

# TERRA FIBRA AWARD 2021

## CONTEMPORARY EARTHEN AND PLANT FIBRE BASED ARCHITECTURES

In November 2020 the global [TERRA FIBRA Award in contemporary earthen and plant fibre-based architectures](#) was launched from France. The Award is organized by *Les Grands Ateliers* and *amàco*, in partnership with *CRAterre* and *ETH Zurich*, under the patronage of the UNESCO Chair - Earthen architectures, constructive cultures and sustainable development.

The objective of this global Award is to promote the aesthetics, construction perks and environmental benefits of 40 sustainable buildings. For those outstanding buildings to be fully recognized by both professionals and the general public, the Award values every stakeholder involved in the construction process, praising the courage of clients who have chosen mineral and bio sourced materials, the creativity of designers and know-how of craftsmen and contractors.

[Applications for the Award](#) will close on 3 March 2021.

[This Award is international, free of charge and open to all.](#) Any stakeholder of a given project can apply: client, contractor, design studios, companies. The Award is open to new or renovated buildings, built on any continent, with a significant quantity of earth and/or plant-based material, and completed after January 2010. There are 10 categories, within which each application will fall: Local development; Public cultural facilities; Public education and sports facilities; Commercial buildings; Collective housing; Individual housing; Rehabilitation; Interior design; Installation art (outdoor or indoor) and Educational projects.

The Award relates to all earthen building techniques: rammed earth, adobe, cob, CEB, etc. and techniques involving the use of plant fibres: bamboo, reed, hemp, flax, straw, seagrass, mycelium, seaweed, etc. The aim of the Award is to value the diversity of materials used intelligently. Wooden structures, that are already considered by other awards, are not eligible unless wood is combined with earth or one or several bio sourced materials. Structures made out of living plants can qualify as plant-based constructions, on the condition that either the structure itself or its environmental performance are largely based on those.

This award draws its inspiration from the results of the [global TERRA award 2016](#) and from the [global FIBRA Award 2019](#), which have aroused great international interest. Through this new initiative the organizers want to continue contributing to the overall ongoing efforts to protect environmental resources and reduce the current and future impact of the construction industry. The widespread use of energy-efficient materials, widely available on earth, leads to less exploitation of



non-renewable resources and improves the energy efficiency of buildings on the long term. The organizers highlight that earth and plant fibres are already widely used in modern architecture and that hundreds of fine projects, from a technical and aesthetic perspective, are carried out across the globe.

*Where traditional meets modern architecture:* by recovering the ancestral vernacular know-how, materials extracted from the ground and fields are a challenge for modern architecture. In fact, bio-sourced and mineral materials are necessary for a post-carbon architecture and contribute to the ecological and sociological transition. Appropriating the intelligence of vernacular construction and its millennial know-how means re-anchoring the act of building in a landscape and with the territory. The organizers highlight that supply chain of locally sourced resources is growing and getting organized to create new jobs, which in turn have a positive impact on local economies.

As in the previous editions, these 40 finalist projects will benefit from international visibility, thanks to their presentation in a traveling exhibition and in an associated book to contribute to the dissemination of these innovative and sustainable forms of construction.

### To know more

[Terra Fibra Award 2021 website](#)

[Terra Fibra Award Regulations](#)

[Terra Fibra Award in CRAterre website](#)

[Terra Fibra Award in UNESCO website](#)

[UNESCO World Heritage Earthen Architecture Programme](#)

[Amaco website](#)

[Amaco in Facebook](#)

[Terra Fibra Award in culture.gouv.fr website](#)

[Terra Fibra Award in uni-terra.org](#)

[Terra Fibra Award in architectes.org](#)

[Fibra Award 2019 Finalists](#)

[Fibra Award exhibition brochure](#)

[Fibra Award in Facebook](#)

[Fibra Award exhibition](#)

[Terra Award website](#)

[Terra Award Finalists](#)

[Terra Award in media](#)

