



## UIA GOLDEN CUBES AWARDS - Q&A

### I. NATIONAL NOMINATION PROCESS

For the 6th edition of the UIA Golden Cubes Awards, the following 19 countries will organize a **National Nomination Process**: **Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Turkey.** **Brazil will not** organize a national nomination process for this edition.

Participants from **non-UIA member countries**, or from countries that **do not organize a National Nomination Process**, may participate through the **Nomination Process of a neighboring UIA Member Section**. In such cases, applicants are required to inform the UIA Architecture & Children Work Programme Co-Directors and the UIA Secretariat of their intention to participate by contacting [awards@uia-architectes.org](mailto:awards@uia-architectes.org). Upon notification, applicants will be directed to the appropriate **proxy country** organizing the Award.

In this context, based on the requests for participation received to date, the following proxy nominations have been established:

- Entries from **Austria** have been redirected to **Germany**
- Entries from **Saudi Arabia** have been redirected to **Egypt**
- Entries from **Serbia** have been redirected to **Romania**.

In addition, the following regional arrangements apply:

- **Peru** will receive entries from **South America**
- **Costa Rica** will receive entries from **Central America and the Caribbean**
- **Mexico** will receive entries from **North America**

**Entries submitted through a proxy or regional nomination will be evaluated separately from the national entries of the host country.** This ensures fairness and clarity in the evaluation process while maintaining the integrity of each national nomination procedure.

These measures are intended to facilitate inclusive participation in the Awards while preserving the national nomination framework established by the UIA.

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## II. QUESTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

*1. We couldn't find any information regarding the time period during which the educational projects must have taken place. Should the projects have occurred (or been completed) between 2023 and 2026? Or should they be from last year only?*

According to the UIA Golden Cubes Awards Regulations (6th Cycle), there is no requirement for projects to be limited to the previous year only. Educational projects are eligible if they were carried out, produced, active, or completed within the current award cycle, which runs from **March 2023 until the submission deadline in March 16th 2026**. Projects that are ongoing during this period are also eligible, provided that their activities fall within this timeframe.

*2. Can we send as an entry the book that is being published beginning of 2026?*

As stated before, submissions must relate to projects or products that have been produced and made available within the current award cycle, which runs from March 2023 to the submission deadline in March 2026. A book may therefore be submitted as an entry provided that it is officially published and publicly available before the submission deadline on **March 16 th 2026**. Projects or publications that are still in preparation or scheduled for publication after the deadline are not eligible for submission in this cycle.

*3. I am a member of the UIA Work Programme Architecture & Children and for the last two years, I've been working as a professional consultant for an Education Department of a large local authority. During this time, the department has developed a variety of BEE programs in schools, public spaces, and other initiatives. I would appreciate your clarification on whether, despite my involvement, the local authority — as well as individual schools — may still be able to apply for the GCA, either independently or as part of the local authority's application.*

According to the UIA Golden Cubes Awards Regulations, eligibility is determined by the **nature of the project and the submitting entity**, and not by the professional affiliations of individuals involved in its development.

Your role as a member of the UIA Work Programme *Architecture & Children*, and as a professional consultant to a local authority, **does not prevent** the local authority or individual schools from submitting an application to the Golden Cubes Awards, provided that:

- The applicant is the **institution or organization responsible for the project** (e.g. the local authority or the school); and
- All contributors and collaborators, including your role as consultant, are **clearly and transparently acknowledged** in the submission.

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In accordance with UIA governance and ethical principles, members of the UIA Architecture & Children Work Programme **do not participate in the evaluation process** for projects in which they have been professionally involved, thereby avoiding any conflict of interest.

*4. We understand that the digital submission is intended for the international stage only. Are the national winners the ones expected to upload their materials to the platform? We noticed that the submission link already appears on the UIA website — this might cause confusion. Perhaps it would be better to activate the link later, and only for those selected at the national level, so it isn't publicly visible for now.*

The **digital submission platform is intended exclusively for the international stage** of the Awards. **Applicants should not submit directly to the international platform without prior selection through their national procedure. Only the the National Nominations Coordinators can upload the selected projects on the UIA platform.**

The appearance of the submission link on the UIA website is intended for **information and preparation purposes only** and does not indicate that the platform is open to public submissions at this stage.

*5. Some cities have expressed interest in submitting urban projects for the Golden Cubes Awards — for example, an initiative where a municipality leads a process with children in several schools. Could you please confirm whether a municipality could apply under the "Institution" category?*

The **Institution Award** category is open to public or private institutions, authorities, and organizations that develop and implement educational initiatives related to the built environment for children and young people.

A municipality or local authority may therefore apply under the Institution category, provided that it is the entity responsible for initiating, coordinating, or delivering the project. This includes urban or educational initiatives led by a municipality in collaboration with children, schools, and other partners.

Where a project involves multiple schools or stakeholders, the municipality may submit the application on behalf of the overall initiative, with all participating schools and contributors clearly acknowledged in the submission.

*6. Which category do projects involving kindergartens (5-year-old children) belong to? I assume that they belong to the 'School Award' category, but I am not sure.*

The **School Award** category is intended for educational projects carried out within formal educational settings, including early childhood, primary, and secondary education.

Projects involving kindergartens and children aged around 5 years therefore fall within the

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School Award category, provided that the project is developed and implemented as part of an educational or pedagogical framework within the kindergarten or school environment.

If a kindergarten-based project is led or coordinated by another entity (such as a municipality, cultural institution, or non-school organization), the appropriate category may alternatively be the Institution Award, depending on which body is the principal applicant and project leader.

*7. Is the Special Prize awarded exclusively by the Jury in the second round of the competition? Am I correct in understanding that the national stage Jury – as in previous years – selects only four nominations? Please let me know.*

The **Special Prize** is awarded exclusively by the **International Jury** during the **second (international) stage** of the competition. At the **national stage**, the **national nomination body** is responsible for selecting **up to four nominated projects** (one per category) to be submitted to the international stage, in accordance with the established procedure from previous award cycles. The national nomination body does **not** award the Special Prize.

Your understanding is therefore correct: the **national stage results in four nominations only**, while the **Special Prize is decided solely at the international level by the International Jury**.

### Official Notice

Some applicants have misunderstood the **request for participation**, assuming that it requires sending links to their projects directly to the UIA.

Please note that **projects should not be sent to the UIA by email or through informal links**. Applicants who contacted the UIA in this manner have been redirected to the appropriate **national nomination bodies**.

Projects will be **evaluated exclusively through the official Awards submission process**, using the **designated Awards template** and in accordance with the procedures established by the national nomination bodies. Submissions made outside this process cannot be considered.

*arch. Mina Sava (Romania)*  
*The Golden Cubes Awards manager*  
*Co director Architecture& Children Work Programme*

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