

# **World Architecture Festival 2026**

18-20 November

**Fort Lauderdale**



**Awards  
entry guide**

# WAF returns to the USA

World Architecture Festival is back in the USA for a second year. After a standout debut with record participation from U.S. practices, the festival returns to the newly refurbished Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida – a stunning waterfront venue where cutting-edge event spaces meet beautiful beaches and a vibrant city energy.

Hear from last year's winners



Tell your story by entering your projects into the WAF awards. All finalists present their work in person to an international panel of leading architects and designers, making the process open, engaging, and highly respected. Recognised globally, WAF celebrates innovation, excellence, and the ideas shaping the future of the built environment.

“It’s an incredible gift that WAF has given to me. Of course it’s very important for me, but it is also very important for the neighbourhood of the church”

World Building of the Year 2025, The Holy Redeemer Church and Community Centre of Las Chumberas by Fernando Menis



# Why enter the WAF awards?

## Enhance your reputation and attract clients

- WAF is a globally recognised platform, providing unparalleled exposure to potential clients and collaborators worldwide.
- Winning a WAF award can significantly enhance your firm's reputation, positioning you as a leader in the industry.
- Participating at WAF can help you attract top talent who are passionate about working on impactful projects.

## Learn more about how the WAF awards work in our short film:



## Showcase your work and tell your story

- WAF's distinctive live judging allows you to showcase your projects to a global audience of industry professionals.
- By entering the awards, you can position your firm as a thought leader in innovative and sustainable design.

## Celebrate and motivate your team

- Winning or even being shortlisted for a WAF award provides a tangible acknowledgment of your team's hard work, dedication, and creative vision.
- Public recognition can significantly boost team morale, fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment.

## Build valuable connections

- WAF brings together the world's leading architects and industry professionals, creating valuable networking opportunities.
- The festival can help you connect with potential clients and collaborators who share your passion for design.

“It's the only architectural awards where you get to present your projects live, and that's pretty special”

Steve Melvin, Principal, Atelier Architecture + Design





# Join the WAF community

## For All Entrants:

- Expert Review: Your entry boards will be assessed by a distinguished panel of shortlist judges.
- Global Exposure: Your project will be featured on the World Buildings Directory.
- Discounted Rates: Enjoy special rates to attend the festival in Fort Lauderdale.

## For All Finalists:

- Live Judging: Present your project live at WAF to a panel of three expert judges and receive invaluable feedback.
- Global Networking: Connect with the world's most high-profile architects, designers and influencers from around the world at the festival.
- Media Spotlight: Last year's finalists were featured in 161 publications, reaching 4.61M readers, including Architectural Digest France, Daily Telegraph, Harper's Bazaar and The Sydney Morning Herald.

- Social Media Recognition: Get featured on WAF's social channels with 233,000+ followers.
- Additional Opportunities: Compete for Special Prizes and WAFX awards at no extra cost!
- Certificate of Recognition: Celebrate your achievement with a finalist certificate and digital badge.

## For All Winners:

- Prestigious Recognition: Present your project to the world-renowned Super Jury. Past jury members include Sonali Rastogi, Emre Arolat, Sir Peter Cook, Lesley Lokko, David Chipperfield, and James Timberlake.
- Further Press Coverage: Last year's winners were showcased in ArchDaily, Time Out, Financial Times and Architecture Au.
- Media Distribution: Receive a complimentary press kit distribution through WAF's media partner, v2com.
- Take Home a Prestigious WAF Trophy: Celebrate your achievement with a WAF trophy that symbolises your success on the world stage!





**“The format is brilliant. You see the depth of a project by hearing from the architect’s own voice. It’s been completely wonderful”**

Kfir Gluzberg, Principal, Kilogram Studio



# Awards categories

## WAF Completed buildings

- Civic and Community
- Creative Re-use
- Culture
- Display
- Health
- Higher Education and Research
- Hotel and Leisure
- House and Villa (Rural & Coastal)
- House and Villa (Urban)
- Housing
- Mixed-Use
- Office
- Production, Energy and Logistics
- Retrofit
- School

- Shopping
- Sport
- Transport

## WAF Future projects

- Civic
- Commercial Mixed-Use
- Competition Entries
- Culture
- Education
- Experimental
- Health
- House
- Infrastructure
- Leisure-led Development
- Masterplanning
- Office
- Residential
- Sport
- Urban Design

## WAF Landscape

## WAF Interiors

- Bars and Restaurants
- Education
- Hotels
- Public Buildings
- Residential (single dwelling)
- Retail
- Temporary/ Meanwhile uses
- Workplace (Large)
- Workplace (Small)



Completed Buildings, Landscape and Interior projects must be completed between 1 January 2025 and 1 June 2026

“It’s a unique event, gathering so many architects and designers from around the world, exchanging ideas and looking at each others work”

Richard Francis-Jones, Design Director, fjcstudio







# World Architecture Festival 2026 Interiors

WAF Interiors is the sister awards programme of WAF and celebrates the finest examples of global interior design. Finalists go on to present live at the festival with category winners going on to compete for the prestigious title of World Interior of the Year.

With 9 dedicated categories from Bars and Restaurants to Workplace, there is a WAF Interiors category for every project. Interior projects must be completed between 1 January 2025 and 1 June 2026.



**Above** WAF  
Interiors Education  
2025 category  
winner, BS Klim  
Op Zandbergen  
by Rosan Bosch  
Studio



“ I hope  
our project  
will give  
inspiration  
for others to  
think about  
the context  
of a space ”

World Interior of the Year  
2025 winner, INNOCAD

**Left** World Interior  
of the Year 2025,  
FRACTAL CHAPEL  
at State Hospital  
Graz by INNOCAD



# World Architecture Festival 2026 Landscape

The WAF Landscape category celebrates projects that go beyond visual appeal, creating meaningful connections with their context, users and environment. Successful entries demonstrate thoughtful integration with the surrounding landscape, foster engaging user experiences and respond sensitively to ecological and cultural factors.

This category is open to any landscape project completed between 1 January 2025 and 1 June 2026, including public parks, urban plazas, riverside developments, large-scale masterplans and other types of landscape projects.



**Above** Landscape  
of the Year  
2025 highly  
commended, The  
Osona Viewpoint  
Network by  
Batlleiroig



**“ This  
award is very  
important for  
our company  
to show our  
philosophy and  
to get known  
globally ”**

**Landscape of the Year 2025  
winner, Turenscape**

**Left** Landscape  
of the Year 2025  
winner, Embracing  
Flood: Xinjiang  
River Ecological  
Corridor by  
Turenscape



# Special prizes

Increase your chances of taking home a WAF trophy with WAF's special prizes. A range of awards will be given to projects of a particular type or those using specific materials from the main shortlist. Special prize finalists will compete in live judging on the final day of the festival. Entrants do not need to pay any additional fees to be considered for these prizes and will be notified in July if they are shortlisted for any of the special prizes



EMA PETER

- **Best Use of Natural Light**  
supported by VELUX
- **Best Use of Stone**  
supported by Turkish Stones
- **The Sustainability Prize**  
supported by ROCKWOOL
- **The American Beauty Prize**  
supported by the Royal Fine Art Commission Trust
- **The GROHE Water Prize**  
supported by GROHE
- **Best Use of Colour Prize**
- **Best Use of Timber**
- **Small Project of the Year**

**Left** The Sustainability Prize winner 2025, 1265 Borregas by MGA | Michael Green Architecture, SERA Architects

**Right** Best Use of Natural Light winner 2025, Redhill Early Learning Center by Hubo Studio



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# World Architecture Festival 2026 WAFX

Launched in WAF's 10th year, WAFX celebrates international proposals that embrace cutting-edge design to address major global issues, ranging from tackling the climate emergency to building community resilience.

All WAFX winners are selected from the WAF Future Projects shortlist, with no additional cost or materials required from entrants. Winners will go on to present their projects live at WAF, with an overall WAFX winner announced at the Gala Dinner.



**Above** WAFX 2025 ethics and values winner, Canadian School by Sordo Madaleno



**“This project has been the culmination of years and years of internal study efforts and we’re very happy to share it on the WAF stage”**

WAFX 2025 overall winner,  
Regenerative Tree by  
Nikken Sekkei

**Left** WAFX 2025 overall winner, Regenerative Tree by Nikken Sekkei



# How to enter

1. Visit the 'Enter' page on [worldarchitecturefestival.com](https://worldarchitecturefestival.com)
2. Choose the category that you want to enter. You can enter a project into more than one category and there is no limit to the number of categories that you can enter.
3. Tell us the details of your project, provide a project description and upload images and plans to support your entry.
4. Upload the artwork for your two entry boards that will be used by the judges to make their shortlisting decisions and be displayed at the festival. We will print your entry boards.
5. You can save and come back to your entry at any stage, including after you have paid. All information has to be complete by the late entry deadline on the 15 May.



Scan for example  
boards and entry tips'

## Key awards dates

**13 March** Early bird entry deadline  
**24 April** Standard entry deadline  
**15 May** Late entry deadline  
**June** Shortlist judging and finalists told under embargo  
**13 July** Shortlist announced  
**17 July** Last chance for finalists to buy delegate tickets at discounted rate  
**18-19 November** World Architecture Festival begins and category judging takes place on the first two days  
**20 November** Final rounds of judging takes place and the overall winners are announced at the Gala Dinner

“ WAF provides an opportunity to watch your peers from around the world doing projects that you might take on, doing it in different ways, and learning from that ”

Ted Watson, Partner and Design Leader, MJMA



# The judging process

## ① 15 May 2026

### All entries are received

All entries must be submitted online by 15 May 2026.

## ② June 2026

### Shortlist decided

Leading architects and industry professionals gather to look at the entry boards and decide on a shortlist.

## ③ 13 July 2026

### Shortlist is announced

All finalists will be published on the WAF website, by international press and WAF's renowned media partners.

## ④ 18-19 November 2026

### Live category judging at WAF

All finalists present for 10 minutes to a panel of three category judges followed by 8 minutes of Q&A with the jury. Judging takes place in a 'crit' room open to all delegates. Category winners are announced at the end of each day.

## ⑤ 20 November 2026

### Live judging for best in show winners

Each category winner presents again for the Completed Building, Future Project, Landscape or Interior of the Year Super-Jury. Special Prize judging also takes place.

## ⑥ 20 November 2026

### The final winners are revealed

The World Building, Future Project, Landscape and Interior of the Year winners are announced at the Gala Dinner in the evening of the final day. Winners have been meticulously weighed over three rounds of peer-review judging.

“ Showcasing architecture from around the world and having a dialogue is so important ”

Pat Bosch, Design Director and Principal, Perkins&Will





# Prices

## **WAF Completed Buildings, Future Projects and Landscape Categories**

Early bird rate (entries made by 13 March)

**£795**

Standard rate (entries made by 24 April)

**£895**

Late rate (any late entries made after standard deadline of 24 April)

**£995**

## **WAF Interiors Categories**

Early bird rate (entries made by 13 March)

**£645**

Standard rate (entries made by 24 April)

**£745**

Late rate (any late entries made after standard deadline of 24 April)

**£845**

**All finalists have to purchase a minimum of two delegate tickets to attend and present their projects live at the festival. Delegate tickets will be available to purchase from January and prices start from £999**

# Contact us

## **Need help with your entry?**

Contact your local representative:

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## **Join in the conversation**

#WAF26



Founder Partner



# worldarchitecturefestival.com