

TERRA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL AWARD 2026

ORGANIZED AS PART OF THE WORLD CONGRESS ON EARTHEN ARCHITECTURE

January 2026

Ten years after the first TERRA Award, the [Terra Landscape Architectural Award 2026](#) will celebrate outstanding contemporary earthen architectures that express a deep and meaningful connection between architecture and landscape.

Organised as part of TERRA 2026 – the World Congress on Earthen Architecture (Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, 13–16 April 2026), the award will recognise exemplary projects from around the world that demonstrate how earthen materials can shape our relationship to the environment, culture, and territory.

This new distinction seeks to honour all those who contribute to the vitality of earthen construction today: the visionary clients who choose earth as a building material, the creative designers who engage with context and landscape, and the skilled artisans and builders whose craftsmanship transforms soil into architecture.

By showcasing these projects, the Terra Landscape Architectural Award aims to promote earthen architecture as a living practice that builds bridges between tradition and innovation, nature and culture, local identity and global challenges.

The Award will be divided into three categories, each reflecting a specific approach to the relationship between earthen architecture and landscape:

- **Integration into the Natural Site.** Architectural design that adapts, but also enhances and reveals the natural characteristics of the site — such as topography, climate, vegetation, and available resources.
- **Dialogue with Existing Cultural Landscape.** Architectural design that continues and renews the local or regional architectural language while meeting contemporary expectations and social needs.
- **Valorisation of Local Resources and Know-how.** Architectural design that makes effective use of locally available resources — whether material (earth, but also stone, fibres, etc.), human (knowledge, craftsmanship, know-how), or organizational (community-based construction, local networks).

Each project is to be submitted to one category only. The proposed projects will be evaluated according to a common set of criteria, with additional weighting given to those specific to the chosen category.



The jury will select five projects per category, for a total of fifteen finalists, from which three winners, one per category, will be designated. The winners will be invited to Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, to receive their awards and participate in a special Panel on Contemporary Earthen Architecture during the TERRA 2026 World Congress. The finalists will get recognised through publication of their projects on the conference web-site as well as on UNESCO Chair on earthen architecture website. The awards ceremony will take place during the TERRA 2026 World Congress 13-16 April 2026.

In particular, the three award winners will be invited to present their projects at the awards ceremony in Al Ain. They will also be given the opportunity to attend the TERRA 2026 World Congress, with travel and accommodation expenses covered by the organiser. Hosted for the first time in the Arab region, the congress is expected to gather between 700 and 1,000 participants, with an estimated 140 to 160 presentations.

The deadline for submitting projects to the Award is January 25, 2026. [More information about the organization of the Award can be found on the website.](#)

To know more

[News - Terra Landscape Award 2026 in terra.hypotheses.org website](#)

[Application Guide](#)

[UNESCO Chair on earthen architecture](#)

[Terra World Congress 2026](#)

[Registration](#)

