

FINALISTS OF THE MATERIA AWARD 2025 FOR CONTEMPORARY CHITECTURES BASED IN RAW EARTH, STONE AND PLANT FIBERS

April 2025

[The global Materia Award for contemporary architectures based in raw earth, stone and plant fibers 2025 has announced the 40 finalist projects for 2025.](#)

Following the success of the TERRA Award (2016), the FIBRA Award (2019), and the TERRAFIBRA Award (2021), the Materia Award was launched in December 2023 to highlight the aesthetic properties, construction advantages, and environmental benefits of 40 new buildings designed, constructed, or renovated with raw earth, stone, and/or plant fibers. The thousands of buildings made of rammed earth, adobe, cob, cement, granite, sandstone, quartz, marble, as well as bamboo, reed, and straw that are emerging around the world are arousing the media's curiosity of and that of the industry. The Materia Award aims to highlight the most inspiring of these constructions. The goal of this award is to recognize remarkable projects while highlighting the courage of the project owners who have chosen bio- and geo-sourced materials, the creativity of the designers, and the expertise of the craftsmen and contractors.

[The 40 finalist projects have been realized in China \(2\), Senegal, France \(20\), Burkina Faso, Switzerland \(2\), Myanmar, Ecuador \(2\), Nepal, Spain \(3\), Mauritania, Australia, Peru and India.](#)

The Materia award 2025 has been supported and organized by Les Grands Ateliers and amàco in partnership with Dominique Gauzin-Müller, the ETH Zurich, Les Compagnons du Devoir et du Tour de France and Pavillon de l'Arsenal, under the patronage of the UNESCO Chair "Earthen architecture, building cultures and sustainable development".

[The building sector is the largest consumer of resources and energy.](#) In France, it represents 43% of the national energy consumption, it is one of the biggest waste producers, and is responsible for 23% of greenhouse gas emissions. Faced with this reality, in recent years, public opinion has become aware of the necessary environmental transition. The collective effort to preserve resources and significantly reduce the environmental footprint of existing and future constructions has led to the emergence of new eco-responsible architectural practices. These practices aim to valorise and make use of local bio-based and geo-sourced resources, readily available or just beneath our feet. Embracing the intelligence of vernacular architecture and its



millennia-old know-how is a way to reconnect the act of building with the landscape and integrate it with the territory.

Earth, stone, and vegetal fibers have already made their mark in contemporary architecture. Thousands of projects, of high technical, ecological, aesthetic, and emotional quality, are emerging on all five continents. The democratization of the use of these materials, which are low in energy consumption and abundantly available worldwide, contributes to reducing the exploitation of non-renewable resources and limits the energy needs throughout the life cycle of buildings.

Furthermore, the objective of the Materia Award was to highlight exemplary rehabilitation projects. To reduce the impact of the construction sector, especially the embodied energy required for building construction, the rehabilitation of the built environment, through the use of complementarity of materials, becomes essential and must take a central place in future development strategies. Indeed, the rehabilitation of existing architecture, whether remarkable or more modest, represents a crucial challenge in terms of sustainable development. This process is based on recognizing and valuing a building to give it a second life and project it into a more sustainable future: recycling stimulates creativity and paves the way for a rebirth.

This global award for contemporary architecture using earth, stone, and plant fibers aims to highlight the aesthetic properties, construction advantages, and environmental benefits of 40 eco-constructions. The goal of the Materia Award is therefore to distinguish remarkable projects contributing to provide alternatives to polluting hegemonic solutions. Recognizing these exemplary buildings, both by the professionals and the general public, requires recognizing all the stakeholders involved in these projects.

For this reason, as in the previous editions, to ensure that these outstanding buildings are fully recognized, the Award values every stakeholder involved in the construction process, praising the clients who have chosen mineral and bio sourced materials, the creativity of designers and know-how of craftsmen and contractors. The choice of materials is based above all on their local availability and their structural, thermal or hygrometric capacities for an undeniable aesthetic result. The Award values the variety of materials used intelligently and the selection particularly highlights the mix of materials.

Each project selected as finalist is presented in the Materia Award website with a sheet describing the type of project, the materials used, the project owners and the studios involved in the design and construction. Through the *more information* link it is possible to access images of the works and further information of potential interest.

To know more

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