

May 8, 2019

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Seral Creativity Hub – Voting Day

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, Good morning and welcome to the Grand Serail.

We are pleased to have you all with us today to continue this innovative journey towards transforming one of the oldest parts of this beautiful Grand Serail into a digital oasis.

The vision is that of HE the Prime Minister Saad Hariri, who stood here in 2018 during the closing of our summer of innovation, inspired by the endless potential of our skilled, entrepreneurial and creative youth, and announced that he would like to see this unique hall, otherwise known as the “Aad”, transformed into a technologically empowered working environment and a beacon for change and innovation.

What better way to bring this unique space to life than through the creativity of our youth.

Since the launching of this Design Competition across Lebanon’s Faculties of Architecture back in February, over 100 university students have thought long and hard of ways to embed innovation and technology within a century-old setting, and the outcome has been a show of creativity to be proud of. Each of the 21 submissions that resulted had a unique and memorable character to it, and promised a thriving future for its creators.

Today’s jury is convened to select the most appropriate conceptual design from amongst the 11 short-listed teams. A total of 60 students will take turns submitting the efforts of their long hours of work. We are all excited to see the outcome of today, and wish all contestants the best of luck.

Thank you all, members of the jury, for contributing your day towards our Prime Minister’s vision of fostering innovation in Lebanon.