

IUPA 2025

Announcement and guidelines

AWARD

The International Urban Project Award (IUPA) is presented by Bauwelt (Berlin, Germany) and World Architecture Magazine (WA, Tsinghua University Beijing, China) and supported by BAU China and Messe München.

The award recognizes new and outstanding urban and architectural projects that have transformed cities worldwide. It focuses on the interface between architecture and urban space and the impact of buildings, urban design and landscape architecture on the city; how built projects activate public space and the development of urban neighborhoods. The prize highlights architecture and urban design as social and cultural forces capable of upgrading public space, thereby enhancing civic life and ultimately celebrating urbanity.

One First Prize and three Special Prizes will be awarded. Both architecture and urban development projects can be submitted.

TOPIC 2025: ENDURANCE

Long-lasting spaces endure not only physically, but also socially, culturally, and environmentally. It means keeping structures alive instead of forgetting them or letting them fall into disrepair. This challenges the idea of permanence by embracing change. That includes designing cities that are flexible to evolving urban dynamics, reusing historical layers while responding to contemporary needs, and prioritizing sustainable practices that enable new identities. The IUPA 2025 will be awarded to excellent built architecture and urban public space projects stretching static durability and encouraging the capacity of the city to respond, withstand, and transform.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

Projects should be substantially built but need not to be fully completed. They should be less than five years old (2021-2025).

Projects must be first time entries. Only one project per office can be submitted.

Eligible to apply are architects, urban planners, and landscape architects from around the world, including individuals as well as working teams. Developers can submit projects together with architects.

There are no entry fee or other costs involved for applicants.

ENTRY

The submitted project is to be presented on an A1 portrait panel (vertical) consisting of four single A3 sheets. Participants may design the panel freely, following the submission guidelines below:

1. On the first A3, the project should be presented with a single photo together with the project title.
2. Please include all relevant information about the project in writing on the second A3. In addition to the author's details and key project data, there should be a brief explanation of the project including its relevance according to the 2025 topic. The explanatory report should be no more than 400 words in length. You may supplement your text with images or drawings.
3. Please show more project pictures on the third A3.
4. On the fourth A3, present the work in drawings, comprehensively and clearly in its entirety and in detail.

Please only submit one PDF with the four A3's collected to one A1 and include office name and project title in the filename.

The competition language is English. Legal recourse is excluded.

Please submit your entry in print quality (PDF format, max. 10 MB) by **1 July 2025** via <https://iupa.bauwelt.de/>.

JURY

The jury session will take place in Beijing in September 2025. The jury members are:

- CAO Jiaming, Vice President of the Architectural Society of China (ASC) / President of the Architectural Society of Shanghai China (ASSC)
 - ZHANG Yue, Professor Urban Planning and Design Tsinghua University, Editor-in-Chief Journal of Urban Design
 - HU Yue, National Master of Engineering Design and Geotechnique Investigation, Professor Architecture Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Chief Architect Beijing Institute of Architectural Design, Editor-in-Chief Architectural Creation
 - Nicola Borgmann, Director architektur Galerie münchen, Munich
 - Robin Winogrand, Landscape Architect, Zurich
 - Boris Schade-Bünsow, Editor-in-chief Bauwelt, Berlin
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PRIZE AND CEREMONY

The First Prize will be awarded EUR 3,000; the three Special Prizes will be awarded EUR 1,000 each. The jury is authorized to split the sum differently. The award ceremony will take place as part of the BAU Congress China Shanghai on **Wednesday 5 November 2025** at the Shanghai New International Expo Center (SNIEC).

PUBLICATION

All award-winning projects and a selection of further entries will be published in the catalogue of BAU Congress China Shanghai 2025, WA and Bauwelt, and will also be exhibited on the fairgrounds of the Shanghai New International Expo Center (SNIEC) during the BAU Congress China Shanghai 2025. Submitters guarantee that they are the creators and authors of their competition entries. Furthermore, they consent to the cost-free publication of their submissions. Submitters are solely responsible for obtaining permissions for the right of use from third parties, especially regarding photographs.

ORGANIZERS

WA World Architecture Magazine is a leading architecture journal in China located in Beijing, bilingual and published monthly, distributed worldwide and directed by Tsinghua University. Founded in 1980, WA serves as a prominent platform for Chinese architectural debate and acts as a key bridge in the field of architecture between China and the international scene. It is currently one of the largest among all the academic architectural magazines in China. For the past two decades, WA has also created and organized the highly respected architecture award program WAACA (WA Award for Chinese Architecture).

Bauwelt is a German architecture and urban design journal, published biweekly. The editorial office is located in Berlin. Each quarter the last issue is published as StadtBauwelt, going into depth with current urban planning issues. The journal reports in a politically independent, critical, demanding, and unbiased manner about contemporary architecture in Germany, Europe, and around the world. The annual Bauwelt congress and the Bauwelt award "First Works" encourage international debate about architecture, urban design and society.

QUERIES AND ADDRESS

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