

WINNERS OF THE TERRA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL AWARD 2026

ORGANIZED BY THE TERRA 2027 WORLD CONGRESS

October 2026

[The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi \(DCT Abu Dhabi\), in collaboration with CRATerre \(International Centre for Earth Construction\), has announced the winners of the TERRA Landscape Architectural Award](#), recognising projects that showcase how earthen materials can strengthen the relationship between the environment, culture and territory.

Launched by CRATerre under the umbrella of the UNESCO Chair for Earthen Architecture, the award forms part of TERRA 2027 – World Congress on Earthen Architecture, which is co-organised by DCT Abu Dhabi and ICOMOS ISCEAH. TERRA 2027 marks a historic milestone as the first edition of this globally recognised Congress to be hosted in the Arab region.

An international jury reviewed the submissions, and following an initial evaluation phase, 20 projects were shortlisted across the three thematic categories. The winners in each category reflect a distinct approach to the relationship between earthen architecture and landscape. The global call for applications for the TERRA Landscape Architectural Award attracted 73 submissions from 27 countries across all inhabited continents. Category 3 received the highest number of submissions, with 45 projects, while categories one and two each received 14 submissions.



[The winners of the Award were the following projects:](#)



CATEGORY 1 Integration into the Natural Site

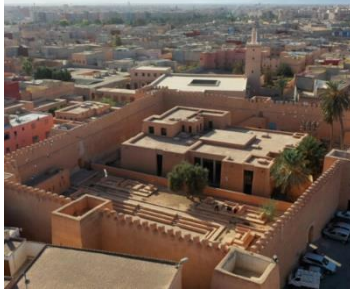
First prize

Awarded to Fausto Cardoso Martínez, Stephanie Suter, José Uzho and Manuel Campoverde for LA Casa de las Rocas in Susudel, Ecuador. The jury praised the project for its sensitive integration into the existing landscape and its intelligent use of local resources to create a comfortable and refined adobe house, closely connected to its environment.



Second prize

Awarded to Prabal Thapa Architects **for** Kopila Valley School in Surkhet, Nepal. The project was recognised for its response to topography and for the coherence of its ensemble of buildings structured by rammed earth walls.



CATEGORY 2 Dialogue with Existing Cultural Landscape

First prize

Awarded to Studio Salima Naji Architects for the Living Heritage Centre in Tiznit Medina, Morocco. The project was recognised for its integration within a heritage setting, while showcasing the rich diversity of earthen building cultures in Southern Morocco.



Second prize

Awarded to Studio Méditerranée for the Renovation and Extension of the Chateau de Beaucastel in Courthézon, France. Built extensively with pisé (rammed earth), the extension forms a natural complement to the existing complex, both in its form and its raw material, taken directly from the immediate underground.



CATEGORY 3 Valorisation of Local Resources and Know-How

First prize

Awarded to ZRS Architekten for the Healing Garden Therapy Centre for women and children built in Chamchamal, Kurdistan-Iraq. The project was recognised for the combination of simplicity and sophistication in its design, as well as for the patient efforts devoted to integrating function with adaptation to the local environment and building culture.



Second prize

Awarded to Mass and Arup for the Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture built in Gashora, Rwanda. The jury recognised the project's ambition and its combination of multiple earthen building techniques with more conventional materials and systems to ensure functionality and durability.



Third prize

Awarded to Atelier TANKA and Architectes Sans Frontières France for the Lmhs School and Dormitory built in Zanskar, India. The project was designed for full integration with local climatic conditions and for the optimal use of local resources. It also demonstrates strong potential for replication, long-term autonomy and sustainability within the local community.



The jury of the Award also made Special Mentions for the following projects distinguished by their strong engagement with local communities, collaborative design, and participatory building processes:

1. Fatiha Polin for *Pahariapara School* in Fulbaria, Bangladesh.
2. Leticia Grappi and Daniel Marostegan for *Joao Amazonas Socio-Environmental Center* in Bahia, Brazil.
3. Designbuild LabAe&cc-Ensag and onSite architecture for *Jean Rostand School Lunchroom* in Bourgoin-Jallieu, France.

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi will invite the award winners to present their projects during the TERRA Congress gala dinner and Award Ceremony in April 2027. The winners will also be part of a round-table discussion with jury members and select experts on the future of earthen architecture.

[TERRA 2027 World Congress on Earthen Architecture will take place in Al Ain](#), UAE, and will focus on managing earthen cultural landscapes. Building on the Department of Culture and Tourism DCT Abu Dhabi's long-standing commitment to protecting, preserving and promoting earthen heritage, TERRA 2027 serves as a platform bringing together experts from around the world to strengthen international cooperation, support knowledge-sharing and contribute to the advancement of earthen architecture and conservation practices worldwide.

To know more

[News in wam.ae](#)

[Terra Landscape–Architectural Award 2026 in terra.hypotheses.org](#)

[Terra Landscapes Press release pdf](#)

[Terra Landscape Award Finalists](#)

[The UNESCO Chair](#)

[Craterre.org](#)

[Terra World Congress 2027](#)

