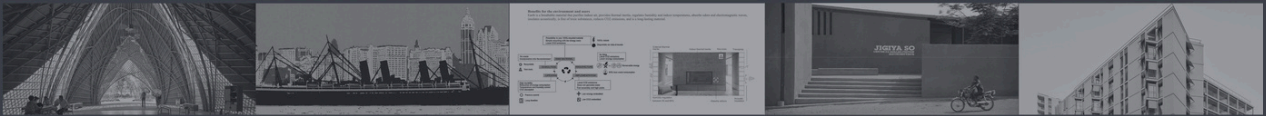


2026 UIA GOLD MEDAL



and

TRIENNIAL PRIZES



Laureates
Announced

Inaugural **Young Architects** Triennial Prize



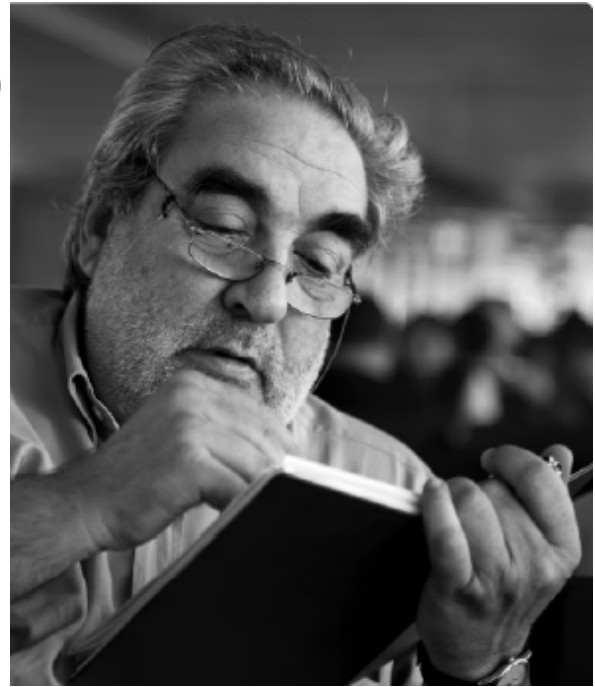
Paris, 28 April 2026

2026 UIA Gold Medal and Triennial Prizes Laureates announced

The International Union of Architects (UIA) announces the laureates of the 2026 UIA Gold Medal and Triennial Prizes, awarded every three years in recognition of outstanding contributions to architecture worldwide.

The awards will be conferred at an official ceremony, by invitation only, at the Sagrada Família in Barcelona during the 2026 UIA World Congress of Architects.

The UIA Gold Medal Eduardo Souto de Moura (Portugal)



The UIA Gold Medal is the most prestigious honour awarded to an architect by fellow architects. Established in 1984, it recognises outstanding architectural achievement by an individual or a group of architects, taking into account the full scope of work developed over an extended period.

Eduardo Souto de Moura is awarded the 2026 UIA Gold Medal in recognition of a body of work defined by intelligence, restraint, and a profound sense of responsibility toward society. For Souto de Moura, architecture has always been about defining how we live, creating spaces of beauty, clarity, and dignity.

His work elevates the human experience not through spectacle, but through rigour and precision, with each building reflecting careful thought and an uncompromising commitment to necessity and proportion. This clarity is the result of decades of disciplined reflection, deep knowledge of construction, a finely tuned and nuanced understanding of place, and an unwavering commitment to architecture as a serious cultural act.

Beyond the built work itself, his contribution to the discipline reflects generosity and intellectual integrity. The donation of his archive signals a commitment to the collective advancement of architectural knowledge and to architecture as a shared and evolving cultural practice. The 2026 UIA Gold Medal recognises not only an extraordinary career but also a lasting contribution to architectural thought and practice worldwide.

[Profile and selected works](#)

The Patrick Abercrombie Prize for
Urban Planning and Design
Paola Viganò (Italy)



Paola Viganò is recognised for her decisive contribution to contemporary urban planning and her influential theoretical work on the city. For over three decades, she has advanced a territorial understanding of urbanism in which water, soil, landscape, and infrastructure are conceived as structuring conditions of spatial transformation, repositioning ecological systems as generative frameworks for metropolitan form and territorial development.

Through both practice and research, she has translated these principles into realised projects and influential publications addressing the ecological and social transition of cities and territories. Her work demonstrates how ecological infrastructures and everyday urban life can be integrated within coherent and durable spatial frameworks, influencing generations of planners and shaping contemporary urban debate.

[Profile and selected works](#)

The Auguste Perret Prize for
Technology in Architecture
Fetdeterra (Spain)

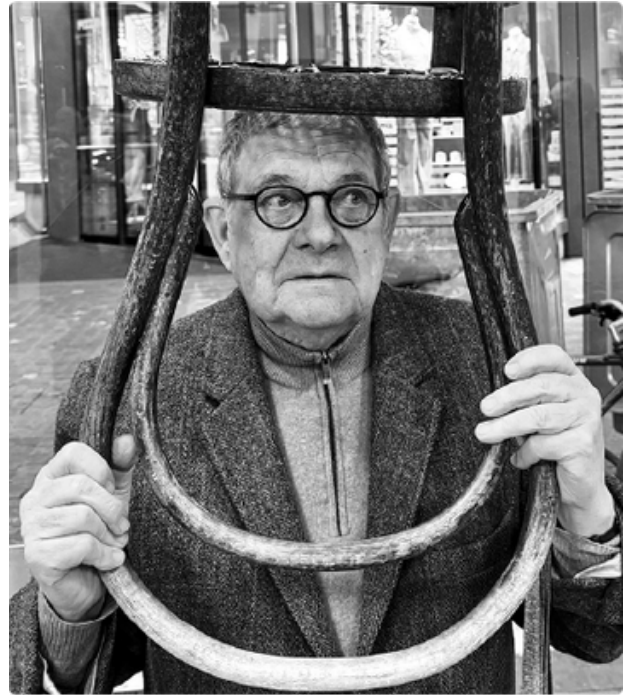


Fetdeterra is recognised for work that exemplifies the values of the Auguste Perret Prize for Technology in Architecture. Through the development of a complete modular system of low-carbon, low environmental footprint fabrication, the practice demonstrates how technological innovation can be achieved without compromising the poetics of making. Their work offers a distinctive interpretation of architectural beauty through sustainability, exemplifying a contemporary synthesis of technology and art.

By integrating technical precision with material intelligence, Fetdeterra advances an approach to construction that is environmentally responsible, culturally grounded, and architecturally meaningful. Their practice demonstrates how innovation in building systems can simultaneously reduce impact and enrich architectural expression.

[Profile and selected works](#)

The Jean Tschumi Prize for
Architectural Writing and Critique
Jacques Gubler (Switzerland)



Jacques Gubler is recognised for his distinguished contribution to architectural history and criticism, particularly in advancing the understanding of 20th-century architecture in the Swiss and European context. His work is characterised by analytical depth and a strong commitment to critical thinking, connecting intellectual, cultural, and visual dimensions of the built environment.

In a complex and rapidly changing world, his work highlights the importance of critical inquiry in addressing contemporary challenges. Through his research, writing, and commitment to architectural historiography, he has contributed to shaping architectural discourse and to communicating architectural knowledge to a broader audience.

[Profile and selected works](#)

The Robert Matthew Prize for Sustainable
and Humane Environments
Song Yehao (China)



Song Yehao is recognised for an architecture that is diverse and inclusive, grounded in context and traditional wisdom, and defined by a seamless fusion of science and art, sustainability and poetic creativity. This poetic dimension elevates his work beyond conventional technical limits, reflecting a spirit of continuous experimentation and the pursuit of new methods.

In his projects, sustainable architecture is a foundational principle, yet never rigid or dry; instead, it unlocks new layers of meaning and beauty. His work demonstrates how environmental responsibility can generate architectural expression while remaining deeply connected to context and culture.

[Profile and selected works](#)

The Vassilis Sgoutas Prize for Implemented
Architecture Serving the Impoverished
Caravatti Caravatti Architetti
(Italy)



Caravatti Caravatti Architetti is recognised for conceiving architecture as a vehicle for social responsibility, collective growth, and emancipation. Their practice understands architecture as an inherently political and cultural act, developed through participatory processes that engage communities and mediate between rights, needs, and resources in contexts of inequality and exclusion.

Working across disadvantaged contexts in West Africa and southern European cities, they demonstrate an ability to bridge tradition and innovation, building upon local knowledge, material practices, and climatic intelligence. Through participatory design and incremental construction, their work transforms architecture into a collective civic act, fostering long-term social, environmental, and cultural sustainability.

[Profile and selected works](#)

The UIA Young Architects Prize for Architectural Excellence and Innovation in the Design Process

Cierto Estudio (Spain)

Marta Benedicto, Ivet Gasol, Carlota de Gispert, Anna Llonch, Lucia Millet and Clara Vidal
– Architects



Cierto Estudio is recognised as the recipient of the inaugural UIA Young Architects Prize for its contribution to contemporary architectural practice. The Young Architects Triennial Prize reflects the UIA's engagement with the new generation of architects and their practices. The practice stands out for its commitment to architecture as a tool to improve living conditions for the majority, with a particular focus on housing. Across both public and private commissions, its work reflects a consistent approach to design that seeks to improve living conditions while maintaining a careful balance between architectural quality and broader societal impact.

Operating as a collective, Cierto Estudio embodies a model of shared authorship, reinforcing its commitment to inclusive processes and to a form of practice grounded in common values. The coherence of its work demonstrates sensitivity to context, social responsibility, and a clear position in relation to contemporary challenges, while promoting values of professionalism, independence, and integrity that resonate with the core principles upheld by the UIA.

The jury reviewed nominations submitted by UIA Member Sections, including: Adrien Comte and Adrien Meuwly (Switzerland); AFLOAT Studio (Hong Kong); ARTA Architects (Hong Kong); Asher Marcus (South Africa); Campomarzio (Italy); Emanuele Scaramellini Architetto (Italy); Estudio DIIR (Spain); Hábitat Humano (Costa Rica); K59 Atelier (Vietnam); Islander Architects (Ireland); Peniche Arroyo and Lavallo Alonzo (Mexico); Simon Durand (Switzerland); Stephen Parker (USA); Tan Kwon Chong (Malaysia); Timothy Allen and Ronan Crippa (Switzerland); and Yanesh Beeharry (Mauritius). The UIA commends all nominees for their contribution to the profession.

[Profile and selected works](#)

About the Congress

Barcelona will host the 2026 UIA World Congress of Architects (UIA2026BCN) from 28 June to 2 July 2026. Held every three years by the International Union of Architects, the Congress returns to the city thirty years after the Barcelona 1996 Congress.

On this occasion, Barcelona has been designated 2026 UNESCO–UIA World Capital of Architecture, a title jointly awarded by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA) to the city hosting the UIA World Congress of Architects.

Organised by the Higher Council of the Orders of Architects of Spain (CSCAE) and the Architects' Association of Catalonia (COAC), the Congress will bring together more than 10,000 professionals, students, and institutions from over 130 countries and will serve as a key global platform for professional and cultural exchange.

More information about the Congress

<https://uia2026bcn.org/press/>

About the UIA

The International Union of Architects (UIA) is an international non-governmental organisation based in Paris. Established in 1948, it is the only organisation representing architects across the globe working to unify architects, influence public policies on construction and development, and advance architecture in service to the needs of society.

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[Press kit and images](#)

