



# Beaconhouse National University

Main Campus, Tarogil Road, 13 Km, Off Thokar Niazbeg,  
Raiwind Road, Lahore-53700, Pakistan.

Tel: +92-42-38100156

Email: | Web: [www.bnu.edu.pk](http://www.bnu.edu.pk)



## **Mosque as Community Center – An Architectural Design Competition for Students and Alumni.**

In traditional Islamic thought, the Mosque was the first example of a Community Center. The layout of the Mosque of the Prophet (PBUH) in Medina, the first Mosque of the Muslim World, was based on ideas of simplicity, humility, accessibility, rationality, orientation, optimization and efficiency. The residents of Medina could come together to use this space for a variety of communal functions. In doing so, it became apparent that the mosque was not simply a place to connect with the Divine but a space deeply rooted in the ideals of community, sharing and exchange of ideas, values and knowledge. In the rapidly transforming world of today, it has become imperative to re-examine the typology of the Mosque, especially in a University setting. The monumentality and grandeur associated with the Mosque of today is completely at odds with the intended simplicity of the concept and the first mosque of the Prophet (PBUH) in Medina.

The Razia Hassan School of Architecture at Beaconhouse National University (BNU), in partnership with Bank Islami, announces an Architectural Design Competition that will examine the typology of the Mosque as a student community and well-being center on the BNU campus. The competition is open to (i) students nationwide; and (ii) alumni of accredited universities who have graduated in the last five years (no earlier than 2019).

The campus of BNU is set on 32 acres of land near Jati Umra in Lahore. The campus has been designed by the award winning architectural firm, Nayyer Ali Dada and Associates (NADA), and features sensitive use of material, form and scale to create an experience that is conducive to learning, promotes the exchange of ideas and fosters creativity. BNU is a Not for Profit University and comprises eight schools that are housed in individual blocks that transcribe a polygonal central green court. The campus features numerous design moves within the landscape like seating steps, bridges, podiums etc that encourage chance encounters amongst the students and provide a clear and lucid example of “place making”. The use of red brick as the primary material references the millennia old building traditions of the region whilst reinforcing the values that contemporary life places on architecture. While the design of the campus and its buildings references our past, it does so in order to inform and create a better tomorrow for all.

The Mosque/Student community and well-being Center needs to be situated on campus in a way that bolsters the circulatory use of the existing Campus facilities. It may be free standing or engage with the existing building(s) in a new and unique way. Since space is already at premium on campus, the proposed building may be designed in multiple levels to keep the footprint at a palatable scale.

### **Programmatic Requirements**

1. Prayer Space for 70 boys with ancillary facilities like ablution area and shoe racks.
2. Prayer Space for 30 girls with ancillary facilities like ablution area and shoe racks.
3. Two stepped workshop/classrooms of 60-person capacity each.
4. 10 Student activity, counselling, and society offices (4 of these should be for 8-10 people each).
5. Seminar/Roundtable room for 25 people.



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6. Student well-being/community room, capacity 50 people.
7. Toilet Facilities

## Registration and Timeline

- Participants need to register at BNU Website to receive the detailed Competition Booklet which will include drawings, photographs and videos of the existing campus facilities along with the prescribed format for the submission panels. The last day to register is 15 July, 2024.
- Competition proposals need to be submitted at 6 pm, by 1 September 2024. The format for the design panels is shared in the Competition Booklet.
- Jury deliberations will take place on 14 and 15 September 2024. BNU and Bank Islami will host an exhibition of the submitted proposals in the later part of September followed by an evening to honour the winning entries (date to be announced).

## Jury Members

1. Mr Nayyer Ali Dada, Architect.
2. Professor Sajida Vandal, Architect, CEO THAAP
3. Mr Ghayoor Obaid, Architect.

## Prizes

### *Alumni Category*

- Winning Proposal in alumni category: Rs 300,000.00
- First honorable mention : Rs 75,000.00
- Second honorable mention : Rs 75,000.00

### *Student Category*

- Winning proposal is student category: Rs 300,000.00
- First honorable mention : Rs 75,000.00
- Second honorable mention : Rs 75,000.00