

# 40 FINALISTS OF THE TERRA FIBRA AWARD 2021

## CONTEMPORARY EARTHEN AND PLANT FIBRE-BASED ARCHITECTURES

The global [TERRA FIBRA Award in contemporary earthen and plant fibre-based architectures](#) has announced the 40 finalists of the 2021 edition. 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 clients who have chosen mineral and bio sourced materials, the creativity of designers and know-how of craftsmen and contractors.

Following the call launched at the end of 2020, the 2021 edition of the TERRA FIBRA Award registered 306 nominations from 53 countries from all five continents. Among the new or renovated buildings put into service after January 2010, a jury of experts nominated 40 projects from 19 countries for their architectural quality, their valuation of know-how and their integration into the local territory. The finalist projects are from China, Bangladesh, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Egypt, Benin, Senegal, France, Denmark, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador.

The finalists include 13 projects in raw earth, 11 in plant fibers and 16 using both materials. 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, etc.). The aim is to value the diversity of materials used intelligently and the selection particularly highlights the mix of materials. 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 40 finalist projects fall into the following 10 different categories foreseen by the Award: Local development 5; Public cultural facilities 6; Public education and sports facilities 6; Commercial buildings 3; Collective housing 4; Individual housing 4; Rehabilitation 4; Interior design 3; Installation art outdoor or indoor 1; Educational projects 4.

[The brochure presenting the results of the TERRA FIBRA Award](#) provides information on each of the projects declared finalists, indicating the professionals and studios who created the building, the main characteristics of the building, the materials used and the



construction methods adopted. The publication on the TERRA FIBRA Award website of a more detailed presentation of the finalist and winning projects with information and images is scheduled for September 2021

This third edition of the 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. By recovering the ancestral vernacular know-how, the use of materials extracted from the ground and fields is a great 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. In addition, 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. The TERRA FIBRA Award aims to contribute to the dissemination of these innovative and sustainable forms of construction.

On September 2021, a jury of honor will nominate ten winners from among the 40 finalists of the 2021 Award, which will be featured on the TERRA FIBRA website.

As in previous editions of the Awards, to contribute to the widest dissemination of these innovative and sustainable construction techniques and to promote their authors, the 40 winners and finalist buildings will be presented in a traveling exhibition and in an associated book. The awards ceremony to celebrate the ten 2021 winners designated by the honorary jury will take place at the opening of the traveling exhibition at the *Pavillon de l'Arсенal* in Paris, in November 2021.

## To know more

[TERRA FIBRA Award 2021 website](#)

[Brochure presenting finalists of TERRA FIBRA 2021](#)

[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 en culture.gouv.fr website](#)



[Terra Fibra Award in uni-terra.org](http://uni-terra.org)

[Terra Fibra Award in architectes.org](http://architectes.org)

[Fibra Award 2019 Finalists](#)

[Fibra Award 2019 in Facebook](#)

[Fibra Award 2019 exhibition](#)

[Terra Award 2016 website](#)

[Terra Award 2016 Finalists](#)

[Terra Award 2016 in media](#)

