



**RULES OF THE CONTEST**  
3rd EDITION

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Important is not impossible**

Working with timber is a meaningful, possible and sustainable project.

Building using such a noble material helps dispel myths about the supposed weaknesses of timber compared to more traditional materials such as reinforced concrete and steel, reducing the ecological footprint of the building sector.

Engineered timber (glulam, LVL, CLT, etc.) has, over time, made it possible to overcome many building constraints and plays a key role in advancing low-carbon construction. When used correctly, timber can store more carbon dioxide than is emitted during its harvesting, processing, transportation and assembly for the construction of a building.

Supporting timber construction is in the public interest not only and above all when it comes to the environment, but also in terms of time management, construction possibilities and living comfort.

Rothoblaas has been providing timber building solutions for more than 30 years and is involved in the dissemination of wood culture by organising courses, seminars and training weeks dedicated to the in-depth study of the most contemporary topics in timber technology.

BUILD THE (IM)POSSIBLE also moves in this direction and is a contest created to broaden the community of professionals dedicated to the development of more sustainable building.

Taking part in the contest means contributing to the advancement of timber technology for more sustainable, modern construction capable of delivering ever-higher standards of living comfort. **Combining engineered timber with other construction systems paves the way for solutions that were once considered (im)possible, turning design challenges into real opportunities.**

This vision is precisely the foundation of this year's BUILD THE (IM)POSSIBLE contest.

Join in.

## **FOCUS OF THE CONTEST: HYBRID STRUCTURES**

The **BUILD THE (IM)POSSIBLE** contest aims to showcase innovative projects on a global stage, pushing the boundaries of traditional construction methods.

"Building the impossible" is now possible thanks to the development of new technologies which have given new impetus to **timber as a structural material**.

In today's world scene, there is a growing awareness of respect for the environment, society and healthier, more conscious lifestyles. In this context, living comfort becomes very important.

**The contest includes the implementation and enhancement of innovative design proposals in terms of both design and collective interest in environmental sustainability.**

In its first two editions, the contest explored two innovative timber construction systems: the first was the post-and-slab system, involving the use of SPIDER and PILLAR connectors; the second was the post-and-beam system, introducing the revolutionary ALUMEGA connection. Both editions pushed timber to its highest engineering potential, demonstrating its ability to compete with traditional materials.

This year, **the third edition pushes boundaries even further, focusing on hybrid structures and broadening the scope to explore the interaction between timber and other construction materials**. Participants are challenged to design buildings that are not only sustainable but also technologically advanced, lev-

eraging the unique engineering properties of each construction system. The aim is to explore **innovative solutions that maximise the structural potential of the materials, efficiently and creatively joined using Rothoblaas connectors**, achieving results that until recently would have been considered (im)possible.

Now, it's your turn: imagine, design and participate in the third edition of BUILD THE (IM)POSSIBLE.

## **PARTICIPATION CRITERIA**

### **Constraints**

The contest is open to projects featuring **hybrid structures with a prevalent use of timber**, designed to highlight the strengths of this material in combination with others, primarily concrete and steel.

**The main design requirement is the use of Rothoblaas connectors for hybrid structures, such as ALUMEGA, RADIAL, RING, TC FUSION, LOCK, DISC FLAT and other solutions** available in our catalogues and in the "Resources" section of the contest website. The aim is to promote innovative solutions that strategically optimise the unique properties of different materials, used to design and build cutting-edge structures.

### **Permitted project types**

Projects may be submitted in all phases:

- preliminary design;
- final design;
- executive design;
- projects under construction;
- completed projects.

## **AUDIENCE**

The contest is open to all professionals **in the construction sector, with a particular focus on timber and hybrid building solutions**.

Participation is open worldwide, with no geographical restrictions. The contest thus provides a unique opportunity to experiment with new technologies and explore hybrid, forward-thinking solutions that skilfully integrate timber with other construction materials.

The evolution of building systems, innovation and progress requires input from various industry players. With this in mind, **the contest is structured into two categories of participants:**

### **1. Designers and builders**

Those who drive innovation, designing and constructing buildings that test new possibilities in real-world conditions, navigating the regulatory, urban planning, logistical and budget constraints of an actual construction site.

### **2. Students, researchers, academics**

Those who, working on paper, hypothesise, plan and dream big but without necessarily implementing the project. These are students, PhD students, researchers or university professors.

**Four finalists** will be selected (two per category), from whom two winners will be chosen based on the originality and effectiveness of their design solutions.

This approach aims to bring industry experts and emerging talent together, combining experience with fresh ideas to shape the future of construction through the smart integration of different materials, with a strong focus on timber and hybrid structures.

*\* If the jury determines that selecting two finalists per category is not feasible, four finalists will be chosen regardless of category.*

## **NATURE AND VALUE OF THE PRIZE**

Winning the contest means first of all making direct contact with the *international community* specializing in the timber construction sector.

The selected projects will be an inspiration for other future projects that, we hope, will be just as *sustainable* and of *interest to the community*.

## **FINALIST PROJECTS**

The four finalist projects will advance to the final selection by the BUILD THE (IM)POSSIBLE jury and will receive:

- an invitation for one person to the Mass Timber Seminar International 2025, where the winning projects will be announced. The package includes accommodation and meals during the seminar, as well as a contribution towards travel expenses for a return trip from the winner's country of origin (organised by Rothoblaas)

## **THE WINNING PROJECTS**

### **Win a dream experience with Rothoschool:**

Each winner will have the opportunity to participate as a speaker at a Rothoschool event in a dream location in 2026. They will be able to present their project during one of the scheduled Rothoschool events, choosing from spectacular destinations such as Bali, New Zealand, the Maldives, Canada, Italy and other stunning locations. The prize includes accommodation and meals for the duration of the course, as well as round-trip travel expenses from the winner's country of origin, all organised by Rothoblaas.

In addition to the prizes listed above, the following promotional activities are planned for the two **winning projects**:

- Section of the website dedicated to the contest where a detailed description of the project will be available for one year
- 1 Facebook post and 1 LinkedIn post on Rothoblaas pages

## **LIABILITY WAIVER**

In the event that exceptional and/or unforeseeable events directly or indirectly affect the prize, award ceremony and/or other contest-related meetings, Rotho Blaas SRL will promptly inform all participants of any

changes in the schedule (cancellations, modifications, delays). In such a case, the participants will be responsible for eventual own incurred costs, and will not be entitled to compensation from Rotho Blaas SRL.

## CONTEST STEPS

The contest is structured into the following steps:

### Step 1

#### REGISTRATION AND COLLECTION OF ALL PROJECTS

Registration is possible from **25/03/2025**.

The deadline for registration and project submission is **15/09/2025**.

During this step, the contest will be promoted at the most prestigious trade fairs in the timber construction industry.

### Step 2

#### PROJECT SELECTION

From **15/09/2025 to 30/09/2025**, the jury (see the "Jury Composition" paragraph) will meet for the preliminary selection of projects. The finalists will be selected according to set criteria (see the "Evaluation Criteria" paragraph). The jury will **communicate the reasons for selecting the finalist projects**.

Four finalists will then be selected and invited to participate in the Rothoblaas Mass Timber Seminar International 2025.

### Step 3

#### PRESENTATION OF FINALIST PROJECTS AND AWARD CEREMONY

From 01/10/2025, the finalists will be invited to attend the Mass Timber Seminar International 2025 at Rothoblaas headquarters, where they will have 10 minutes to **present their project**. The seminar will be held in the first week of December, during which the jury **will officially announce the two winning projects**.

## REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

### Applications

To apply for BUILD THE (IM)POSSIBLE you must complete the application form (subject to acceptance of the stated policies).

**It is not necessary to upload all the material at the time of registration.**

### File uploading

The deadline for uploading material to the "File submission area" section of the website is 15/09/2025.

Applications received after the indicated date will not be considered.

## DOCUMENTATION TO BE PROVIDED

**For the purposes of evaluating the project, the following documents are required:**

### Summary drawings

The summary drawings are mandatory and serve as a concise representation of the project, highlighting its key strengths and essential features. The jury's evaluation will be based primarily on these drawings, with reference made to the additional documentation if necessary.

### **1. Graphic drawing (ISO A1 – pdf or jpg, in English)**

One ISO A1 sheet (landscape or portrait) containing the essential information for evaluation. It may include images and brief texts (in English) to demonstrate how the project meets the evaluation criteria, particularly for hybrid solutions. The drawing must include at least:

- 1 structural plan
- 1 architectural plan
- 1 elevation
- At least 1 comprehensive section clearly illustrating the adopted hybrid structural solution
- Details of the connections between the structural elements made of different materials (“hybrid joints”), clearly demonstrating the use of Rothoblaas products

### **2. Project report (2 A4 page – PDF)**

A report, containing information useful for the evaluation (see the “Evaluation criteria” paragraph). It must include:

- description of the works, location and main geometric data (number of storeys, building volume, floor plan);
- description of the design choices concerning the load-bearing structures, with a particular focus on hybrid solutions that combine different materials, maximising the engineering properties of each;
- description of the architectural choices, highlighting the hybridisation of construction solutions (e.g., timber: frame, CLT, timber post-and-beam; concrete, steel, etc.);
- for projects that initially involved the use of traditional materials and/or technologies and were subsequently converted to the use of timber and hybrid structures, participants must explain the considerations that led to the choice of the hybrid solutions;
- the percentage of timber volume relative to other materials in the structural project. This percentage can be expressed through a diagram or a text, illustrating the ratio of timber volume to other materials, highlighting timber as the prevalent structural component.
- Personal information sheet (1 A4 page – PDF)
- A PDF document containing:
  - designer's data;
  - details of the manufacturer (if defined);
  - details of the client;
  - a valid ID of the registered participant;
  - contact person for interviews.

Note: For academic projects, the project site and client may be hypothetical.

## **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS**

In addition to the mandatory ISO A1 graphic drawing, participants are encouraged to provide additional images and 3D models, including renders, sketches and CAD/CAM drawings, which facilitate an understanding of the integration and innovative use of the different structural materials. Extra details can also be submitted, including 2D technical drawings (plans, sections, elevations) and 3D representations to complement the overall vision of the project and provide a clear, in-depth understanding of the adopted hybrid solutions.

### **File types**

PDF files and high-resolution JPEG images are preferable. Additional documents can, however, be provided in other formats.

While there are no file size restrictions, participants are encouraged to upload files that are suitably sized for efficient review by the jury.

## **COMPOSITION OF THE JURY**

The evaluation of the finalist projects and winners will be entrusted to a jury of **5 independent professionals in the field of timber construction**, with no connection to Rothoblaas. During the evaluation process, the jury will be supported by two Rothoblaas staff members, in charge of handling only the materials and logistics. The selection of finalists and winners will be entirely at the jury's discretion.

## **EVALUATION/SELECTION CRITERIA**

**The jury will assess the projects based on the following criteria:**

### **1. Bold structural solutions**

Innovative and unconventional structural solutions will be particularly valued. From a sustainability perspective, projects that incorporate the principles of Design for Manufacture and (Dis)Assembly (DfMA) – an approach that simplifies both construction and potential disassembly, optimising the entire lifecycle of the building – will be highly regarded.

### **2. Effective performance choices**

Each material has its own strengths, and projects will be positively evaluated for the strategic selection of high-performing construction systems, especially if tied to well-reasoned and innovative design choices. Structural efficiency and the optimal use of materials will also be key factors. Renovation projects will also be valued, specifically those demonstrating how hybrid structures can be effectively applied to existing buildings.

### **3. Timber volume and environmental impact**

The proportion of timber relative to other materials will be a key criterion, as the prevalent use of timber significantly contributes to reducing CO2 emissions and lowering the overall environmental impact of buildings. Projects will be assessed on their ability to use timber sustainably as the dominant element in the hybrid structure.

### **4. Architectural quality**

The balance between aesthetics and technical performance will be a key factor in the selection of projects, encouraging a new perspective on hybrid architecture. Design solutions that creatively integrate materials

and construction technologies to enhance functionality, comfort and overall liveability will be highly valued.

### **5. Conversion from traditional to hybrid**

Projects originally designed with traditional materials or technologies but converted into hybrid structures through the intelligent use of Rothoblaas connectors will receive special recognition. This criterion aims to promote the transition to more sustainable choices, improving not only the project's environmental impact but also the structural potential of timber as a material.

## **EXCLUSION FROM ITALIAN PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 430/2001:**

This contest is excluded from the scope of application of Presidential Decree 430/2001 "Regulations concerning the organic revision of the discipline of contests and prize-winning operations, as well as local events of chance, pursuant to article 19, paragraph 4, of Law no. 449 of 27 December 1997". By virtue of the characteristics defined in these Regulations, the contest in question is in fact one of the cases of exclusion referred to in art.6, letter a): it is a contest for the presentation of a project in a commercial/industrial context, in which the awarding of the prize to the author of the work represents recognition of personal merit and an encouragement in the interest of the community.

## **USE OF PHOTOS, IMAGES AND PROJECT MATERIALS**

Participants grant RB a free, non-exclusive licence to use any photographs and/or images of their projects (the "Images") that are shared with RB or that RB may otherwise obtain. This includes the right to capture additional images at the time of submission, exhibition or any other use of the projects. This authorisation includes the possibility to use the Images for research, archiving, reference or service illustration purposes, as well as to copy, reproduce, modify, transmit, publish and distribute the Images in both digital and print formats (across all currently known media and any that may be developed in the future) for both commercial and non-commercial purposes. The authorisation is granted without time or geographical limitations and remains valid even after the expiration or termination of the agreement between the parties.

## **PRIVACY POLICY**

This Privacy Policy has been written by the data controller in compliance with Article 13 of Reg. EU 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation).

## **DATA CONTROLLER**

ROTHO BLAAS SRL, with registered offices at Via dell'Adige 2/1, I-39040 Cortaccia (BZ), Italy, VAT No. IT 01433490214, is the Data Controller for the personal data you have provided. If you wish to make a report, or if you have any requests or wish to exercise the rights referred to in Article 15 et seq. of EU Regulation 679/2016, please contact our Privacy Representative by e-mail at the following address: [privacy@rothoblaas.com](mailto:privacy@rothoblaas.com).

## **TYPE OF DATA PROCESSED, PURPOSES OF DATA PROCESSING AND LEGAL BASIS**

Participation in the contest requires the provision of consent to the processing of the following personal data:

- A) Personal and commercial data: name, surname, e-mail, address of residence, profession.
- B) Images and videos

### **The purpose of the processing for the data referred to in section A is the:**

- identification and admission of candidates to the "BUILD THE (IM)POSSIBLE" contest;
- the sending and receiving of communications relating to the organisation of the "BUILD THE (IM)POSSIBLE" contest;
- Be contacted for further information and interviews in order to promote the "BUILD THE (IM)POSSIBLE" contest.

**The purpose of the processing for the data referred to in section B** is for documentation and advertising purposes: by consenting to making photos and videos, the participant agrees that Rotho Blaas will use photos and videos provided by the user or made before, during and immediately after the event, and their subsequent use free of charge for advertising purposes.

The legal basis for the processing is the fulfilment of contractual obligations and the consent of the data subject.

## **NATURE OF THE PROVISION OF THE DATA**

The User is at liberty to provide the personal data listed in the application to participate in the contest form. Failure to provide the data that is identified as mandatory, however, does not allow admission to the "BUILD THE (IM)POSSIBLE" contest. Failure to provide data that is identified as optional, on the other hand, could lead to the provision of an incomplete service.

## **DISCLOSURE AND DISSEMINATION OF DATA TO THIRD PARTIES**

In order to fulfil the specified objectives, some data may be disclosed to Group companies; external parties/companies to whom the disclosure of the personal data proves to be necessary or, in any case, functional for the purpose of performing the requested service or for the management of the contractual relationship with the data subject (hosting companies or services companies and/or professionals providing services for the management of commercial communications) under the control of the Data Controller.

The data controller will disseminate the personal data provided by the above mentioned User through its web communication channels and in paper format, both in the context of the contest and for the awarding of the prize and for the effective performance of the promotional and marketing activities preceding, concomitant and subsequent to the contest itself.

## **TRANSFER TO THIRD COUNTRIES**

The personal data provided by the data subject may be processed or transferred to a country outside the EU for the above-mentioned purposes in accordance with the applicable legislation in relation to the transfer of data to Third Countries and the relative guarantees as provided therein (Article 44 et seq. of EU Regulation No. 679/2016).

## **DATA PROCESSING METHODS AND RETENTION TIMES**

Data processing of the gathered data is carried out through computerised procedures or, in any case, by digital means by internal or external parties specifically appointed and authorised for such purpose and committed to confidentiality terms. Data is processed and stored using appropriate tools to ensure its safety, integrity and confidentiality through the adoption of adequate security measures.

In particular, communications relating to the contest are sent by e-mail to the addresses provided by the participants.

The personal data provided by the concerned party will be kept for a period of 10 years after the award ceremony.

## **RIGHTS OF DATA SUBJECTS**

The data subject may, at any time, exercise their rights, find out about the data that concerns them, how it was acquired, receive information about the parties or classification of parties to whom their data may be disclosed, verify that their data is accurate, complete, current and safeguarded, receive their data in a commonly used structured format, readable on an automated device, revoke any consent given at any time to process their data, request its deletion, and fully or partially oppose the use of their data. In addition, data subjects shall have the right to revoke consent at any time without prejudice to the legality of the processing based on consent provided before revocation and to file a complaint with the applicable authority, the Italian Data Protection Authority (Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali), should they believe that the processing of their data is in violation of the above-mentioned Regulation.

**Rotho Blaas SRL is the PROMOTOR of the contest.**



## FAQ

### ***Must the submitted project include only Rothoblaas products?***

The exclusive use of Rothoblaas products is not a requirement for evaluation. However, the project must incorporate Rothoblaas hybrid structure connectors. Visit the "Resources" section to download materials on the required products.

### ***Can I submit a project that has already been completed?***

Yes, participation is open to completed projects. Revised versions of existing projects built with traditional construction systems are also eligible. For example, a fully concrete structure may be redesigned and converted using timber and concrete load-bearing structures, cleverly connected using Rothoblaas connectors.

### ***Will there be an award ceremony?***

The award ceremony will be held during the Mass Timber Seminar International 2025 at our headquarters in Cortaccia (BZ).

### ***If I am part of a study group/company/technical firm, is the prize awarded to me or to all the members?***

The prize will be awarded to those who submit the project through the contest entry form.

### ***Who will choose the winners?***

The finalists and winners will be selected by the technical jury.

### ***I need assistance, how can I contact you?***

For all questions regarding the contest, contact [buildtheimpossible@rothoblaas.com](mailto:buildtheimpossible@rothoblaas.com)

### ***Is it possible to contact one of your consultants if I have any doubts about the project I'm working on?***

For technical questions related to design aspects, please contact [ernesto.callegari@rothoblaas.com](mailto:ernesto.callegari@rothoblaas.com)

### ***Is there a weight limit of the uploaded ZIP file?***

While there are no file size restrictions, participants are encouraged to upload files that are suitably sized for efficient review by the jury.

### ***What kind of files are allowed for uploading?***

PDF files and high-resolution JPEG images are preferable. However, there are no technical constraints for the use of other formats.