International Union of Architects

Friendly and Inclusive Spaces Awards 2026

Questions & Answers

12 January 2026

FRIENDLY AND INCLUSIVE

SPACES AWARD
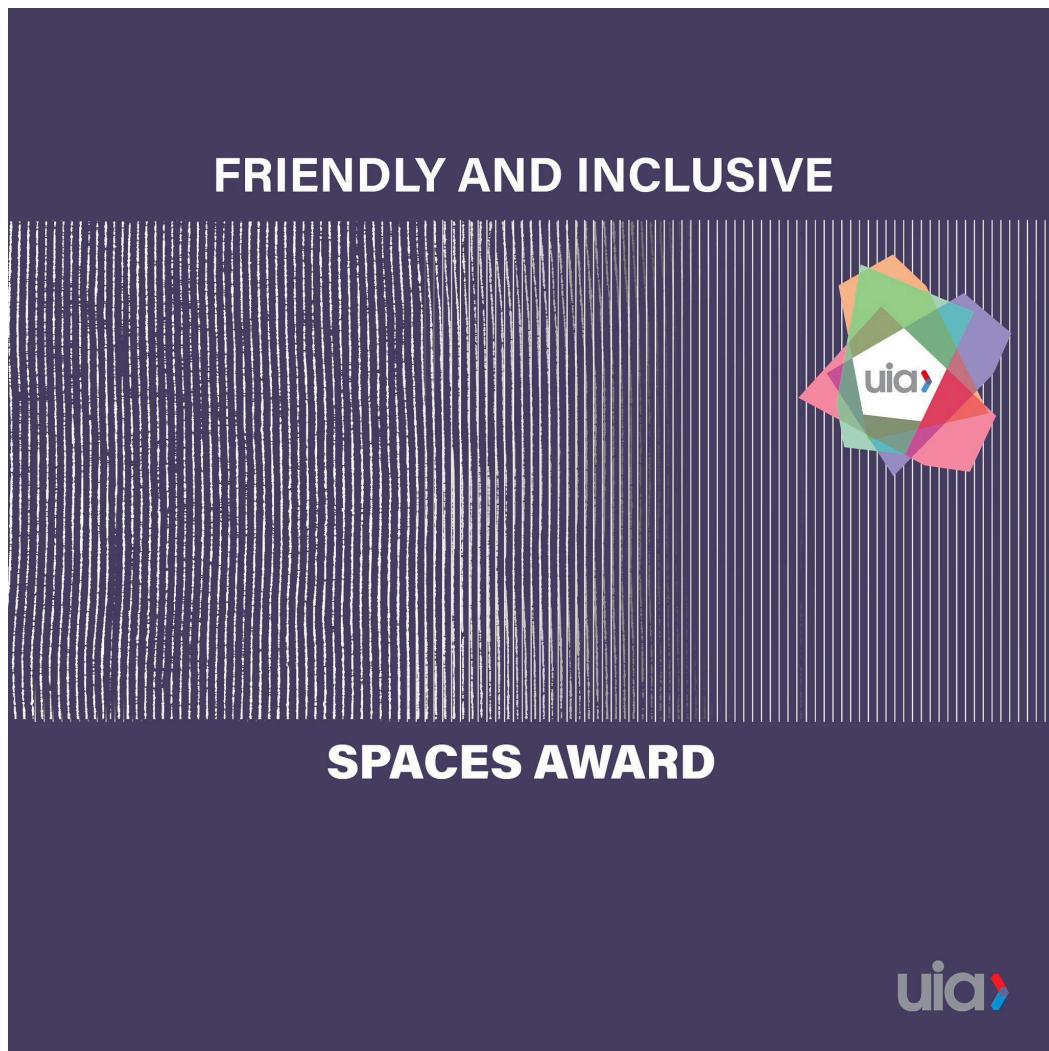
The **submission templates for the Friendly and Inclusive Awards 2026** have now been uploaded and are **available on the official awards website**.

The project description in the templates is intended to be in English. On the other hand, the translated description is a space to use for a translation when the panels are exhibited at other venues internationally in the years 2026 to 2029. The QR code in the templates will be used at a later time and will link to the Awards force site when the panels are exhibited in Barcelona and in the traveling exhibition.

You can also access the templates for each category directly here:

- **Submission Template – Category 01:** New Building

- **Submission Template – Category 02:** Existing and Historic Building

- **Submission Template – Category 03:** Public and Open Spaces

- **Submission Template – Category 04:** Research

Questions & A

1. What does "completed since 30 November 2020" mean for built works and research projects?

For built works (Categories 1–3) and research projects (Category 4), the work must have been completed on or after 30 November 2020.

This means that eligible projects are those realized, concluded, or completed from 30 November 2020 onward, as stated under Eligibility in the Awards Regulations.

2. How should entries be submitted to the UIA Awards Platform? Can participants submit independently or only through a Member Section?

All entries must be submitted directly by participants through the UIA Awards Platform: https://uia.awardsplatform.com/

It is not required to submit through a Member Section. Individual architects, research teams, or authorized representatives may submit their entries independently.

3. Are non-licensed professionals eligible to participate in Category 4: Research on Universal Design?

Non-licensed professionals may participate in Category 4, as long as the research is led or co-authored by a person who has a degree in architecture that could lead them to be a registered practicing architect.

4. Are collaborations between designers, researchers, communities, and architects allowed in Category 4?

Collaboration between designers, researchers, communities, and architects is welcomed and encouraged.

5. Are conceptual or research-based projects without constructed buildings accepted in Category 4?

Conceptual and research-based projects are accepted, and they do not require a constructed building.

This aligns with the purpose of Category 4, which recognizes research that "advances the theory and practice of friendly and inclusive design" and "contributes to improved quality of life through a better understanding of human-centered design".

6. What are the documentation requirements for Category 4 submissions?

Documentation requirements include:

- An Access & Inclusion Statement (max. 1,000 words)
- Client/User comments (up to 100 words each)
- Dissemination impact
- A link to the research document (no template required)

7. Must submitted research be a published academic paper, or are other formats acceptable?

The research does not need to be a published academic paper. It must simply be completed after 30 November 2020.

Acceptable formats include (but are not limited to):

- Research reports
- Academic theses or chapters
- Professional research documents
- Independent or applied research studies
- Design-based research documents
- Conference presentations

8. Can submitted research include additional or updated material beyond previously published work?

Yes, you may include expanded or updated material beyond what has been previously published.

9. Can research developed from prior work be submitted if it represents an extended or further developed version?

Research developed from prior work is allowed as long as the submitted version represents further development or new contributions.

10. Are there any template or format requirements for Category 4 submissions, such as A1 or uploaded links?

The research category is required to submit the A0 template - for exhibition purposes otherwise there is no format for the presentation of their research.