefits or any other advantages relevant to the design or its future inhabitants.

4. Implementation strategy:

An explanation of how the chosen Kingspan products would be installed or used in the construction process. This could cover practical steps, potential challenges, and proposed solutions for product implementation.

5. Product impact assessment:

An analysis of how the Kingspan products contribute to the overall project goals such as improving livability, boosting energy efficiency, enhancing the aesthetic appeal, or supporting sustainability.

Presentation deliverables set

- Context plan (suggested scale 1:500 or 1:1000)
- 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
 - Transportation
 - Landscaping
 - Energy systems
 - Cityscapes/urban relationships
- Perspectives:
 - Primary interior spaces
 - Primary site locations

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

Presentation preliminary review

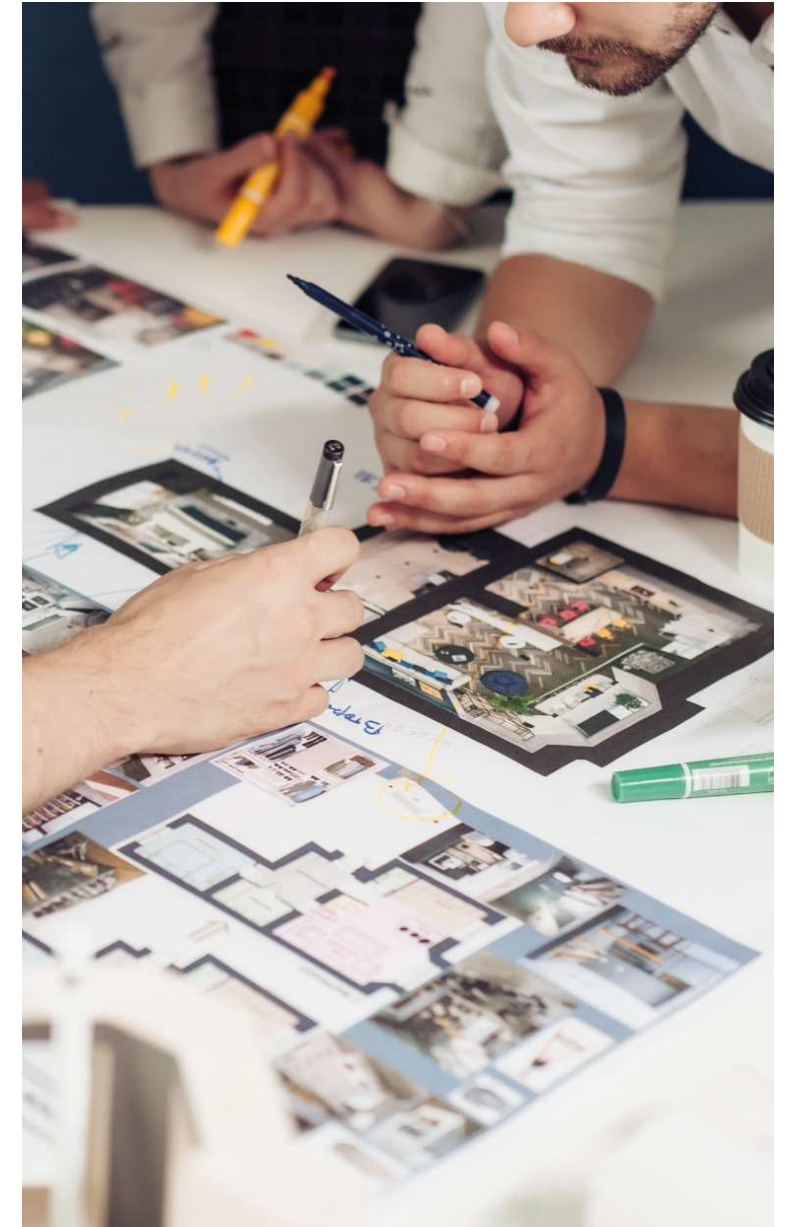
For more than ten years, Buildner has analyzed and rated thousands of architecture competition project submissions. Trust us when we say — the quality of your presentation is vital to convince a jury team of your design intent, and there are several graphic and representational factors that can make it or break it. We can help you make it right!

Buildner can review your presentation and give you valuable feedback!

Participants are welcome to submit their competition presentation draft panel/s **before submitting it/them as a final competition entry for a preliminary review.**

Within 1–3 days, our team will analyze your presentation panel/s and rate them on predefined criteria points, as well as add valuable written feedback on how you can improve your final competition submission.

Find out more here –
architecturecompetitions.com/reviews



Jury

The jury panel members list and biographies are published at **microhome.info**

Participants are advised to research both the working site and previous similar case studies as part of the design process. For each competition, 6–9 jury panel members are selected. Buildner reserves the right to add/remove the jury panel members at any moment.

Jury members shall under no circumstances be contacted by competition participants or their representatives. Participants who attempt to contact jury members shall be disqualified.

All competition-related communications should be carried out solely with Buildner staff.

For any questions, please contact us at contact@buildner.com

Kingspan 2024/25 Microhome is project competition, which encourages participants to test or redefine the boundaries of architecture. The jury may choose to reward projects that show a high degree of creativity, even if they breach competition guidelines, as long as this is justified.

Buildner is committed to selecting the most qualified industry professionals to comprise its jury panels. Jury panels consist of architects, in addition to professionals from other professional backgrounds that are relevant to the competition topic, to guarantee the most objective competition results.

*You may find the invited jury list from **previous** competitions [here](https://architecturecompetitions.com/guest-jury) –*

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 microhome.info

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

Competition press kit (in English) and banners are available at microhome.info

Appendix

Kingspan has thoughtfully curated a selection of their products for use in design submissions. Participants targeting the Kingspan Award, in addition to the primary award, are invited to thoughtfully integrate these selected products into their design concepts.

This special selection highlights Kingspan's innovation programme in terms of reducing embodied carbon in its existing product portfolio, broadening the solutions available to architects to include new bio-based and technically advanced insulation materials, expanding its portfolio of natural daylighting and ventilation solutions, and meeting the growing need for integrated renewable energy and water management solutions for buildings.

In integrating these Kingspan products into their designs, participants should remember that there is no set minimum or maximum limit to the number of products they can include. Rather, the emphasis should be on strategic and meaningful integration that enhances the design's objectives.

In their submissions, participants should explain their product choices and how these products fit into the design, discuss potential benefits, describe the process of product implementation, and evaluate the overall contribution of these products to the design objectives. The aim is not only to showcase the product usage, but also to articulate the rationale and expected benefits from incorporating these products into the design.



KINGSPAN PRODUCTS:

<https://www.kingspangroup.com/en/microhome-architecture-competition/>

KINGSPAN INSULATED PANELS

QuadCore LEC insulated wall panel

Insulated panels offer a rapid-build system and ease of disassembly. This lower embodied carbon wall panel option offers a range of aesthetic profiles.



<https://www.kingspan.com/ie/en/products/insulated-panels/wall-panels/quadcore-awp-lec-wall-panel/>

KINGSPAN INSULATED PANELS

QuadCore LEC insulated roof panel

Insulated panels offer a rapid-build system and ease of disassembly. This lower embodied carbon roof panel option comes in a trapezoidal profile.

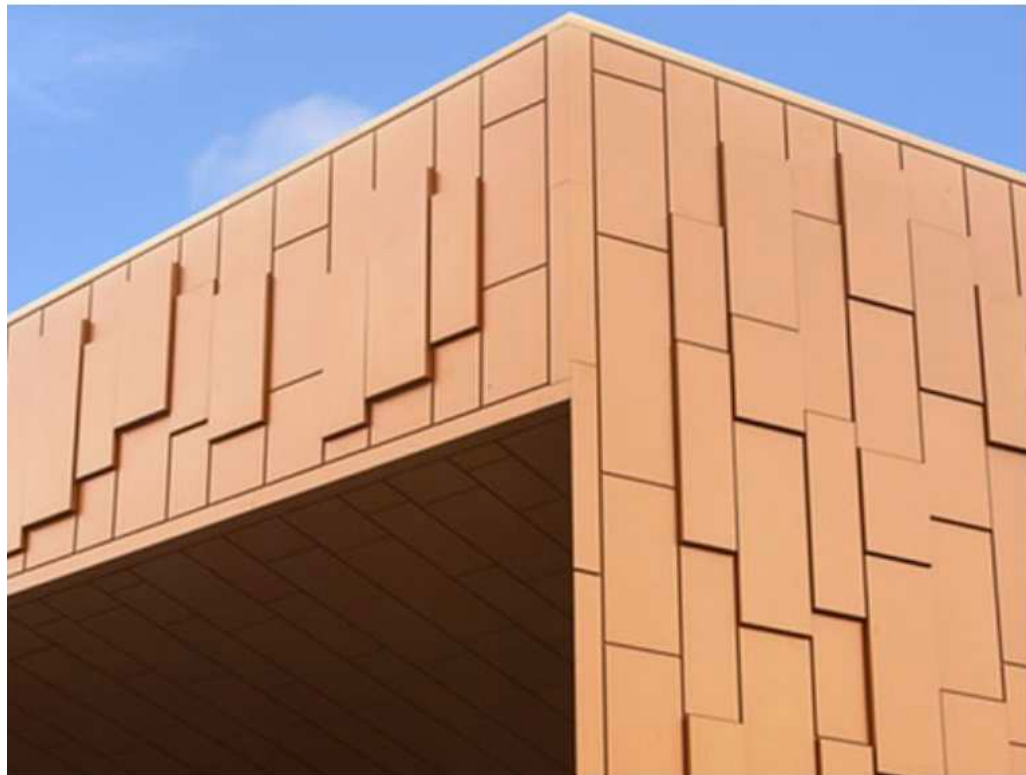


<https://www.kingspan.com/ie/en/products/insulated-panels/roof-panels/quadcore-ks1000rw-lec-roof-panel/>

KINGSPAN INSULATED PANELS

Dri Design cassette with Karrier Panel

This rapid-build aluminium cassette system offers stunning aesthetic flexibility and is mounted on Kingspan's Karrier insulated wall panel system.



<https://www.kingspan.com/ie/en/products/architectural-facades/rainscreen-facades/dri-design-cassette-system/>

KINGSPAN LIGHT + AIR

Solatube Tubular Skylight

A sleek unobtrusive tubular skylight that brings natural daylight into the space and has a solar powered nightlight built in.



<https://solatube.com/residential/skylights/product-selection-guide/290-isn-low-profile/>

KINGSPAN ROOFING & WATERPROOFING

Troldtekt v-line Accoustic Ceiling Tile

This attractive award-winning ceiling tile is made from woodwool and FUTURECEM and comes in a range of designs and colours.

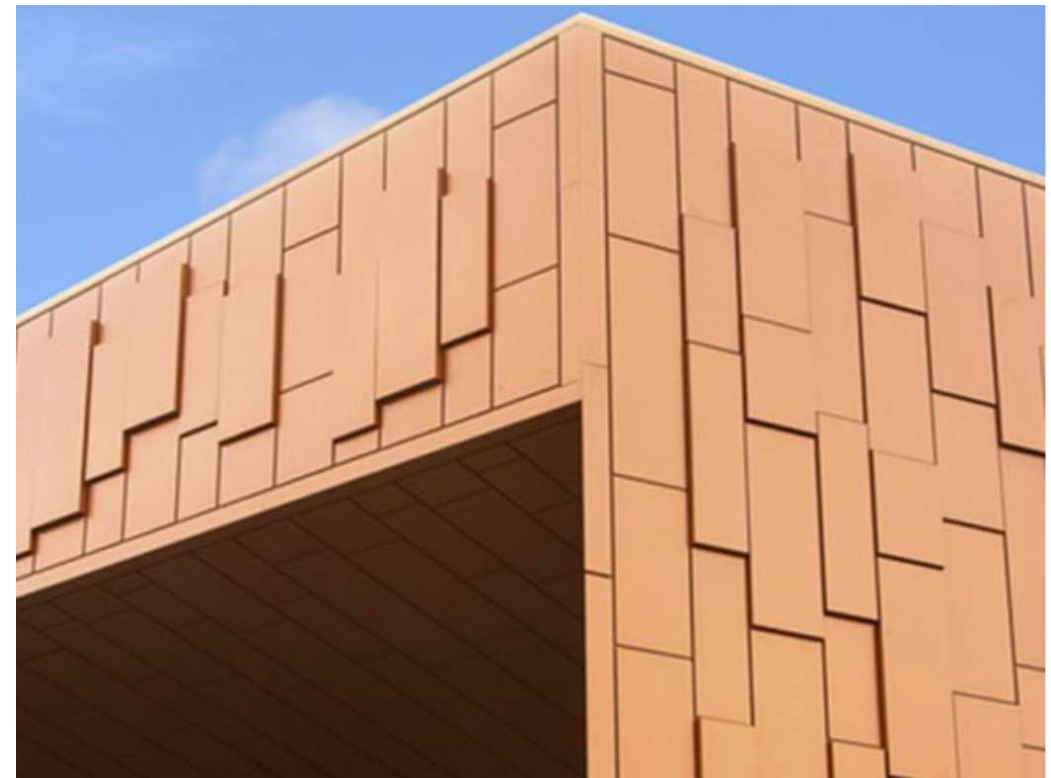


<https://www.troldtekt.com/products/product-range/design-solutions/troldtekt-v-line-1way/>

KINGSPAN WATER & ENERGY

Rainwater Harvesting SLIMLINE TANK

A range of steel slimline water tanks suitable for urban dwellings, helping home-owners reduce water usage and conserve this precious natural resource.



<https://kingspanwatertanks.com.au/product/2000-litre-slimline-tank/>