

IUPA 2026

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), with the support of BAU China and Messe München.

The award recognizes outstanding recent projects in architecture and urban design that have transformed cities worldwide. It focuses on the interface between architecture and urban space, examining how buildings, urban design, landscape architecture and architectural technology shape cities, activate public space, and contribute to the development of urban neighborhoods. The prize highlights architecture and urban design as social and cultural forces that enhance public space, strengthen civic life, and celebrate urbanity.

One First Prize and three Special Prizes will be awarded. Submissions are open to both architectural and urban development projects.

TOPIC 2026: ARCHITECTURE THAT SPEAKS

Too often, the city feels anonymous, hostile, or even inaccessible. IUPA 2026 highlights projects in which architecture counters homogenisation and gives cities a voice: shaping life, creating identity, and opening places to diverse uses. By responding to local contexts, architecture and urban planning can reveal a site's latent potential. Strategies may vary: transforming industrial relics to encourage interaction, turning isolated structures into places of character, or opening up closed-off buildings to engage people. The sixth edition of IUPA seeks projects in architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design that restore personality and distinctiveness, repurpose obsolete places, and transform introverted environments into memorable ones.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

Projects should be substantially built but need not be fully completed. They should be less than five years old (2022–2026).

Projects must be first-time entries. A maximum of three projects per office may be submitted.

Eligible applicants include architects, urban planners, and landscape architects from around the world, both individuals and teams. Developers may submit projects together with architects.

There is no entry fee or any other cost for applicants.

ENTRY

The submitted project must be presented on an A1 portrait panel (vertical), composed of four A3 sheets. The layout is free, but should follow the guidelines below:

- The first A3 should present the project with a single photo and the project title.
- The second A3 should include all relevant written information, including author details, key project data, and a brief explanation of the project and its relevance to the 2026 topic (max. 400 words). Images or drawings may be added.
- The third A3 should show additional project images.
- The fourth A3 should present the project through drawings, clearly and comprehensively, both in overview and detail.

Please submit a single PDF combining the four A3 sheets into one A1 panel. Include the office name and project title in the file name.

The competition language is English. Legal recourse is excluded.

Please submit your entry as a print-quality PDF (max. 10 MB) by 1 August 2026 via <https://iupa.bauwelt.de/>



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ADVANCED BY WA BEIJING AND BAUWELT BERLIN

JURY

The jury session will take place in Beijing in September 2026. The jury consists of:

- LI Cundong, Secretary-General of the Architectural Society of China (ASC)
- CAO Jiaming, Vice President of the Architectural Society of China (ASC) / President of the Architectural Society of Shanghai China (ASSC)
- Zhang Li, Vice President of UIA (Region IV), Dean of the School of Architecture of Tsinghua University, Professor of Architecture, leader of Atelier TeamMinus, board member of the Architectural Society of China, Editor-in-chief of World Architecture Beijing
- Nicola Saladino, founding partner reMIX studio
- Boris Schade-Bünsow, Editor-in-chief Bauwelt, Berlin

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 reserves the right to allocate the prize money differently. The award ceremony will take place as part of the BAU Congress China in Beijing on **Wednesday, 28 October 2026**, at China International Exhibition Center (Shunyi), Beijing. Travel and accommodation will be covered for the four winners (one representative per prize).

PUBLICATION

All award-winning projects and shortlisted entries will be published in the BAU Congress China 2026 catalogue, as well as in WA and Bauwelt, and will be exhibited at the fairgrounds of China International Exhibition Center (Shunyi), Beijing during BAU Congress China 2026. By submitting, participants confirm that they are the creators and authors of their entries. They also grant consent to the cost-free publication of their submissions. Participants are solely responsible for obtaining all necessary permissions from third parties, particularly regarding image rights.



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ORGANIZERS

WA World Architecture Magazine is a leading architectural journal in China, based in Beijing. It is published monthly, distributed worldwide, and produced in a bilingual format under the direction of Tsinghua University. Founded in 1980, WA serves as a prominent platform for architectural debate in China and as a key bridge between Chinese and international discourse. It is currently one of the largest academic architecture magazines in the country. Over the past two decades, WA has also established and organized the highly regarded WAACA (WA Award for Chinese Architecture).

Bauwelt is a German journal for architecture and urban design, published biweekly, with its editorial office in Berlin. The journal reports on contemporary architecture in Germany, Europe, and worldwide in a politically independent, critical, and rigorous manner. Every quarter, the final issue appears as StadtBauwelt, focusing in depth on current urban planning topics. The annual Bauwelt Congress and the Bauwelt Award – First Works foster international debate on architecture, urban design, and society.

QUERIES AND ADDRESS

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