

force differentiated structures

TENSION



The 25th Annual CISC Architectural Student Design Competition 2025-2026

Tension: Competition Brief

Students in Canadian Schools of Architecture and Engineering are asked to design a structure that showcases the ability of steel to demonstrate varied member responses to tensile and compressive forces. Steel is the best common structural material to address tensile forces, and can achieve economy and unique aesthetics when the designer acknowledges this through member sizing.

The primary structure must be fabricated from Architecturally Exposed Structural Steel (AESS), with specific reference to the Categories and Characteristics as described in the CISC AESS Guide. Detailed references are available through the competition website.

The site is to be located in Canada to the specific discretion of the student team.

1st Prize \$8,000 (faculty sponsor \$2,000)
2nd Prize \$4,000 (faculty sponsor \$1,000)
3rd Prize \$2,000 (faculty sponsor \$500)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2026
Register online to receive Q&A and latest updates

Information: <https://www.cisc-icca.ca/architectural-student-design-competition/>
Contact and questions: education@cisc-icca.ca



Eligibility

The competition is open to all full-time students (individually or in teams of a maximum of 3) registered in a Canadian school that offers an accredited or non-accredited program of architecture or architecture / engineering of at least 3 years.

The competition may be conducted as part of a design studio project under the direction of the faculty sponsor or as an independent extracurricular self-directed project.

Winning entries and their faculty sponsor will receive stipulated prizes. Prizes will be divided evenly between group members.

Winning entries will be published on the CISC website and announced in our Advantage Steel publication. The projects will be displayed at the CISC Annual Conference.

Jury

The jury is composed of Architects, Engineers and Fabricators who have been past CISC winners for their outstanding achievements in steel construction.

Jury President

Sylvie Boulanger, ing./P.Eng., Ph.D.
Senior Engineer
MTB Consulting, Montreal

Jury Members

Andrew Voth, P.Eng., Ph.D.
Associate
Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd., Toronto

Nicolas Demers-Stoddart,
Architect, OAA, OAA, MRAIC, RIBA, B.Eng
Director of Practice
COEX, Montreal

Andy Metten, P.Eng., Struct.Eng.
Structural Engineer
Bush, Bohlman & Partners LLP, Vancouver

Owen Rose, Principal Architect, PA LEED
Principal Architect
rose architecture, Montreal

Fabricator Juror, TBA

Competition Sponsors

