



2026 International Design for Health Award 2nd Edition



MillerKnoll

Organiser

Public Health Work Programme of International Union of Architects (UIA-PHWP)

Sponsor

MillerKnoll

Jury Members

Built Work

Chair: Architect Kevin Bingham	South Africa (Region V) UIA representative, UIA-PHWP member
Architect Dr. Yulong Liu	China (Region IV)
Architect Henning Lensch	Germany (Region I)
Dr. Ruzica Bozovic Stamenovic	Serbia & Singapore (Region II & IV)
Architect Pei Ing Tan	Malaysia (Region IV)
Alternate juror: Architect Dr. Fani Vavili-Tsinika	Greece (Region II) UIA representative, UIA-PHWP member

Research Work

Chair: Dr. Hui Cai	USA (Region III)
Architect Dr. Fani Vavili-Tsinika	Greece (Region II) UIA representative, UIA-PHWP member
Architect Dr. Xiaosai Hao	China (Region IV)
Alternate juror: Architect Stephen Ho	Hongkong (Region IV) UIA representative, UIA-PHWP member

Technical Committee

Manager:	Dr. Zhipeng Lu
Advisors:	Dr. A. Ray Pentecost Dr. Long Hao Mr. Philip Patrick Sun
Administrative assistant:	Min Pan

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1. Introduction

To respond to global health crises, the International Union of Architects (UIA) General Assembly in July 2021 declared "2022: UIA Year of Design for Health." This commitment urged all UIA Member Sections to encourage architects and their clients to use evidence-based design to promote health in buildings and cities, and promotes **"Design that protects health, design that develops Better Health, and design that restores health once it is impaired."** Sponsored by MillerKnoll, the UIA and its Public Health Work Programme (PHG) organize this 2026 International Design for Health Award. The award is established to honor and celebrate architects, together with design researchers, whose work demonstrates innovation and strong commitment to health and wellbeing.

2. The Award Organiser and Sponsor

The UIA – Public Health Work Programme is the award organizer. This award edition is sponsored by MillerKnoll, a global design collective of modern, iconic brands committed to sustainable, equitable, and beautiful design.

3. Objectives of the Awards

This awards program is established to formally recognize distinguished and innovative architectural design solutions or research that helps protect, promote, and restore human health. Eligible submissions may include:

- (1) Built works, applicable to any building typology, or
- (2) Architectural design research that contributes new knowledge to advance design for health.

4. Eligibility

All practicing architects and architecture academics across the globe are eligible. Members of the organiser's team, the jury and their associates, business partners, employees and close relatives are not allowed to submit entries. Any person who has been involved in the preparation of the award is not eligible to participate or to assist any participant.

5. Award Frequency

This is the second edition of UIA International Design for Health Award. The first one was created in 2022 in relation to the UIA Year for Design for Health. The awards will coincide with the triennial programs of the UIA, with the awards ceremony organized in relation to the UIA General Assemblies and Congresses.

6. Award Categories

Category 1: Built Work

Eligible "Built Works" include those architectural or urban design projects built between January 1, 2023 to March 2, 2026.

Each individual, team, or organization can submit up to two (2) projects.

Category 2: Research Work

Eligible "Research Work" include architectural or urban design research projects completed between January 1, 2023 to March 2, 2026.

Each individual, team, or organization can submit up to two (2) research projects.

7. Number of Awards

There will be up to three (3) awards allocated per category for the first, second, and third prizes. Awardees will be presented with certificates entitled:

International Union of Architects International Innovative Design for Health Award (2026)

in recognition and honor of their achievement. While no monetary prize will be granted, one member from each winning team will be offered complimentary registration to attend the UIA Congress.

8. Jury Composition

The following international jury will evaluate the entries:

Built Work Category:

- **Jury Chair:** Architect Kevin Bingham (UIA representative and PHWP Member)
Managing Director, FGG Architects, South Africa, Region V
- Architect Dr. Yulong Liu
Chairman, Tsinghua University Architecture Design and Research Institute, China, Region IV
- Architect Henning Lensch
CEO, RRP International Hospital Planners, Germany, Region I
- Dr. Ruzica Bozovic Stamenovic
Associate Professor, National University of Singapore, Serbia & Singapore, Region II & IV
- Architect Pei Ing Tan
Founder, PI Architect, Malaysia, Region IV

Alternate juror:

- Architect Dr. Fani Vavili-Tsinika (UIA representative and PHWP Member)
Professor Emerita, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, Region II

Research Work Category:

- **Jury Chair:** Dr. Hui Cai
Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA, Region III
- Dr. Xiaosai Hao
Professor, Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, China, Region IV
- Architect Dr. Fani Vavili-Tsinika (UIA representative and PHWP Member)
Professor Emerita, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, Region II
- Alternate juror:
Architect Stephen Ho (UIA representative and PHWP Member)
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, Region IV

9. **Awards Manager:** Dr. Zhipeng Lu (USA), Coordinator of UIA-Public Health Work Programme Secretariat, and Associate Director of the Center for Health Systems & Design at Texas A&M University, USA.

The award manager is responsible for the organization and conduct of the award. In conjunction with the UIA Secretariat assisted by the technical committee, will oversee the effective management of the awards program, facilitate the flow of information, questions and answers, and assist with the requirements of the Jury Panels. The awards manager will be the interface with the award organiser and with the UIA.

10. Timetable

A. Award launch	14 November 2025
B. Deadline for questions	31 December 2025
C. Deadline for answers	02 February 2026
D. Deadline for submission of entries	02 March 2026, 14:00 CET
E. Jury sessions	March – April 2026
F. Announcement of results	30 April 2026
G. Award ceremony and exhibitions	28 June – 02 July 2026 at UIA 2026 Barcelona Congress

11. Questions and Answers

All queries in regard to this awards program are to be directed to: awards@uia-architectes.org. Answers will be published on the award's platform according to the deadlines specified in the timetable above.

12. Official Language

The official language of the award is English. Entries and questions must be submitted in the official language.

13. Submission Requirements and Modalities

In submitting an entry, persons or entities doing so thereby guarantee that they are the authors of the project/research. All entries must be accompanied by a signed declaration that all the information given is accurate.

Category 1: International Innovative Health Design Award – Built Work

- (1) Each entry only submit one (1) architectural or urban design for health project
- (2) Up to fifteen (15) images (plans, sections, elevations, 3D, photos). Do not combine multiple images into a single page file.
- (3) Images should be in JPG format (resolution: 1920 x 1080 at 150dpi)
- (4) Naming protocol for images: 'project name (photo no.) photographer name.jpg'.
e.g. Elevation (01) DonLeClos.jpg
- (5) A typed Design Report in PDF with up to one thousand five hundred (1500) words, outlining the project information (including location, size, and built date), concepts, approaches, research, and post-occupancy evaluation results, if any.
- (6) Language: English
- (7) Entries must be uploaded to the UIA Awards platform before 2 March 2026 – 14:00 CET.

Category 2: International Innovative Health Design Award – Design Research

- (1) Each entry only submit one (1) architectural or urban design research project

- (2) Up to ten (10) images in JPG format (1920 x 1080 at 150dpi). Do not combine multiple images into a single page file.
- (3) Naming protocol for images: 'project name (photo no.) photographer name.jpg'
e.g. Elevation (01) DonLeClos.jpg
- (4) A typed report in PDF with up to three thousand (3000) words, including sections:
 - Abstract (up to 250 words, counting toward the 3000-word limit)
 - Introduction of the architectural or urban design project that was studied
 - Research completion date
 - Introduction of the research/evaluation process
 - Details of the research/evaluation, including but not limited to, the methods, measurement instruments (e.g., meters, wearables, survey questionnaires, interview questions)
 - Data collection process, data analysis and results
 - Contributions to the knowledge of design for health
 - References (not counting toward the 3000-word limit)
- (5) Language: English
- (6) Entries must be uploaded to the UIA Awards platform before 2 March 2026 – 14:00 CET.

14. Submission

Submission is strictly via the UIA award platform <https://uia.awardsplatform.com/>.

Technical support

In case of technical issues, applicants can contact the UIA Secretariat via:
awards@uia-architectes.org

15. Preliminary Examination

The award manager and the technical committee will examine the entries in regard to their compliance with the submission rules before being formally delivered to the jury at the beginning of the evaluation procedure. The entries will be checked to ensure the following:

- submission of the entry by the deadline
- compliance with the formal requirements
- completeness of the requested deliverables and the project presentation

16. Possible Exclusions

Entries that do not respect the submission deadline will be excluded from the evaluation. The jury will deliberate and decide whether entries that do not respect formal requirements of the award or seem not to meet content requirements should be excluded. The jury shall be entitled to determine which entries may proceed with the evaluation process.

17. Evaluation Process

The jury will meet virtually through interactive video conferences, permitting interactions and exchanges of opinions among jurors. During the evaluation sessions, the jury will evaluate all entries according to the set criteria. Jurors will not have access to the entries and preselect individual entries before the jury session.

18. Evaluation Criteria

Category 1: Built Work

- Innovation: Creative and innovative approaches for design for health
- Health outcomes: Evidence and/or evaluation results to demonstrate how the design approaches promote health and wellbeing and its health impacts on the community and/or the society
- Quality of architectural design
- Functional considerations
- Environmental and sustainability considerations
- Social and cultural responsiveness

Category 2: Design Research

- Relevance to Health Outcomes: Demonstrates a clear and meaningful connection between design and the protection, development, or restoration of human health.
- Rigor of Research Methods: Employs appropriate and rigorous architectural research methods.
- Innovation and Originality: Contributes to new knowledge of design for health.
- Evidence-Based: Draws upon established theories, prior studies, or empirical data to support or advance the research.

The jury will have the right to expound the above criteria during the evaluation process.

19. Jury Decisions

Decisions are taken by majority vote with a separate vote on each entry. The chair has the casting vote in case of equal votes. The decision that no entry deserves the award requests a clear majority of 2/3. Decisions of the jury are final and binding for the organizer and the participants. They are irrevocable and unappealable.

20. Jury Report

The Jury Chairpersons will provide the Award Manager with comprehensive but succinct reports detailing the results and the names of the winners, a general evaluation of the entries, and individual critiques of the winning entries, the adherence to the process and criteria, the findings, and the motivation for choosing the award winner. The aforementioned short motivation outline can be used as reference in the preparation of the citation on the awardee's certificate. All the jurors will sign the report. The report will be made public on the organiser's website.

21. Author Rights

The author of any entry retains the copyright and the author's rights of the submitted work. The participants must guarantee being the authors of the submitted project/work and not infringing intellectual property rights of third parties.

22. Publication Rights

Participants give the right to the UIA and its working bodies to publish the submitted material (images, illustrations, photos etc.) of the entries for the purpose of promoting the award, its aims, and for research. The UIA may publish the entries on its website, in exhibitions, press releases, social media, publications, and other communications. The names of the authors will be mentioned. The award organisers should be notified in writing if any items submitted are prohibited from publication.

23. Exhibition and Award Ceremony

The winning and shortlisted projects, together with the jury report, will be published on the award website. The award ceremony will take place at the 2026 UIA World Congress of Architects in Barcelona, Spain. A physical exhibition of the award winning and shortlisted entries may be displayed at the 2026 UIA Congress. Presentation of these entries will be at the organiser's own expense.

24. Dispute Resolution

By submitting an entry, participants accept all conditions of the award and decisions of the jury in matters of evaluation. It is not possible to seek legal recourse vis-à-vis the organiser and the decisions of the jury. There will not be arbitration or mediation. Any complaint concerning the award procedure will serve as experienced feedback for future awards. Eventual complaints may be addressed to the UIA Secretariat.