

# GLOBAL AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE™

2026

ARCHITECTURE  
IS TRANSFORMATION

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PRESS KIT  
Istanbul, April 15, 2026

## GLOBAL AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE™

Founded in 2006 by architect and researcher **Jana Revedin**, the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ annually recognizes five architects, urban planners or landscape architects whose work embodies a responsible, innovative and committed approach to sustainability. The award highlights initiatives that contribute concretely to the transformation of built environments in response to major contemporary social, environmental, and cultural challenges.

Placed under the patronage of UNESCO since 2011 and supported by the International Union of Architects (UIA) since 2024, this award has gradually established itself as a global benchmark. More than just an award, the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ is now a space for reflection and action, bringing together an international community of actors committed to ethics, sustainability and architectural innovation.

## Theme of the 2026 edition: “Architecture Is Transformation”

For its 19<sup>th</sup> edition, the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ will focus on the theme “Architecture Is Transformation.” This theme highlights architecture as a driver of profound change in construction processes, resource management, uses and, more broadly, societies.

The distinguished approaches embody adaptive and innovative strategies, positioning design, construction, and urbanism as catalysts for sustainable transformation—grounded in local contexts, vernacular knowledge, material resources, and community life. This edition is organized with **Saint-Gobain**, the Award’s Official Partner for the third consecutive year, confirming a shared commitment to sustainable and responsible architecture.

“The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture was founded 19 years ago to champion a more responsible and humane way of building the world.

In 2026, with Architecture Is Transformation, I affirm architecture’s capability to act upon territories and social dynamics as a true lever for change. The five laureates, from China, Vietnam, Mexico, France, and Germany, embody this sustainable transformation. We will celebrate this vision in Istanbul, a city where history meets innovation.



**JANA REVEDIN**  
Architect and Founding President  
of the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™

## Istanbul, host city of the International Symposium

April 15, 2026

The 2026 winners will be announced at an international Symposium held at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University in Istanbul, an iconic venue for pioneering thinking on urban ecology.

At the crossroads of Europe and the East, Istanbul's long history embodies a unique symbiosis between heritage and innovation, tradition and modernity. This exceptional setting truly reflects the award's ambition: to make sustainable architecture a bridge between cultures, technologies and communities.

## 2026 International Jury

For this 19<sup>th</sup> edition, the Jury, chaired by Prof. Dr. Jana Revedin, founder of the award, is composed of:

- **Marie-Hélène Contal**,  
Architect, Dean of the École Spéciale d'Architecture, Paris, France
- **Dr. Jacopo Galli**,  
Architect, Luav University of Venice, Italy
- **Prof. Dr. Spela Hudnik**,  
Architect, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- **Prof. Dr. Deniz Incedayi**,  
Architect, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul, Turkey
- **Marta Maccaglia**,  
Architect, Lima, Peru, Winner of the 2018 Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™
- **Boonserm Premthada**,  
Architect, Bangkok, Thailand, Winner of the 2018 Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™
- **Prof. Dr. Ashraf M. Salama**,  
Architect, Newcastle, United Kingdom, Co-Director of the UNESCO-UIA Education Council
- **Prof. Nuno Soares**,  
Architect, Macao, China, Co-Director of the UNESCO-UIA Validation Council

## 2026 Winners

For the 2026 edition, the Jury commends the commitment, consistency of approach and political and social impact of the winning projects. The work of the five selected architects and international teams powerfully illustrates architecture's potential as a vector for sustainable transformation. Their projects demonstrate how architecture can simultaneously influence territories, resources, uses and social dynamics.

- **Ye Man - Founder of ZSYZ**, China
- **Doan Thanh Ha - Co-founder of H&P Architects**, Vietnam
- **Loreta Castro Reguera & José Pablo Ambrosi - Founders of Taller Capital**, Mexico
- **Amelia Tavella - Founder of Amelia Tavella Architects**, France
- **Andreas Kipar - Co-founder of LAND**, Germany / Italy

To learn more, refer to “Architecture Is Transformation”, a book published by ArchiTangle and co-written by Marie-Hélène Contal and Jana Revedin.



**YE MAN**  
Architect | ZSYZ | China

© ZSYZ Studio

## Purify, purify, always purify

The Jury sees Ye Man's approach as a contemporary reinterpretation of Eugenia Errázuriz's modernist principle: *"Purify, purify, always purify: elegance means elimination."*

Her architecture seeks to simplify, refine and reduce environmental impact by reconnecting with Chinese construction wisdom: *"We choose wood as a building material based on the traditional symbiotic relationship between humans and trees."*

Ye Man advocates prefabricated wooden architecture that is biodegradable, reversible and based on traditional mortise and tenon joints, combined with cutting-edge technologies. Her projects are the result of patient work on experimental prototypes, always attentive to the spirit of the place, local customs and the principles of the circular economy.

For the Jury, her work perfectly embodies the values of **Adaptability, Regeneration and Empowerment**, showing how *"doing more with less"* can become a conscious act of constructive and ecological resistance.



**1 QIAN TONG HOUSE, NINGHAI**  
Zhejiang, China  
The wooden structure draws inspiration from traditional craftsmanship, while opening up to the outside with generous glass surfaces.

**2 NAYA VILLAGE, CHENGMAI**  
Hainan, China  
Three illuminated canopies create new public thresholds. Under their polycarbonate roofs, they reinterpret traditional Hainan agricultural shelters.

**3 NAYA VILLAGE, CHENGMAI**  
Hainan, China  
Interior of a reception pavilion, combining a dismantlable wooden structure and lightweight polycarbonate panels.

**4 TONGDE HALL, LONGJI VILLAGE**  
Hainan, China  
On Hainan Island, the restored Tongde and Jiangxing ancestral halls blend into the community, their ruins interacting with the irregularities of the stone esplanade.

**5 TONGDE HALL, LONGJI VILLAGE**  
Hainan, China  
Century-old banyan trees are showcased in the center of patios that open up to the sky.



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**DOAN THANH HA**  
Architect | H&P Architects | Vietnam

© Nguyen Tien Thanh

## The best is always simple

Doan Thanh Ha's approach is part of a quest for the essential that echoes the principle of Heinrich Tessenow, the pioneer of reformist architecture in the 1920s: *"The simplest form is not always the best; but the best form is always simple."*

His work is based on a philosophy that he sums up with the acronym **CAN: Culture – Architecture – Nature**. For him, these three dimensions are inseparable: *"All must nourish and develop the human spirit, to create a form of spiritual sustainability."*

He advocates for an architecture **with and by the inhabitants**, rooted in the Vietnamese context, respectful of local identities and attentive to cultural balances. His practice reconciles modernity, customs, climate and the promotion of intangible heritage.

His projects exemplify the Jury's criteria of **Innovation, Transdisciplinarity, Adaptability and Regeneration**, driven by a deeply humanistic vision and by a resolutely *"right-tech"* approach.



1

© Nguyen Tien Thanh

**1 S SPACE, DONG VAN TOWN**  
Ha Nam Province, Vietnam  
*The Center combines sculptural stone and light bamboo to create an open space with a café and cultural areas, where a floating roof overlooks ancient stone walls.*

**2 NGÔI SPACE**  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
*Sculpted like the bow of a ship, NGÔI SPACE creates a communal living space in an urban neighborhood lacking public spaces.*

**3 NGÔI SPACE**  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
*The exterior tile cladding reinvents this traditional unit to create a cohesive whole.*

**4 BRICK CAVE**  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
*The enlarged, habitable bioclimatic buffer zone connects the house to the village while optimizing ventilation and natural light.*

**5 BRICK CAVE, THUY LAM COMMUNE**  
Dong Anh District, Hanoi, Vietnam  
*Brick Cave's perforated clay brick walls incorporate light and ventilation while bringing bioclimatic design and spatial experimentation to the standardized urban fabric.*



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**LORETA CASTRO REGUERA  
& JOSÉ PABLO AMBROSI**  
Architects | Taller Capital | Mexico

## For an urban ecology

For Taller Capital, the city must reconnect with water in a harmonious way. The Jury was particularly impressed by their methodical and scientific approach to use architecture and design as tools to “fix the broken city”, already heralded as “urban ecology” at the Bauhaus.

Their work is rooted in a paradoxical reality: in Mexico, cities are confronted with both water shortages and flooding. This tension becomes a creative force: “Our goal is to restore water’s presence in the city—not as a simple decorative element, but as a landscape and urban structure capable of transforming everyday uses.”

Their vision of urban planning, informed by sustainable water management infrastructure, contributes to building a **water culture** and rethinking the relationship between residents and resources.

According to the Jury, their body of work powerfully illustrates the values of **Adaptability and Regeneration**, showing a profound understanding of each site’s visible and invisible resources.

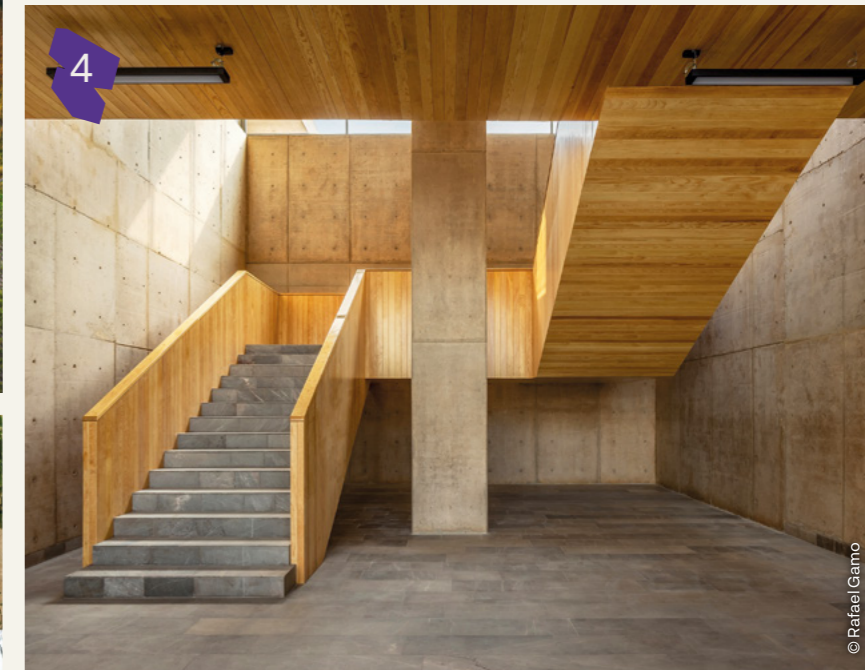
**1 BICENTENNIAL PARK IN ECATEPEC**  
State of Mexico, Mexico  
Terraced steps preserve trees, accommodate new plantings and use local tezontle to infiltrate rain runoff.

**2 HISTORIC CENTER OF SAN LUCAS XOLOX**  
Tecamac, State of Mexico, Mexico  
The revitalization of the historic center has created a stepping down square, paved with local stone, enhancing existing monuments, reducing runoff velocity and promoting an inclusive public space for shared mobility.

**3 POOLING XOLOX**  
San Lucas Xolox, Mexico  
Pooling Xolox contains the flood while providing a rainwater reservoir for the surrounding agricultural fields.

**4 IGUALA CITY HALL**  
Guerrero, Mexico  
Access to the administrative offices, located opposite the auditorium, is via a marble and wood staircase leading to the upper courtyard.

**5 IGUALA CITY HALL**  
Guerrero, Mexico  
City Hall and the civic square define a new block, framed by a large-scale, open portico that provides shade and protection from direct sunlight.





**AMELIA TAVELLA**  
Architect | Amelia Tavella Architects  
France

© Jelena Barraud

## An emotional, sensual and organic architecture

For the Jury, Amelia Tavella powerfully embodies the reconciliation between space and time (heritage and sustainability), as well as the beauty of transformative architecture, as previously stated by architect Sigfried Giedion. As she puts it: *“My island, Corsica, taught me about light, colors and slopes. It reminds me that no creation is meaningful without ethics, that history is the foundation of the present.”*

Viewing buildings as living beings whose envelope is their skin, she weaves a sensory connection between materials, traces and the layers of time. She advances a vision of architecture as emotional, sensual, and organic, working in close dialogue with multidisciplinary practitioners—artists, historians, anthropologists, sociologists, filmmakers, writers, and poets — around what she conceptualizes as ‘the skins of the already there.’

The Jury praises her profoundly attentive approach, deeply grounded in reality, fully meeting the criteria of **Innovation, Transdisciplinarity, and Adaptability**. Her reversible and respectful way of building “lays the foundations on which future visions can be built.”

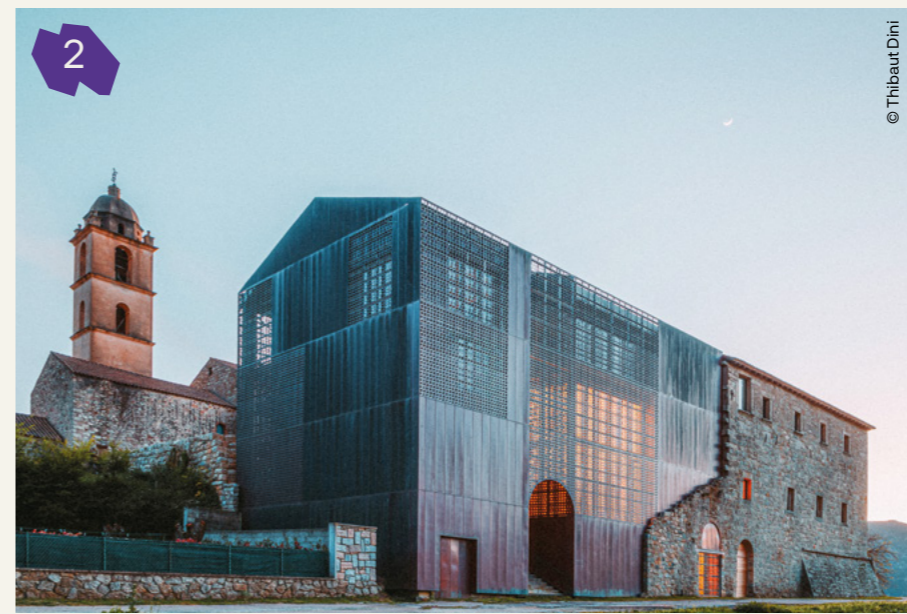
**1 AUGUSTE BENOÎT SCHOOL, CABRIÈS**  
Provence, France  
*Built on the school's historic site from the 1960s, the new building blends into the landscape and features a multi-purpose hall which, together with the alleyway, creates a small village square.*

**2 CONVENT OF SAINT FRANCIS, SAINTE-LUCIE DE TALLANO**  
Corsica, France  
*Founded in 1492, the Convent of Saint Francis combines historical remains with modern extensions, unified by a copper envelope that restores its original silhouette.*

**3 CONVENT OF SAINT FRANCIS, SAINTE-LUCIE DE TALLANO**  
Corsica, France  
*The new copper envelope, supported by a steel structure, fits into the old walls with a discreet sealing system between stone and metal.*

**4 CHÂTEAU DE NALYS**  
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France  
*Interior view of the large double-height cathedral vat room. A circular walkway allows visitors to continue their discovery of the winemaking process.*

**5 CHÂTEAU DE NALYS**  
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France  
*The historic Nalys estate, known for its wine production, opens onto reception areas from the Cour d'Honneur and a central axis leading to the cellars, which are open to the public.*





**ANDREAS KIPAR**  
Landscape Architect and Urban Planner  
LAND | Germany / Italy

© Ralph Richter

## The Analogous City, a reservoir of collective memory

The work of Andreas Kipar and his architecture studio LAND (acronym for “Landscape Architecture Nature Development”), based in Milan, is in line with Aldo Rossi’s concept of the analogous city, which links architecture, psychology and collective memory.

For decades, Andreas Kipar has been transforming industrial wastelands, polluted soils and abandoned territories into new social, ecological and cultural oases. For him, revitalizing landscapes is a fundamental step in responding to the climate crisis: “Rehabilitating landscapes is essential for reducing emissions, enhancing biodiversity and creating more resilient communities.”

The jury commends his persistent activism, the patient rigor of his approach, and his capacity to conceive ‘open works’, in which human communities and natural environments converge in a shared dynamic of dignity and belonging. His achievements compellingly fulfill all the established criteria: **Innovation, Transdisciplinarity, Adaptability, Regeneration, and catalyst for Emancipation.**



© Biodiversité conseil

### 1 BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR Montreal, Canada

Greening of Montreal’s Cavendish Boulevard in the form of flower meadows: planted areas promoting animal habitats, even under high-voltage power lines.

### 2 RUBATTINO URBAN REGENERATION PROGRAM Milan, Italy

The project transforms the former Maserati halls into a continuous post-industrial landscape, reconnecting with the natural surroundings and integrating the buildings into the park circuit.

### 3 RUBATTINO URBAN REGENERATION PROGRAM Milan, Italy

A pond has been dug beneath the Tangenziale Est viaduct, giving this massive infrastructure an unexpected sculptural quality.

### 4 KRUPP PARK FIVE HILLS Essen, Germany

Moving 400,000 cubic meters of soil, excavated from the urban boulevard, transformed the former industrial site into a micro-landscape consisting of five hills and a valley.

### 5 KRUPP PARK FIVE HILLS Essen, Germany

The artificial lake acts as a climate control mechanism and as an irrigation reservoir for a tributary of the Emscher River. The wooded area reduces heat islands and promotes biodiversity.



© Nicola Colletta



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**GLOBAL AWARD  
FOR SUSTAINABLE  
ARCHITECTURE™**

The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ was founded in 2006 by architect and researcher Jana Revedin. It promotes the principles of sustainable development and a participatory approach to architecture in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres. Its Symposium is held under the patronage of UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA). In 2026, the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ will comprise 95 winners, representing a global network that shares the ethics of sustainable architecture. This community conducts research, experimentation and knowledge transfer in the fields of architecture, urban renewal and social responsibility within the academic community.

As a testament to its pioneering role, five architects or teams who have won the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ have since received the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize:

- **Wang Shu** (Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ 2007, Pritzker Prize 2012)
- **Alejandro Aravena** (Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ 2008, Pritzker Prize 2016)
- **Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi** (Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ 2007, Pritzker Prize 2018)
- **Anne Lacaton et Jean-Philippe Vassal** (Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ 2018, Pritzker Prize 2021)
- **Diébédo Francis Kéré** (Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ 2009, Pritzker Prize 2022)

**Saint-Gobain is the Official Partner of the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™.**

[www.globalawardforsustainablearchitecture.com](http://www.globalawardforsustainablearchitecture.com)



**Official Partner**

In the face of the climate emergency, the increasing scarcity of resources, population growth and urban densification, and given that the construction sector is responsible for nearly 40% of global greenhouse gas emissions and 50% of raw material consumption, Saint-Gobain is committed to working with all its stakeholders, including architects, to change the way buildings are designed, constructed, renovated and dismantled. Through its support for the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™, the Group seeks to foster the transmission and deployment of more sustainable, inclusive and innovative architectural practices. As the worldwide leader in light and sustainable construction, Saint-Gobain designs, manufactures and distributes materials and services for the residential, non-residential and infrastructure markets. Its integrated and innovative solutions provide sustainability, performance and comfort to its customers. The Group is guided by its purpose: MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER HOME.

- **€46.5 billion in sales** in 2025
- **162,000 employees,** locations in 80 countries
- Committed to achieving **net zero carbon emissions by 2050**

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**Symposium under  
the patronage of UNESCO**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) whose goal is to promote peace and security in the world through international cooperation in the fields of education, the arts, science and culture. Founded in 1945 and based in Paris, France, it has 194 Member States and 12 Associate Members, as well as partners in the non-governmental, intergovernmental and private sectors. UNESCO's main priorities for achieving sustainable development goals and improving human conditions are: to mobilize education to transform lives; to reconnect with nature; to promote science and technology for the benefit of humanity; and to promote inclusion and mutual understanding.

**The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ Symposium is held under the patronage of UNESCO.**

[www.unesco.com](http://www.unesco.com)



**Global Award for Sustainable  
Architecture™ supported  
by the UIA**

Founded on June 28, 1948, in Lausanne, Switzerland, the International Union of Architects (UIA) is a global federation of national professional organizations. Headquartered in Paris, France, the UIA brings together architects from around the world. It has grown from 27 founding countries to 118 member sections in 125 countries. The UIA has become a leading non-governmental organization and remains the only professional network that brings together architects from all continents.

**It works to unify architects, influence public policies and advance architecture in service to the needs of society.**

[www.uia-architectes.org](http://www.uia-architectes.org)



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Publishing partner

ArchiTangle is an award-winning independent publishing house based in Berlin, dedicated to knowledge transfer and socially relevant projects related to the built environment. Its program covers the entire spectrum of architecture and aims to facilitate the dissemination and preservation of architectural knowledge through publications and digital solutions. Drawing on a global network of authors and multidisciplinary expertise, ArchiTangle explores the architectural challenges of today and tomorrow from various perspectives.

[www.architangle.com](http://www.architangle.com)



**Università Iuav di Venezia**

The Università Iuav di Venezia (Iuav) is one of Europe's and the world's leading universities in the fields of architecture, design, fashion, visual arts, urban planning and land use, and theater. Founded in 1926 as one of Italy's first architecture schools, Iuav combines a renowned tradition with a commitment to ongoing innovation, putting the design process at the heart of the entire educational experience.

[www.iuav.it](http://www.iuav.it)



**Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts**

Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts was founded in 1882 in Istanbul, Turkey, by its founding director, Osman Hamdi Bey, an archaeologist, painter and art historian. Today, the university has three faculties: the Faculty of Architecture, the Faculty of Fine Arts and the Faculty of Science and Letters. It also includes the Istanbul State Conservatory, vocational schools, several institutes and research centers. Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts plays an important role in the field of architecture, art and culture in Turkey, missioned to raise awareness of cultural and natural heritage values, focusing on interdisciplinary research, innovation and critical thinking in education.

[www.msgsu.edu.tr](http://www.msgsu.edu.tr)



**École Spéciale d'Architecture**

A higher education and research association founded in 1865, recognized as a public utility since 1870 and by the State in 1934, the École Spéciale d'Architecture de Paris has been a member of the Conférence des Grandes Écoles since 2010. The oldest school of architecture in France, it offers international and interdisciplinary training in architecture and urban planning with master's specializations in the major fields of Sustainable Design: Territorialization, Reconstruction and Experimentation.

[www.esa-paris.fr](http://www.esa-paris.fr)



**Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana**

The Faculty of Architecture at the University of Ljubljana is considered one of the best architecture schools in Central Europe. Its status is attested to by numerous students and graduates who achieve enviable results in Slovenia and abroad, and by a high-quality teaching staff covering most modern aspects of architectural design.

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