The Architecture of Future Utopias: Examining Disaster-Focused Design Strategies Through eVolo Skyscraper Competition Projects

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ABSTRACT

This study examines 47 architectural projects that won awards in the “eVolo Skyscraper Competition” between 2009 and 2025 regarding disaster themes. These projects, which stand out for their conceptual depth and utopian nature rather than their feasibility, reflect architecture's utopian potential and the conceptual solutions it has developed in response to disasters. The research, conducted using qualitative content analysis, evaluated solution approaches to disaster types such as the climate crisis, social disasters, air pollution, floods and flash floods, earthquakes, and forest fires. The projects were analyzed through thematic coding according to criteria such as disaster type, structural performance, visual harmony, material diversity, project type, and award level. The data was visualized through tables and graphs, and their distribution by country, year, and award category was interpreted comparatively. According to the findings, 85% of projects focused on the climate crisis, 70% on social disasters, 57% on air pollution, and 36% on floods and water overflow, while earthquakes and fires were represented by only 6%. The United States, China, and Poland produced the most projects. The analyses also evaluated material diversity (e.g., wood, biomaterials, recycled composites) and architectural strategies (passive ventilation, floating structures, modular systems). The study fills a gap in the literature by revealing the contribution of architecture's utopian dimension to disaster scenarios and speculative architecture.

KEYWORDS: *eVolo Projects, disaster, climate change, flood, migration, architectural design, utopia*

1 INTRODUCTION

eVolo Magazine's Skyscraper Competition invites students, architects, engineers, designers, and artists worldwide to produce projects that showcase innovative ideas. Launched in 2006 and held annually, the competition is recognized as one of the world's most prestigious platforms for high-rise buildings (URL-1). It rewards extraordinary, visionary,

and original ideas in skyscraper design through works on current topics such as using original materials, aesthetics, architectural programs, spatial organization enabled by new technologies, adaptation, globalization, flexibility, and the digital revolution. This initiative also serves as a forum for examining the relationship between skyscrapers and society and cities. The eVolo Skyscraper Competition brings to light ideas that push the boundaries beyond today's technological capabilities. The projects submitted to the competition are valued not only for their physical feasibility but also for their critical nature, their development of future-oriented solutions, and their intellectual depth. eVolo competitions encourage designers to rethink social, ecological, and technological systems. In this sense, the competition projects, considered architectural utopias, offer speculative discourses.

Participants are expected to develop/experiment with new architectural and urban methods to produce solutions to contemporary urban social/cultural/economic problems, such as technological advances, population growth, environmental pollution, unplanned urban sprawl, the discovery of sustainable systems, the conservation of natural resources, and infrastructure/superstructure issues. The main objective of the competition is to explore the role of the individual and society in creating a dynamic and adaptable vertical community in the public and private spheres. This competition aims to discover new habitats and areas based on the dynamic balance between humans and nature. At the same time, it seeks sensitive and adaptable designs that can develop intelligently and sustainably through self-regulating systems. The absence of any restrictions in the competition provides maximum freedom for participants to engage in the project in the most creative way possible. However, participants are expected to question and propose solutions to problems such as: What is a skyscraper in the 21st century? What are these megastructures' historical, contextual, social, urban, and environmental responsibilities? This annual competition explores the relationship between “vertical architecture” and “society-natural/built environment,” questioning, differentiating, and improving it through utopian concepts. Although the number of participants has varied over the years, interest in the competition has continued unabated from 2006 to 2024. The number of projects participating and winning each year is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. eVolo Magazine “Skyscraper Competition” annual projects and number of winning projects

Year	Total Number of Participating Projects	Number of Winning Projects
2024	206	3 winners and 14 honorable mentions
2023	309	3 winners and 15 honorable mentions
2022	427	3 winners and 20 honorable mentions
2021	492	3 winners and 20 honorable mentions
2020	473	3 winners and 22 honorable mentions
2019	478	3 winners and 27 honorable mentions
2018	526	3 winners and 27 honorable mentions
2017	444	3 winners and 22 honorable mentions

2016	489	3 winners and 22 honorable mentions
2015	480	3 winners and 15 honorable mentions
2014	525	3 winners and 20 honorable mentions
2013	625	3 winners and 24 honorable mentions
2012	714	3 winners and 22 honorable mentions
2011	715	3 winners and 32 honorable mentions
2010	430	3 winners and 27 honorable mentions
2009	Unknown	3 winners and 23 honorable mentions
2008	Unknown	3 winners and 15 honorable mentions
2007	Unknown	3 winners and 17 honorable mentions
2006	Unknown	3 winners and 17 honorable mentions

This study aims to evaluate the impact of disasters on architectural thought and design practices within the framework of speculative architecture and to analyze how disaster representations are constructed in architectural productions in this context. To this end, projects that won awards (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place) on the eVolo Skyscraper Competition platform between 2009 and 2024 were examined using qualitative and quantitative analysis methods. The qualitative analysis categorized projects according to disaster types (floods and water inundation, climate crisis, earthquakes, fires, air pollution, and social disasters—war, migration, etc.) using thematic coding methods. In the quantitative analysis, the extent to which disaster themes were addressed in the projects was evaluated numerically based on variables such as how many projects focused on which type of disaster, the percentage of these projects in the total number of projects, countries, and competitor profiles. Thus, the extent to which disaster themes were addressed in the eVolo competitions and the types of solutions proposed for these themes were revealed, and the contribution of utopian architecture to disaster-focused visions of the future was analyzed in a multifaceted manner.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Disasters (earthquakes, floods, fires, climate crisis, etc.) not only cause physical destruction but also profoundly impact social fractures, urban organization, housing patterns, and architectural systems. Therefore, architectural strategies developed against disaster scenarios cannot be reduced to engineering solutions alone; they must also encompass cultural, sociological, and imaginative dimensions.

The power of disasters to reshape cities profoundly affects cities' resilience levels and spatial structures. Disaster types such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods transform the urban fabric differently, each requiring specific intervention and reconstruction strategies (Rachunok et al., 2019; Carpenter, 2013). Spatial planning becomes a decisive tool in this transformation process; economically disadvantaged households, in particular, remain more

vulnerable to disasters due to both their geographical location and limited access to resources (Kodag et al., 2022).

Resilience strategies implemented during the process of reshaping cities—prevention, adaptation, strengthening, and withdrawal—transform both physical infrastructure and social structures. In particular, urban growth management and environmental planning play a decisive role in reducing disaster risks such as floods (Su, 2016). However, social support networks, community services, and cultural factors also strengthen cities' post-disaster reconstruction capacity (Norris & Anbarasu, 2017).

In the post-disaster reconstruction of cities, integrating comprehensive multi-hazard resilience assessments into urban planning is critical (Ahmadi et al., 2024). Design principles such as the strategic placement of critical facilities and the protection of natural systems increase urban resilience and shape the future of cities in the face of disasters (Beatley, 2011).

Including disaster events in architecture and speculative design is becoming increasingly common, reflecting a shift in contemporary culture from speculative thinking to apocalyptic scenarios (McMorrough, 2009). Architects and designers are exploring ways to create spaces and objects that can respond to various potential disasters, from nuclear catastrophes to climate change (Smith & Qaurooni, 2020). This approach involves rethinking the future of architecture to encompass new dimensions of society and culture, and includes reducing disaster risks and developing recovery strategies (Charlesworth & Fien, 2022). Speculative design is used as a tool to imagine possible futures and open discussions about desired outcomes (Dunne & Raby, 2013). However, adopting these approaches has also raised concerns such as the restructuring of academic fields and potential threats to intellectual freedom (Owen, 2011). Despite all these challenges, integrating spatial design with disaster management is vital for creating resilient communities and environments (Murao, 2008).

With the advancement of technology, technical developments are frequently utilized in disaster-focused architectural designs. Evaluating technical innovation in disaster-focused architectural designs can be approached using quantitative and qualitative criteria. Building Information Modeling (BIM) can assist in evaluating the technical aspects of competition submissions (Abdelmohsen et al., 2014).

Aesthetic elements in parametric models can be included in the evaluation through scoring systems created by the community (Sardenberg, 2019). Multi-purpose criteria that combine structural analysis with aesthetics can be used in evolutionary architectural design processes (Byrne et al., 2011). For example, MCEER's 4R framework enables the measurement of resilience in evacuation center designs by evaluating elements such as robustness, redundancy, resourcefulness, and rapidity (Suhardi et al., 2023; Bruneau et al., 2003). Quantitative measurements related to disaster resilience and sustainable design can be made through seismic loss estimation and life cycle assessment methodologies (Comber & Poland, 2013). All these approaches provide a comprehensive framework that enables the thorough evaluation of technical innovations in disaster-focused architectural design.

Architecture competitions are an effective way to generate post-disaster shelter and housing solutions (Yılmaz, 2019). In this context, speculative architecture also addresses future-oriented solutions. Speculative architecture is a design approach that goes beyond traditional architecture's framework, producing physical, feasible, and functional solutions. Instead, it addresses critical, experimental, and often utopian or dystopian scenarios for the future (Dunne and Raby, 2016).

In this context, the eVolo Skyscraper Competition, organized by eVolo, plays a significant role in raising global awareness of speculative architecture examples aimed at

reconstructing cities after disasters. The competition encourages formal experimentation and innovative solutions to issues such as shelter, energy production, ecological balance, and social sustainability in the face of disasters. eVolo's motivation is to position architecture not only as an aesthetic or structural discipline, but also as a thought practice capable of proactive thinking in the face of future crises. This approach allows young designers and academics to discuss disaster scenarios through design while providing a critical platform for addressing the global climate crisis, urbanization pressures, and social inequalities.

2.1 THE ROLE OF UTOPIAN ARCHITECTURE IN DISASTER SCENARIOS

Utopia is one of the key concepts in contemporary architecture, yet it is also one of the most variable and controversial concepts. Derived from the Greek words meaning “no place” (ou-topos) and “good place” (eu-topos), the term was first used in 1516 by the English writer and statesman Thomas More to describe an imaginary island (Contandriopoulos, 2013). Nearly 500 years have passed since More's first utopia, and this concept continues as a testing ground for historians, theorists, philosophers, and architects (Contandriopoulos, 2013). Utopian thinking significantly influences the modern disaster architecture designs featured in the Evolo competition. This form of thinking, which has long been central to urban design, provides a common framework for critical evaluations and raises citizens' awareness of possible disaster scenarios (Ganjavie, 2014).

Contemporary architectural approaches draw inspiration from past utopian proposals, particularly when addressing current global crises (Şensoy & Üstün, 2018; McMorrough, 2009). Despite previous criticism, utopian concepts have been revived in 21st-century architecture and have inspired projects addressing environmental, social, and technological challenges (Picon, 2013; Contandriopoulos, 2013). This renewed interest in utopian architecture emphasizes cultural flexibility and adaptability to change (Schalk, 2014). Utopian architecture plays a critical role in disaster scenarios by offering both practical solutions and conceptual frameworks. It serves as a tool for critiquing society and proposing spatial arrangements to address crises (Ledent, 2022).

Speculative architecture challenges traditional design by implementing scenario-based applications integrating advanced digital tools and ecological perspectives. Zaharin and Pérez Gutiérrez (2025) propose the Strategic Speculative Futures Framework, which combines systems thinking with strategic foresight, while Marji et al. (2024) and Moralioğlu and Gül (2024) demonstrate how Virtual and Augmented Reality empower designers to create immersive cityscapes and adaptable spatial experiences. Young (2013) and Němcová Zedníčková (2022) use fictional cities and space architecture to show how design can build a sensitive bridge between emerging technologies and sustainability. In this way, utopian architecture redefines its practice by creating dynamic, interdisciplinary scenarios that question and expand the boundaries of traditional, human-centered design.

3 METHODOLOGY

This study used qualitative and quantitative research methods to analyze projects that won first, second, and third place in the eVolo Skyscraper Competition between 2009 and 2024. The qualitative analysis evaluated the projects using thematic coding and classified them according to prominent disaster types (e.g., floods and waterlogging, climate crisis, earthquakes, fires, air pollution, and social disasters). In the quantitative analysis, the representation levels of these disaster themes in the projects were evaluated numerically based on variables such as the number of projects focusing on each disaster type, their ratios within the total, country distributions, and participant profiles. Thus, the extent to which

disaster themes were addressed in the eVolo competitions and how architectural solutions to these themes took shape were revealed, and the contribution of utopian architecture to disaster-focused future scenarios was analyzed with a holistic approach. The study's primary dataset consists of 47 award-winning projects from the eVolo Skyscraper Competition, held worldwide between 2009 and 2024. The projects included in the scope of the research were identified by reviewing the results of the eVolo competition between 2009 and 2024. All projects that received awards (first, second, and third place) between 2009 and 2024 were scanned and classified according to the categories of climate crisis, floods and waterlogging, earthquakes, air pollution, fires, and social disasters.

The study examined project descriptions, visuals, and proposed solutions using qualitative content analysis; thematic coding was performed based on these contents. The coding framework was structured as follows:

Table 2. Thematic coding framework (created by the authors)

Category	**Sub-codes**
Type of Disaster	Climate Crisis, Floods, Earthquakes, Air Pollution, etc.
Level of Material Usage	Wood, glass, concrete, steel, recycled plastic, composite material, biomaterial, textile membrane, carbon fiber, aluminum, brick, and soil
Award Level	1st, 2nd, 3rd
Countires	USA, Malaysia, Indonesia, France, United Kingdom, China, Taiwan, Canada, Poland, India, Russia, Italy, Spain, Hong Kong, Chile, Serbia, Israel, Ukraine, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Egypt
Design Strategies	Fire Resistant Materials, Seismic Isolation, Filtration, Flood Management, Temporary Housing, Food Resilience, Vertical Density, etc.

Coding Process: The researcher conducted the coding process, creating thematic content codes manually. Project descriptions and visuals were analyzed simultaneously (Table 2).

Sample Project Selection Criteria: The following criteria were used in the selection of projects:

- Having received an award in a competition
- Having accessible and sufficient explanatory and visual content
- Making at least one direct reference to a disaster theme
- Representing geographical diversity and different design approaches

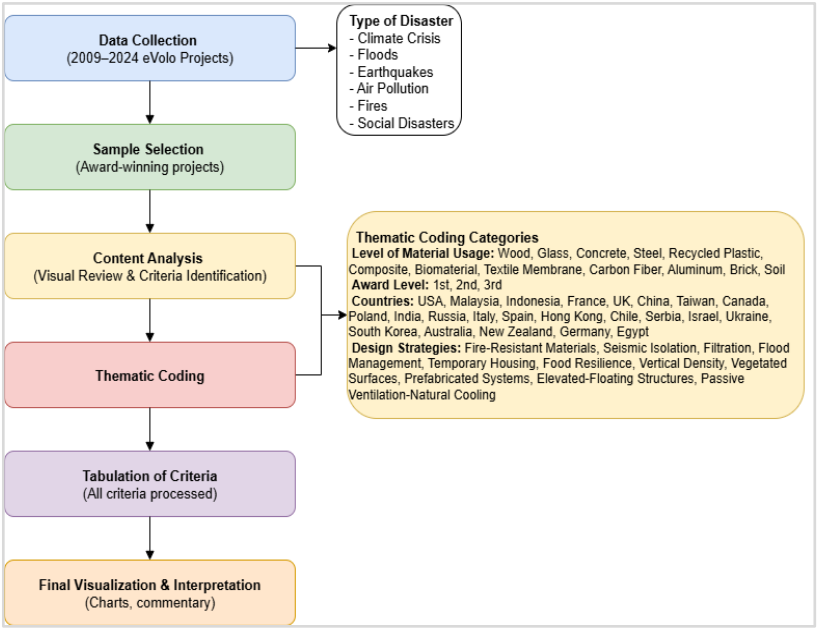

Figure 1. Flowchart of the study (created by authors)

The flowchart illustrates the methodological framework of the study. (Figure 1). The process begins with the data collection of eVolo award-winning projects (2009–2024), followed by sample selection. Subsequently, content analysis is performed through visual review and criteria identification. The projects are then subjected to thematic coding, structured under five categories: disaster type, material usage, award level, countries, and design strategies. The coded data are organized in tabulation, and finally, the results are synthesized through visualization and interpretation using charts and commentary.

4 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings from the content analysis of 47 architectural projects that received awards or were published between 2009 and 2024 in the e-Volo competition are detailed. First, thematic distributions and temporal trends according to disaster types were evaluated; then, the relationships between the projects and countries, award categories, and structural strategies were presented through visual graphics. Material preferences and design strategies that stood out within each disaster type were analyzed, and architectural design decisions were discussed. These findings are important for understanding disaster-sensitive architecture trends and laying the groundwork for future applications and research.

Within the scope of the study, each project's proposed solutions for specific disaster types were analyzed graphically (Figure 2). The analysis revealed that the climate crisis/global warming theme was addressed in 40 out of 47 projects. Social disasters followed with 33 projects addressing the climate crisis theme. Urban inequality, displacement, and cultural conflicts were the projects' most frequently focused social disaster topics. The air pollution theme appeared in 27 projects and was generally evaluated through solutions to reduce carbon emissions using air filtration systems. Floods and flash floods appeared in 17 projects. Rainwater management and resilient water infrastructure stood out in these projects. The themes of earthquakes and fires were only included in three projects each. In this sense, earthquakes and fires are the least frequently mentioned types of disasters in the projects. One of the main reasons for this is that the technical characteristics of disasters such as

earthquakes and fires can be integrated into the competition's conceptual and utopian design language to a more limited extent. Disasters such as earthquakes and fires have taken a backseat because they are more sudden and regional disasters than environmental sustainability, climate crisis, and social disasters.

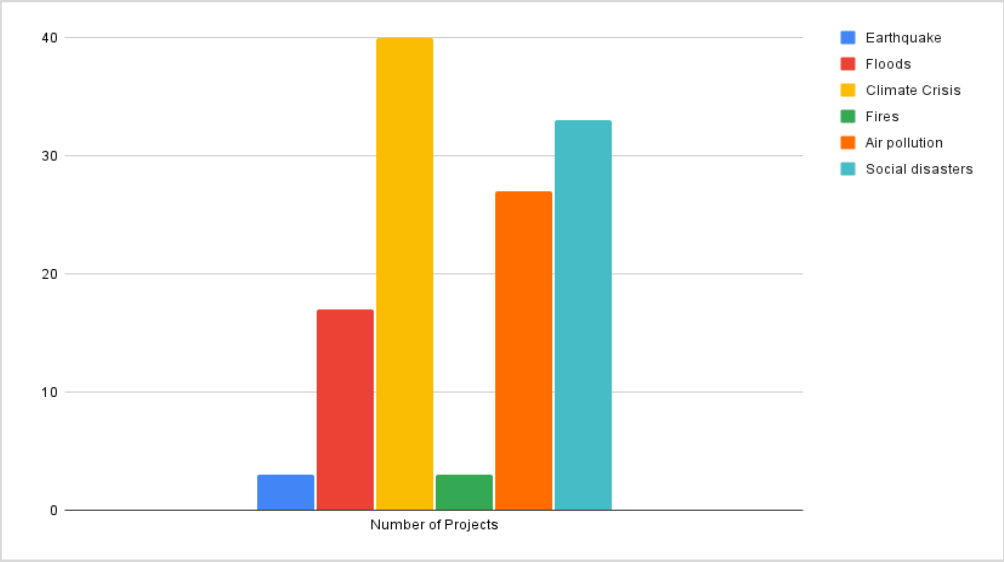

Figure 2. Distribution of Disaster Types Addressed in Projects (created by authors)

When analyzing the types of disasters in projects by year (Figure 3), it is seen that the climate crisis has been consistently addressed over the years. In particular, the climate crisis theme appears in all winning projects in 2012, 2013, 2015-2018, and 2021-2024. The break in 2019 and 2020 can be attributed to the impact of the pandemic. The theme of social disasters has been rising since 2016 and has remained important. The theme of floods and flash floods showed a marked increase in 2010, 2013, 2019, 2021, and 2023. Air pollution was also strongly represented in 2013, 2016, and 2024 projects. On the other hand, the themes of earthquakes and fires have been evaluated in certain years and included in a small number of projects. As a result of the distribution of disaster types by year, it has been determined that the most represented disaster type in the projects is the climate crisis. The search for climate adaptation and sustainability in architecture has increased during this process. Social disasters have also increased over time and have been represented in projects focusing on urban inequality, migration, and cultural conflict. The themes of floods and air pollution have gained intensity in specific periods. Earthquakes and fires, on the other hand, Earthquakes and fires have been represented in a few projects, indicating that thematic priorities are shaped according to global trends.

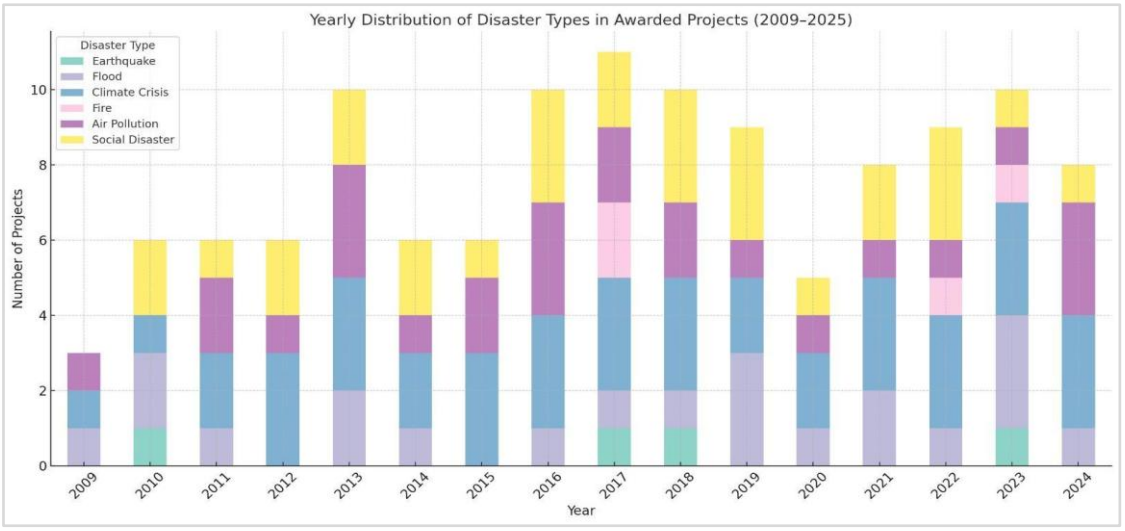

Figure 3. Trend of disaster types addressed in projects (2009-2025) (created by authors)

When disaster types in projects are evaluated by country (Figure 4), the United States and China surpass other countries in terms of total project numbers. In particular, both countries have implemented large-scale projects addressing climate crisis, social disasters, floods and waterlogging, and air pollution. Unlike China, the theme of earthquakes has also been addressed in projects in the US. Poland, France, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and Chile follow the US and China. Poland stands out by covering all themes in its projects. In France, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom, disaster types other than fire and earthquake have been included in the projects. Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, New Zealand, Russia, Serbia, North Korea, and Spain are countries that exhibit balanced profiles in terms of disaster diversity. Each has developed architectural solutions for at least three different types of disasters. This distribution reveals that the geographical location, environmental characteristics, and social structure of countries are reflected in the selection of disaster themes in the projects. It is also important because it shows that disaster themes are not limited to natural events but are addressed with multidimensional issues such as social transformations and environmental problems.

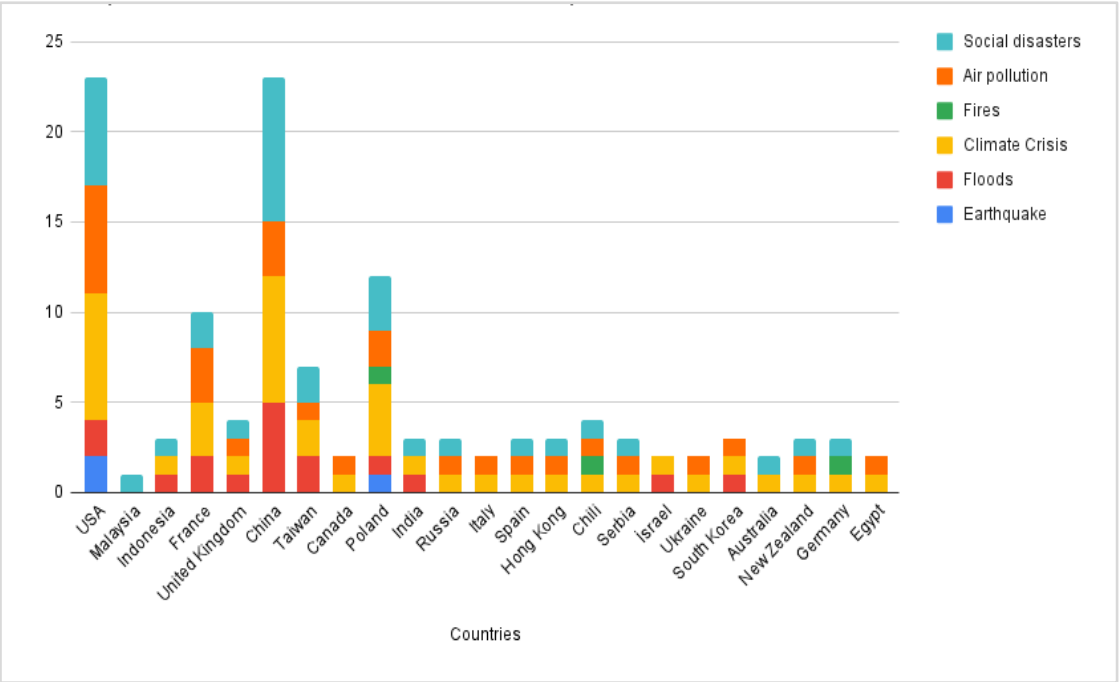

Figure 4. Disaster types addressed by country (created by authors)

When disaster types are evaluated according to award categories in the competitions (Figure 5), the most awarded themes among the 39 projects that received first-place awards are climate crisis (13), social disasters (10), air pollution (9), floods/water inundation (4), earthquakes (2), and fires (1). Among the 44 projects that won second prize, the most awarded themes were climate crisis (14), social disasters (12), air pollution (9), floods/water inundation (9), fire (2), and earthquake (1). Similar results are noted among the 40 projects that received third-place awards. Climate crisis (12), social disasters (11), air pollution (9), floods/water inundation (4), fires (2), and earthquakes (1) are the disaster categories that received awards in the third-place category, respectively. This distribution shows that the most frequently addressed disaster types in all three award categories are concentrated on the themes of climate crisis, social disasters, and air pollution. On the other hand, themes such as fire and earthquake were addressed in a limited number of projects.

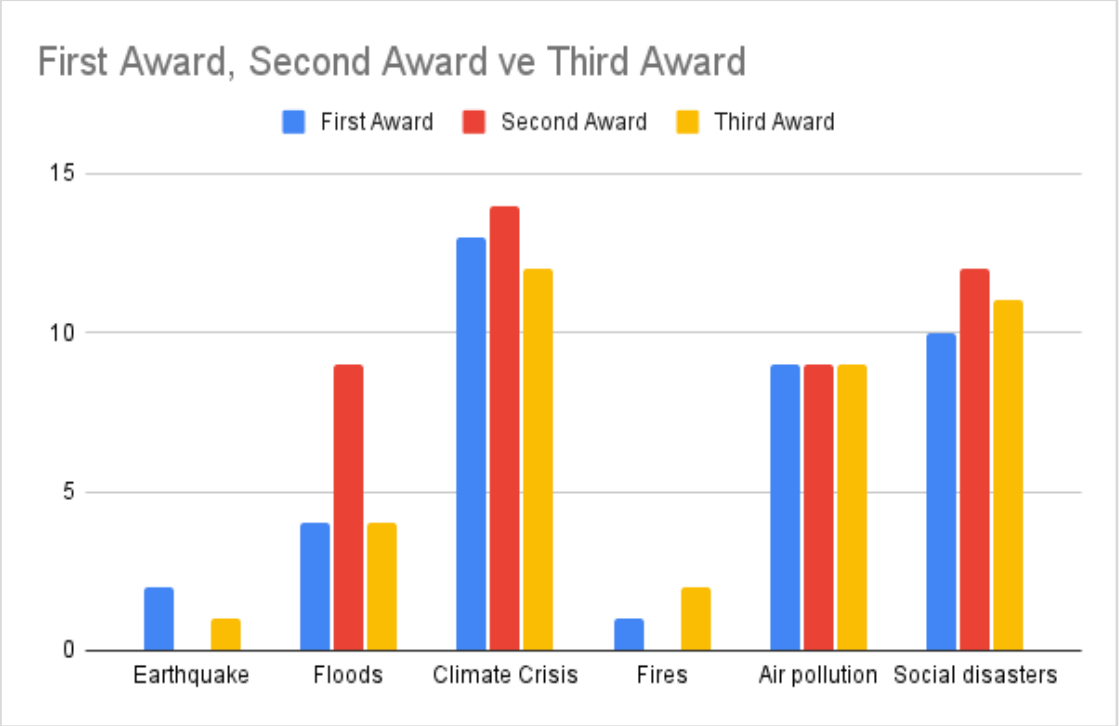

Figure 5. Disaster types by award category (created by authors)

The heat map below (Figure 6) visualizes the distribution of projects that won awards in the eVolo competition between 2009 and 2024, by country and year. The map shows the density of awards over the years in a comparative manner by country. The US has submitted projects regularly yearly and stands out with 10 awards over the past 16 years. It peaked in 2009, 2014, and 2016 and maintained its presence until 2020. China follows the US with nine awards. China has significantly increased its visibility in the competition, especially after 2020. This increase reflects China's rising influence in the competition and its strategic presence in the design world. Poland is also one of the influential countries in the competition, with five awards. It has maintained its consistency by winning yearly awards between 2017 and 2019. France (3), the United Kingdom (2), and Taiwan (2) have been influential in the competition at certain times. Countries like Egypt, Germany, South Korea, and New Zealand have won awards in recent years. This has contributed to the geographical diversity of the competition in recent times. Some countries (Russia, India, Italy, Indonesia, etc.) have occasionally participated in the competition with effective projects but have not shown consistent participation. The data reveals that the eVolo competitions show geographical diversity; however, countries such as the US and China stand out significantly in terms of representation. In particular, China's increasing dominance in the competition in recent years represents an Asia-centered rise in architectural production on a global scale.

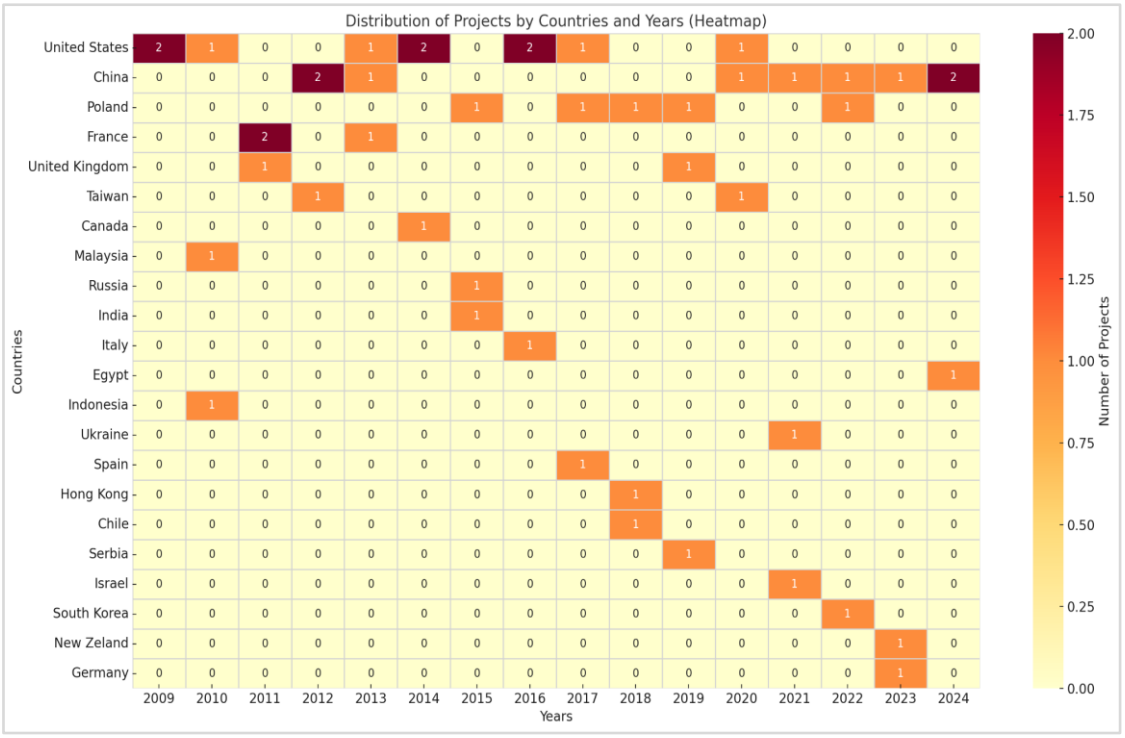

Figure 6. Awards by country and year (created by authors)

When examining the variety of materials used in projects by disaster type (Figure 7), the following materials were used in projects themed around the climate crisis and global warming: wood, glass, concrete, steel, recycled plastic, composite materials, biomaterials, textile membranes, carbon fiber, aluminum, brick, and earth materials. The highest material diversity belongs to projects themed around the climate crisis and global warming. This situation shows that multifaceted design criteria such as sustainability and energy efficiency are directly reflected in material diversity. Projects themed around social disasters come second. In these projects, where nine different materials are used, lightweight and economical structural elements aimed at social functionality have been preferred. Projects themed around floods and flood disasters rank third. Eight different materials were used in these projects, including water-resistant and quick-to-assemble materials such as concrete, steel, and polymers. While air pollution projects show a more limited variety with six materials, biomaterials generally compatible with the urban fabric and have air-filtering properties were preferred. The four materials used in fire-themed projects were selected in accordance with fire safety criteria. Earthquake projects have the lowest diversity, using only three materials (steel, concrete, lightweight panel systems). This situation stems from the limiting effect of structural safety and durability requirements on the design. As a result, differences in material usage demonstrate that the structural and environmental requirements imposed by the type of disaster are directly reflected in material strategies. This also reveals how architectural design integrates with engineering and climatic contexts (Figure 7).

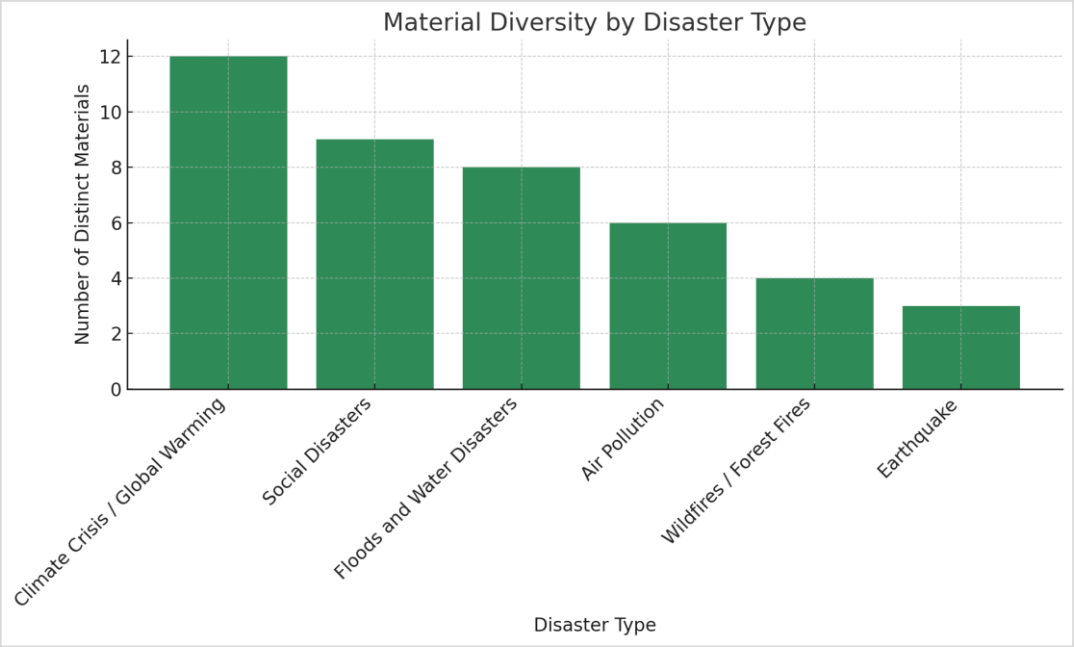

Figure 7. Material diversity by disaster type (created by authors)

When analyzing the architectural strategies used in projects according to disaster types in Evolo competitions, it was observed that various context-based design decisions were adopted (Figure 8). Among these strategies, passive ventilation and natural cooling methods (13 projects), developed specifically in response to climate crisis and air pollution themes, were the most common project applications. Elevated or floating structure applications (8 projects), on the other hand, offer adaptable solutions, especially preferred in areas with high flood risk. Modular and prefabricated construction solutions (6 projects) are geared towards rapid post-disaster construction and flexible shelter demand. Green roofs and vegetated surface applications (5 projects) improve the urban microclimate by regulating urban heat and air filtration. Furthermore, mobile/temporary housing, urban agriculture initiatives, and vertically dense compact urbanization approaches demonstrate an increased interest in resilience through flexibility and local resource integration. A smaller number of projects also address themes such as air pollution filtration, floodwater storage infrastructure, fire-resistant materials, and structural strategies for earthquake resilience. This reflects contemporary disaster-focused architectural design's efforts to respond to various risks.

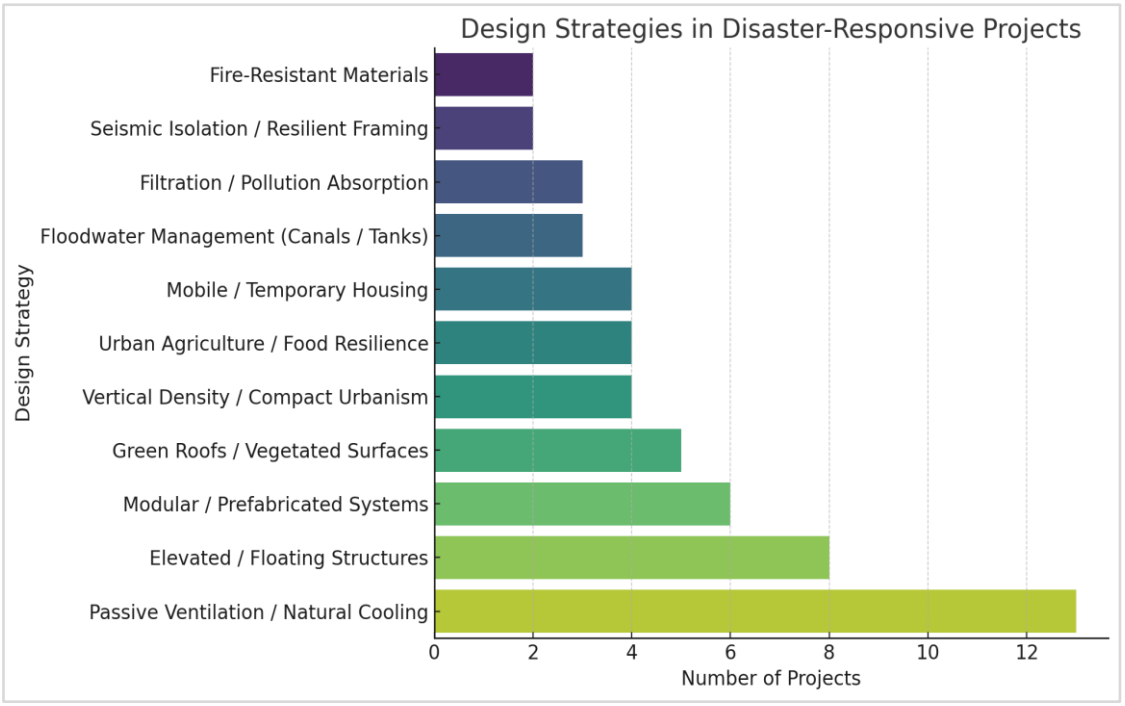

Figure 8. Design strategies in disaster-responsive projects (created by authors)

The Sankey diagram shown in Figure 9 summarizes the graphs presented above and comprehensively represents the data. It also visualizes both the thematic focus (by disaster type) and the award success of the disaster-themed architectural projects carried out by countries. The first notable feature in the graph is that the US has made the highest contribution with 23 projects. It is followed by China (23), Poland (12), and France (10). Smaller countries such as Italy, Ukraine, and Egypt are represented with two projects each. In terms of disaster types, the most frequently addressed topics are, in order: Climate Crisis/Global Warming (40 projects), Social Disasters (33 projects), Air Pollution (27 projects), Floods (17 projects), Earthquakes (3 projects), and Fires (3 projects). This distribution shows that global environmental issues (climate change, pollution, and social inequalities) are prominent in architectural production. Looking at the distribution of awards, the 2nd Prize (44 projects) has the highest share. This was followed by the 1st Prize (39 projects) and the 3rd Prize (39 projects). The leading themes regarding award wins were projects themed around the climate crisis and social disasters. In contrast, risks such as earthquakes and fires were relatively underrepresented, and their award successes were limited. As a result, this graph shows countries' disaster-focused architectural production in a more balanced and clear manner, revealing that climate and social crises play a central role in both project production and award success.

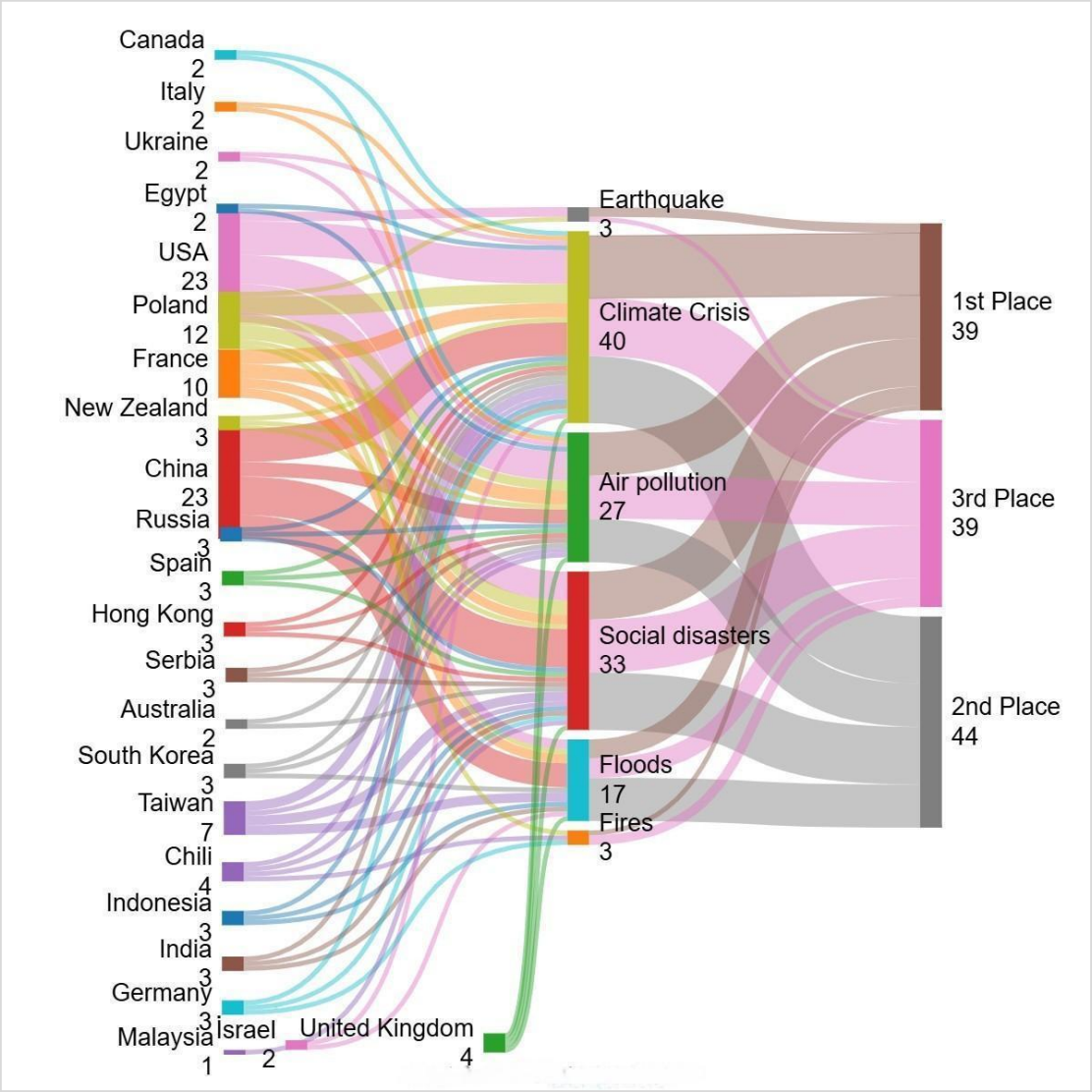

Figure 9. Sankey diagram showing countries' disaster type and award status (created by authors)

5 CONCLUSION

This study evaluates the Evolo competition, which pioneered utopian architectural design approaches. Since 2006, the Evolo competition has hosted numerous participants from different countries for approximately 20 years. It functions as an effective competition in sharing architectural ideas and productions on a global scale, highlighting cultural differences, and developing collaborations. The competition projects were subjected to a qualitative and quantitative analysis in the study based on the types of disasters for which they developed solutions. According to the research findings, the types of disasters most frequently addressed in the projects are, in order, climate crisis/global warming, social disasters, air pollution, floods and water inundations, earthquakes, and fires. Earthquakes and fires were the least addressed types of disasters in the projects. The utopian design language of the competition is more closely aligned with disasters such as the climate crisis and social issues. The distribution of disaster types by year in the competition shows that the climate crisis has consistently dominated project themes over the years. Social themes have become visible in the competition since 2016. Floods and waterlogging have been strongly

represented in projects since 2010, while air pollution has been strongly represented since 2013. During this process, it has been observed that climate and sustainability themes have gained importance in architecture. The projects' most dominant and influential countries are the USA and China. These two countries, which have won the most, have produced comprehensive projects on disaster types such as the climate crisis, social disasters, floods, and water inundations. Countries such as Poland, France, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom are also influential in the competition. The locations, environmental characteristics, and social structures of countries have determined the dominant types of disasters in the projects. When evaluated in terms of the competition award categories, the themes of climate crisis, social disasters, and air pollution are the most prominent. When examining projects in terms of material diversity, it was found that projects themed around the climate crisis and global warming exhibited the highest material diversity, and that multifaceted design themes such as sustainability were also reflected in material diversity. Differences in material usage demonstrated that the structural and environmental requirements necessitated by the type of disaster were reflected in material strategies. When analyzing the architectural strategies in the projects, it was determined that passive ventilation, natural cooling methods, floating structure applications, green roofs, mobile/temporary shelter, urban agriculture initiatives, and vertical construction applications were concentrated. This result is important for projects that offer architectural strategies for various risks.

In conclusion, this study contributes to the architectural discipline by revealing the disaster-focused strategies of the Evolo competition, which has been at the forefront of developing architectural utopia and has been actively implemented for 20 years. In this context, examining the disaster-focused architectural strategies of the Evolo competition not only reveals current approaches and provides a theoretical and practical foundation that will guide young architects. In particular, researching the applicability of design criteria developed for disaster scenarios in different geographies will shed light on future studies. At the same time, the most important contribution of this study to the literature is that it systematically reveals how disaster scenarios are transformed into architectural visions through the utopian language of eVolo competitions. In this respect, the study shows that speculative architecture is an aesthetic debate and a conceptual preparation tool against disasters. Increasing interdisciplinary collaboration in the competition and developing joint projects with fields such as engineering, urban planning, and sociology will produce more comprehensive and applicable architectural solutions against disasters. Future studies, focusing on comparative analyses of long-term initiatives such as the Evolo competition on a global scale, can help architectural utopias find their place not only at a theoretical level but also in practice. However, since the scope of the research is limited to award-winning projects, non-award-winning projects or competitions could also be included in future studies. Furthermore, integrating interdisciplinary perspectives (engineering, urban planning, sociology) will contribute to the development of more applicable strategies for disasters. In conclusion, this study emphasizes the importance of disaster-focused utopian approaches in architecture, theoretically and design-wise, and points the way for future research.

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