

# URBAN POD:

## ANIMAL-FRIENDLY PUBLIC FURNITURE

### Student Design Competition 2025 Brief

**Title:** Urban Pod: Animal-Friendly Public Furniture

**Partners:** The Center for Research, Innovation & Design (CRID) – American University in Dubai, Dubai Culture & Art Authority and LIVESCALE.

**Competition Type:** Academic Design Challenge for University Students

**Target Group:** Architecture, Interior Design, Product Design, Engineering, and Landscape students (Individual)

**Submission Deadline:** End of Fall Semester (December 2025)

**Showcase & Event:** Spring Semester (January / February 2026)

#### 01. Competition Overview

Urban Pod is a multidisciplinary design competition that challenges students to reimagine public urban furniture as inclusive, ecological interventions that foster coexistence between humans and urban animals. Advanced fabrication technologies, specifically 3D printing, must be incorporated as a key design and implementation tool. Participants are invited to propose a public seating structure that also incorporates a feeding station for one chosen animal species commonly found in urban environments (such as but not limited to birds, cats, squirrels). The furniture must respond to the needs of humans and animals alike, while demonstrating sustainable practices and being optimized for 3D-printing feasibility.

#### 02. Competition Objectives

- Design multi-functional urban furniture that integrates seating and animal care features.
- Promote urban ecological awareness and coexistence through design.
- Encourage use of innovative, digital fabrication methods, particularly 3D printing.
- Create designs that are feasible for prototyping, sustainable, and replicable.

#### 03. Design Requirements

##### A. Human-Centered Component:

- Seating capacity for 2–4 users, with options for social or solitary use.
- Include ergonomic design and weather-responsive features (e.g., shading, ventilation).
- Optional: USB charging port, light fixture, green features, or solar-powered elements.

##### B. Animal-Centered Component:

- Select one or more urban animal species to focus on.
- Design a dedicated, integrated feeding module offering clean water and dry food.
- Feeder must be tamper-proof, hygienic, and easily maintainable.
- Animal access should be intuitive and safe, without interfering with human seating.

### C. Sustainability and 3D Printing Considerations:

- The design must be optimized for 3D printing, considering:
  - Modular fabrication (if needed for large-scale mass produced structures)
  - Material efficiency and minimal post-processing
  - Structural logic compatible with additive manufacturing
- Use recycled or recyclable materials where possible (e.g., PLA, PETG, or recycled composite filaments).
- Encourage green features, such as planters or solar-powered elements.
- Address maintenance needs, durability, and ease of replication.

## 04. Submission Requirements

- Design Board (A2 PDF, horizontal): includes diagrams, plans, sections, 3D rendered views, and a written Concept Statement (max. 300 words): describing the rationale, targeted animal, user experience, sustainability, and digital fabrication strategy.
- Digital 3D Model (.STL format), suitable for 3D printing, with a scale recommendation.
- A one-minute video animation communicating design intention, process, and outcome.

## 05. Awards & Recognition

- 1st Place: **AED 5,000** + Prototype Development via 3D Printing + Public Showcase
- 2nd: **AED 3,000** + Prototype Development via 3D Printing + Publication
- 3rd Place: **AED 2,000** + Prototype Development via 3D Printing + Publication
- Selected entries may be developed further and exhibited publicly through institutional platforms.

## 06. Timeline

Milestone	Date
Launch	September 2025
Submission Deadline	December 2025
Plausible Public Exhibition of Selected Work	January 2026
Jury Evaluation	February 2026
Winners Announcement & Awards	February 2026

## 07. Jury Panel

The panel will consist of experts in architecture, design technology, urbanism, animal welfare, and 3D digital fabrication. [TBA]

## 08. Notes & Conditions

- All entries must be individual, original, and unpublished. Group entries are not allowed. Students can submit up to 3 entries.
- Entries will remain the intellectual property of the creators but may be used for educational and exhibition purposes with credit.