



DETAIL Architecture Award

The International Building Culture Prize

1. Organiser and aim of the DETAIL Architecture Award 2027

Since 2005, the DETAIL Architecture Award has been recognising pioneering architecture worldwide. The international prize is awarded every two years with the aim of raising public awareness of building culture and the work of architects. The award recognises building projects of all types and uses realised worldwide, whose forward-looking architecture and technical quality serve as role models.

2. Award Categories

The following awards are presented as part of the DETAIL Architecture Award:

DETAIL Architecture Award

The DETAIL Architecture Award honours a building whose architecture is particularly convincing as an overall concept. In addition to the quality of the design, a comprehensive sustainability strategy, successful structural implementation and a harmonious choice of materials are of paramount importance.

DETAIL Architecture Award for Students and Universities

Students and universities are recognised for pioneering projects they have realised within the context of research and teaching. The award is given to a built prototype or a building that stands out for its spirit of experimentation, innovative processes and technical details within an outstanding overall design. Submissions must be made by the supervising university lecturer.

DETAIL Architecture Award – Special Prize ‘Affordable Housing’

With the ‘Affordable Housing’ Special Prize, the jury recognises completed building projects that break new ground in tackling the housing crisis – whether through their mixed-use design, particularly cost-effective construction, or the successful regeneration of existing buildings.

DETAIL Readers’ Award

The DETAIL Readers’ Award is presented to the readers’ favourite project. It is determined via an online vote on the architecture platform detail.de.

Additional Special Prizes

The organiser reserves the right to award additional special prizes related to specific themes. The winners of these special prizes will be selected either by the competition jury or by the DETAIL editorial team.



3. Competition procedure

Entries must be submitted online from **1 August to 31 October 2026** via architectureaward-2027.alpha-awards.de. Subsequently, in November 2026, the DETAIL editorial team will select a longlist (approx. 70–100 projects) from all entries for the jury meeting.

In a second stage, on 11 January 2027, an international expert jury will select the winning projects for the DETAIL Architecture Award 2027 and the DETAIL Architecture Award for Students and Universities from the longlist. The expert jury will also draw up a shortlist of approx. 12–15 projects for the readers' vote in the DETAIL Readers' Award.

The award ceremony will take place in May 2027.

The procedure is conducted by DETAIL Architecture GmbH, and no legal recourse is available.

4. Entry criteria

The DETAIL Architecture Award 2027 is open to projects of any building type completed worldwide after **1 January 2023**. New-build projects, renovations, conversions and extensions may all be submitted.

In the case of consortia, all designers must be named.

Each practice may submit a maximum of three projects. If more than three projects are submitted by a single practice, only the first three projects submitted will be assessed (CEST; Munich local time). For each project, it is a prerequisite that the authors hold the unrestricted copyright to the design. Jury members, as well as their practices and partner practices, are excluded from participation. The application documents must be submitted online at architectureaward-2027.alpha-awards.de by the deadline of **31 October 2026, 23:59** (CEST; Munich local time). They must be complete and comply with all the specified formal criteria. Entries that do not meet the competition conditions may be rejected. No legal recourse is available in this regard.

5. Submissions

5.1 Language and Submission

The competition languages are German and English. Entries may only be submitted online at: architectureaward-2027.alpha-awards.de

5.2 Registration, Entry and Fees

A processing fee is payable upon registration and entry, provided the submission is complete. By registering, entrants accept the [privacy policy and copyright statements](#) relating to the DETAIL Architecture Award 2027. The submission system allows authors to submit up to three projects individually. Project details must be entered step by step. The data can be edited at



any time up to the final submission via the link in the email sent to you. Once the data has been submitted, the submission form can no longer be amended or supplemented. Subsequent changes to documents that have already been submitted are no longer possible. Image and file uploads are automatically checked for size and resolution (see 5.3 Project sheet and photos). The processing fee is payable once all the documents have been submitted. This is charged directly via the submission tool.

The entry fee for the DETAIL Architecture Award is €290 for one project, €360 for two projects and €430 for three projects. For the DETAIL Architecture Award for students and universities, only one project may be submitted, at an entry fee of €100. If projects are submitted by 30 September 2026 inclusive, the processing fee is €250 for one project, €320 for two projects and €390 for three projects; for student submissions, the fee is €60.

For annual subscribers to DETAIL print magazine or DETAIL Inspiration, the processing fee for the first project submission up to and including 30 September 2026 is 150 EUR. From 1 October 2026, the processing fee for the first project submission will be 190 EUR. An additional 70 EUR will be charged for each further project submitted, regardless of the date of submission.

The discounted rate applies exclusively to active annual subscriptions to DETAIL print magazine or DETAIL Inspiration. Trial subscriptions (DETAIL print and DETAIL Inspiration) and Flex subscriptions (DETAIL Inspiration) are excluded from the discount. Entitlement to the discounted rate only arises once the relevant trial period has expired and the subscription has been converted to a regular annual subscription.

Registration is only considered complete once the processing fee has been received.

5.3 Project sheet and photos

The scope of the documents to be submitted is specified.

The project sheet, which entrants are free to design as they wish – a DIN A1 landscape format (300 dpi; file size max. 6 MB, .jpg, PDF), e.g. containing plan drawings, text and photos – should provide an overall impression of the project in terms of design, function, construction and materials. The DIN A1 landscape format must be strictly adhered to in the interests of a comparable presentation for the jury.

The project sheet must contain the following details in the top right-hand corner: project name, location, author. Drawings and other illustrations and graphics to aid understanding of the design, the structural system and the energy/sustainability concept are expressly encouraged. Drawings should be dimensioned and labelled. In addition, the author must submit four high-quality digital photographs (.jpg format, min. 13 x 18 cm, 300 dpi, max. 4 MB) for the potential presentation of the project as part of the online voting. Renderings are not permitted in place of photographs.

5.4 Explanatory report

A separate explanatory report of no more than 2,000 characters must be submitted as both a .doc and a PDF file. It must include all essential information on the topics of architecture, construction, energy/sustainability concept and choice of materials necessary for understanding the project.



5.5 Declaration of Consent

By registering online, the author agrees to the terms and conditions of the award process. They must also have obtained consent from the owner/developer and any photographers.

- Entrants must accept the terms and conditions of the competition and confirm that they have produced the submitted work themselves. By signing the declaration of consent, the authors transfer to the organiser, free of charge, the rights of publication, use and exploitation of the submitted project, including the relevant plans, within the framework of the award process and the communication activities associated with the DETAIL Architecture Award. In doing so, they warrant that the rights of third parties are not infringed.
- Entrants declare that all co-authors are correctly and fully named in the submitted documents and that they have obtained their consent to participate in the competition.
- The entrants confirm that the client/owner of the building has authorised them to submit the specified property and has granted the organiser permission for its worldwide publication, including the relevant photographic and planning material, as part of the DETAIL Architecture Award.
- Entrants confirm that they hold the necessary rights of use for all submitted photographs and illustrations required for participation in the DETAIL Architecture Award.
- In the event of winning an award or being shortlisted for the DETAIL Readers' Award, you undertake to the right to transfer the submitted images to the organiser for the purpose of royalty-free and unrestricted worldwide use in editorial publications relating to the DETAIL Architecture Award. Under this agreement, the organiser may use the image material both in its own media (print, digital and social media) and pass it on to third parties for the purpose of editorial reporting on the DETAIL Architecture Award.
- Entrants agree to bear all costs arising therefrom and declare that the images and photographs do not infringe the rights of third parties. The organiser shall ensure that the photographers are duly credited in its own media.

Within the scope of the above declaration, the author indemnifies the organiser against all legal claims by third parties, in particular by co-authors, clients and photographers.

5.6 Summary of requirements

- Full registration and completed online forms (mandatory online fields)
- Labelling of the project sheet in the top right-hand corner: project name, location, author
- Project sheet (DIN A1 landscape format, 300 dpi, max. 6 MB, .jpg or PDF format) with illustrations of the project:
 - Floor plans, sections, detailed drawings (scale of your choice)
 - Text and illustrations/graphics
 - Informative photos, no renderings
- Photos: 4 informative photos (.jpg, min. 13 x 18 cm, 300 dpi, max. 4 MB)
- Explanatory text (max. 2,000 characters as PDF and .doc) to aid understanding of the project
- Completed declaration of consent from the author
- A signature on the declaration of consent is required upon submission of the documents. Without a valid declaration of consent and identification via the project number, the nomination may be withdrawn.

6. Nomination, jury and reader voting

The projects will be presented to an independent, renowned jury during the jury meeting on **11 January 2027**. At the same time, the nominated projects will be presented to readers on the DETAIL website from **1 February to 28 February 2027** for voting in the DETAIL Readers' Award.



6.1 Nomination for the DETAIL Architecture Award 2027

The competition is organised and the preliminary screening of submitted projects is carried out by the DETAIL editorial team. The preliminary screening involves checking that submissions are complete and that they comply with the formal and content-related requirements. From all the entries received, the DETAIL editorial team will select a shortlist of outstanding projects. The evaluation criteria for the nomination and the preliminary review are determined by DETAIL.

6.2 Jury for the DETAIL Architecture Award 2027

An independent, international and interdisciplinary jury will select the winners of the following DETAIL Architecture Awards 2027 from the projects nominated by DETAIL:

- DETAIL Architecture Award
- DETAIL Architecture Award for Students and Universities
- DETAIL Architecture Award – Special Prize for ‘affordable housing’

The jury is responsible for determining the evaluation criteria for the jury session and for assessing the entries.

The jury reaches its decision by simple majority. Jury members and employees of the organiser are generally excluded from participating in the competition. The jury’s decision is final. Legal recourse is excluded.

6.3 Readers’ Vote: DETAIL Readers’ Award

The projects nominated for the DETAIL Readers’ Award will be featured on the DETAIL website from **1 February 2027**. Until **28 February 2027**, every reader will have the opportunity to cast a single vote and select their favourite. The result of the readers’ vote will be clearly verified and is final. The decision is not subject to legal appeal.

7. Awards and Honours

The jury’s decision and the results of the readers’ vote will be announced to all entrants at architectureaward-2027.alpha-awards.de. The jury reserves the right to award honourable mentions for entries of exceptional quality.

The prize comprises a curated trip to Venice at the end of May 2027 for two representatives of the winning practice. The programme includes attendance at the awards ceremony, an exclusive social programme and a joint visit to the Architecture Biennale.

The winning projects will be published in the print edition of DETAIL and on the website <http://www.detail.de>.

8. Dates



Launch of the competition	1 August 2026
Closing date for entries	31 October 2026
Nominations	November 2026
Jury meeting	11 January 2027
Start of reader voting	1 February 2027
End of reader voting	28 February 2027
Award ceremony	expected to take place in May 2027

9. Enquiries/FAQ

Questions regarding the DETAIL Architecture Award competition may be submitted by email to architectureaward@detail.de from **1 August 2026 until 30 October, 2.00 pm** (CEST; Munich local time). There will be no colloquium.

10. Exclusion criteria

Submissions must comply with the competition criteria in all respects, both in terms of content and form. Entries that contravene the competition conditions may be excluded. Entries must also be submitted in full by the deadline of **31 October 2026, 23:59 CEST** (Munich local time). It is expressly noted that no deadline extensions or late submissions are permitted. Furthermore, once data and documents have been submitted, they cannot be amended. The processing fees must have been paid via STRIPE.

Members of the jury and their staff, as well as employees of the competition organiser, are generally excluded from participation.

11. Data Protection Policy and Copyright

DETAIL processes the project documents submitted, including the personal data contained therein, on the basis of Article 6(1)(f) of the GDPR. This is a prerequisite for the proper administration of the DETAIL Architecture DEAward. Data will only be disclosed to third parties if the author expressly consents to this, with the exception of press relations in connection with the DETAIL Architecture Award 2024 carried out by external press agencies. The author may withdraw their consent to data processing at any time by sending an email to datenschutz@detail.de. Further information (e.g. contact details of our data protection officer, authors' rights) can be found at <https://www.detail.de/datenschutz/>.

12. Information, downloads, uploads, contact and address



All documents relating to the competition (competition brief and author's declaration) will be available for download as PDF files from 1 August 2026 under the 'Competition' section in German and English on the DETAIL Architecture Award 2027 website. Projects are to be uploaded online, together with all necessary files, under the 'Submission' tab.

Any author declarations that are still missing must be completed in full, signed and sent to the organiser by 15 November 2026 inclusive, following a request from the DETAIL editorial team in the event of a nomination; otherwise, the projects may be excluded. Submitters may contact architectureaward@detail.de with any queries **until 14:00 CEST on 30 October 2026**.

Contact:

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