

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS

UIA 2030 AWARD (Third cycle)

The International Union of Architects (UIA) is committed to supporting delivery of the 17 UN Sustainable Goals (SDGs), including SDG11, 'To make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'¹. Organised by the UIA Sustainable Development Goals Commission in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlement Programme, UN-Habitat, the UIA 2030 Award was established in 2021 as a biennial programme to encourage engagement with the Decade of Action² and to recognise and promote the work of architects which contributes to delivery of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development together with the New Urban Agenda³.

Recognising the time-limited nature of the Global Goals, the UIA 2030 Award comprises five award cycles synchronised with the World Urban Forum, the biennial global event organised by UN-Habitat. The results of each cycle will be widely disseminated, exhibited, published on social media and made available on the UIA website and on the New Urban Agenda (NUA) Platform. See [here](#) for details of the Regional Finalists and Winners of the first award cycle, announced at WUF11 in Katowice, Poland, in 2022 and [here](#) for details of the Regional Finalists and Winners of the second award cycle, announced at WUF12 in Cairo, Egypt, in 2024. The overall results of the Award and the awarded projects will be reviewed in 2030 to reflect on their longer-term impact and its contribution to the SDGs. The possibility of a concluding 'best verified SDGs impact 2030' will be considered.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Awards in the third cycle will be made for built projects which demonstrate design quality and have made significant contributions towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in each of the following categories:

Sustainable Development Goal 6, Clean Water and Sanitation

- 1. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all:** This category will recognise projects which can demonstrate having contributed significantly to the improvement of water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, reducing the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse, consistent with the principles underpinning Target 6.3 of SGD 6.

Sustainable Development Goal 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth

- 2. Protect Labour Rights and Promote Safe Working Environments** This category will recognise a project which can demonstrate having significantly protected labour rights and promoted safe and secure working

¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11>

² <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/>

³ <https://unhabitat.org/the-new-urban-agenda-illustrated>

environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants and those in precarious employment, consistent with the principles underpinning Target 8.8. of SDG 8.

Sustainable Development Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities

- 3. Adequate, safe and affordable housing:** This category will recognise a project which has significantly contributed to the provision of accessible, adequate, safe and affordable housing, urban regeneration and/or slum upgrading consistent with the principles underpinning Target 11.1 of SDG11.
- 4. Participatory, land-use efficient and inclusive planning:** This category will recognise a project which has contributed significantly to the provision of participatory, integrated, land-use efficient and inclusive human settlement planning, consistent with the principles underpinning Target 11.3 of SDG11
- 5. Access to green and public space:** This category will recognise a project which has significantly contributed to the provision of access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public space for all, consistent with the principles underpinning Target 11.7 of SDG11.

Sustainable Development Goal 13, Climate Action

- 6. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related disasters:** This category will recognise a project which, either through its siting, design or construction, can demonstrate having significantly strengthened resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related disasters, consistent with the principles underpinning Target 13.1 of SDG 13.

Each project may be entered in up to two categories but entrants who wish to do so need to clearly set out the merits of each submission in relation to the criteria for each category.

ELIGIBILITY

Submissions are invited from clients (with the approval of their architects) and by architects who must be the authors of the work to which the submission refers. Architects eligible to participate are, on the day of the announcement of the award and pursuant to the legal provisions of their country of residence, entitled to use the occupational title “Architect”. **Reason:** To recognise the work of architects which contributes to delivery of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development together with the New Urban Agenda.

Members of the Organiser’s team, the jury and their associates, business partners, employees, students and close relatives are not allowed to submit entries. Any person who has been involved in the preparation of the award/prize is not eligible to participate or to assist any participant.

Submissions should be for built projects that have been completed and occupied for a period of between 1-5 years prior to date of submission. **Reason:** To encourage consideration of the project in use together with its performance/impact.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Entries will be judged on the extent to which they can evidence having addressed the principles underpinning the relevant SDG targets and any appropriate aspects of the New Urban Agenda. All entries will also be judged on the extent to which they meet the following criteria:

- **Building performance/impact:** The performance and/or impact of the building in use in relation to the relevant award category and its underlying targets. **Reason:** To demonstrate progress towards delivery of the Global Goals.
- **Design quality:** Submissions should reflect design quality in terms of amenity, durability and resilience having regard to the method of construction, materiality, energy efficiency and intended lifespan together with usability, accessibility and adaptability having regard to its intended function. Projects should enrich the lives of their users and make a positive contribution to the context in which they are situated. **Reason:** to recognise the importance of good design and its significance to delivery of the Global Goals.
- **Integrated & holistic approach:** Submissions should recognise the importance of an inclusive, integrated and holistic design approach that addresses stakeholder participation, design, construction, operation, occupancy and post-occupancy of a building over its complete life cycle in its broadest sense. **Reason:** To celebrate the power of design and design-thinking and its ability to engage with and provide responses to complex social, economic, and environmental challenges that contribute to delivery of the Global Goals.

STAGES

The award will be run in two stages. Stage 1 submissions will be assessed on a regional basis, reflecting each of the five UIA Regions, namely:

- Region I, Western Europe
- Region II, Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East
- Region III, The Americas
- Region IV, Asia and Oceania
- Region V, Africa

The Jury will select at least one and up to three Regional Finalists in each Award Category to go forward to Stage 2. The location of the project will determine the region in which it is to be assessed.

JURY

- **Peter Oborn** (UK)UIA 2030 Award Co-Chair – Jury Chair and UIA Representative
- **Natalie Mossin** (Denmark), Head, Institute at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts – UIA Representative at HPF - Habitat Professional Forum
- **Tina Saaby** (Denmark), Director, Danish Town Planning Institute
- **Nadia Habash**, (Palestine), Director, Habash Consulting Engineers
- **Anna Rubbo** (USA), Adjunct Senior Scholar, Centre for Sustainable Urban Development, The Earth Institute, New York
- **Rob Adams** (Australia), Director Adams Urban
- **Nadia Tromp** (South Africa), Founder, Ntsika Architects, Johannesburg

Alternate Juror

- **Ishtiaque Zahir Titas (Bangladesh), UIA 2030 Award Co-Chair, SDG Expert – UIA**

Technical committee member

- **Iman Gawad (Egypt), SDG Expert (Observer, non-voting) – Technical committee member**

The jury may call upon independent technical advice if required. At the discretion of the jury, up to three regional finalists in each category will be announced on completion of Stage 1.

AWARDS

A medal will be presented to the winners in each of the Categories 1-6 on completion of Stage 2 (i.e. one winner per Category), together with Commendations for the remaining regional finalists. The Jury will publish a report of its deliberations concerning the regional finalists and the winners in each category and reserves the right not to make any award if, in its opinion, no entry reaches the required standards.

AWARD CEREMONY

The UIA, together with UN Habitat, will announce the recipients of the UIA2030 Award at the World Urban Forum (WUF13) in Baku, Azerbaijan, due to take place from 18-22 May 2026.

PROMOTION

The Regional Finalists of Stage 1 will be promoted through the UIA network and exhibited online. The projects will be promoted through publication on the UIA website, social media and/or journals as well as those of UIA member bodies. Press releases publicising the Stage 2 winners will also be circulated to the international media. UIA will also explore further opportunities to promote the winning projects at international level.

TIMELINE

The timeline of the award will be as follows:

- Award launch: 29 July 2025
- Deadline for questions: 26 August 2025
- Deadline for answers: 2 September 2025
- Deadline for submission of Stage 1 entries: 29 October 2025
- Shortlisted Stage 1 entries informed: 12 December 2025
- Deadline for submission of Stage 2 entries: 6 March 2026
- Winners announced at WUF13: 18-22 May 2026

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All submissions must be made on the Award Force platform: <https://uia.awardsplatform.com/>

No submissions will be accepted via post or by e-mail. Please contact awards@uia-architectes.org if you have any questions.

The following information shall be provided with all submissions:

STAGE 1 SUBMISSIONS

Refer to accompanying appendix for submission requirements and note the drawing and photograph specification below.

STAGE 2 SUBMISSIONS

- A 3-minute video of the project in use and in its context which explains its function and the ways in which it responds to the relevant SDG's/Targets and meets the eligibility criteria. Further guidance will be provided for shortlisted applicants.
- Permission for use of the video and agreement to publication in connection with the UIA2030 Award.

DRAWING FORMAT

Drawings and sketches to be submitted in JPG format, 1920 x 1080 at 150dpi

PHOTOGRAPH FORMAT

- High resolution images should be min 5MB
- Low resolution files should not exceed 500kb Formats accepted EPS, TIFF and JPEG
- Naming protocol for photographs: 'project name (photo no) photographer name.jpg' e.g. Castletown(01)DavidLewis.jpg
- Video quality: Full HD (FHD) 1080p 1920 x 1080

LANGUAGE

The submission text must be in English.

PUBLICATION RIGHTS

Information, including images, plans, drawings, technical and budget information and narrative text submitted in support of the UIA 2030 Award remain the property of their authors. By submitting an entry to the UIA 2030 Award, the authors give the UIA and UN-Habitat unlimited publication rights and use of all submitted material, accompanied by the names of the authors, for the promotion of the Award, the goals of the Award and architectural research. Entrants agree to mention the UIA 2030 Award when promoting their project in the future.



In applications made on behalf of companies or institutions, the name(s) of the architect(s) must be stated. Data will be held by the UIA in perpetuity for the purposes of maintaining a record of the entries and for the UIA archive. This information will not be shared with any third party without the express and prior consent of the author, their clients or agents acting on their behalf. In the case of videos submitted for Stage 2 Submissions, the videos will remain the exclusive property of the author. The UIA, shall be allowed to their unrestricted reproduction, publication and use, with due credit to the winning designer(s).

CONTACT US

For all questions concerning these Awards and/or the Award Force platform, please contact awards@uia-architectes.org with the subject line 'UIA 2030 Award'.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

All submissions must be made on the UIA submissions platform at <https://uia.awardsplatform.com/>. No submissions will be accepted via post or by e-mail. The award is free to enter.