

AZ AWARDS 2027

PRESENTED BY **AZURE**

Submission Details

The AZ AWARDS is AZURE's international design competition recognizing the world's best projects, products and ideas. Entries are juried by a multidisciplinary panel of industry experts.

Important Dates

- Submissions open **November 9, 2026**
- Earlybird deadline **December 11, 2026** at 11:59 pm EST
- Deadline for submissions **February 26, 2027** at 11:59 pm EST
- People's Choice voting takes place from **March to April 2027**
- Finalists will be notified **mid-April 2027**
- AZ Awards Gala: **Late June 2027 (date TBA)**
- Winners will be revealed and celebrated at the AZ Awards Gala in Toronto, and will be featured in *Azure* Magazine's annual AZ Awards issue.

Guidelines

- Entries must be submitted and received via the online entry system by 11:59 pm EST on February 26, 2027.
- All images must be jpg or tif format, at least 300 dpi resolution.

AZ Awards is open to

- Designers and design firms from all disciplines
- Architects and architectural firms
- Landscape architects, Urban designers
- Developers, manufacturers, clients
- Post-secondary students enrolled in design and architecture programs in 2026

Eligibility

The completion date of projects should be within the past three years, i.e. anytime between November 1, 2023 and December 31, 2026.

Judging criteria

Each project is evaluated on its own merits according to the following four criteria:

1. Aesthetics Is the design contemporary, visually and intellectually stimulating? Does it provoke curiosity, have the capacity to uplift spirits or simply delight?

2. Function How well does it serve its intended use? Does it effectively resolve problems?

3. Creativity Does it incorporate a unique approach, use a new medium or materials? Is it technologically innovative, forward-looking?

4. Social and Environmental Responsibility Does it make respectful use of materials and resources? Does it possess a long life span? Does it contain recycled materials and/or can it be recycled? Does it provide a social benefit?

Jury Process

Each year, the AZ Awards receives hundreds of submissions from around the world. We are thrilled to accept inspiring entries in all our categories.

Soon after the competition deadline, our editorial team reviews ALL submissions in a multi-day series of sessions with local A&D experts. These sessions result in a longlist that is presented to our official jury. With every edition, the AZ Awards convenes an international jury made up of the world's most renowned architects, landscape architects and designers. The jury convenes in March, reviews the longlist, selects a shortlist of finalists (Awards of Merit), and designates the Winners.

Beginning in 2027, AZURE will allow all entrants to the AZ Awards to opt into the People's Choice voting segment (for a fee). The overall favourites in each category will be announced online in Spring 2027.

The jury-selected AZ Awards Winners and Awards of Merit (finalists) will be announced at our annual gala and in the Summer 2027 print edition of Azure as well as on our AZ Awards website.

Categories

Design

Furniture

Residential Furniture: seating, tables, storage and more

Workplace Furniture: seating (task and lounge, individual and communal), desking systems, privacy nooks, storage and more

Outdoor Furniture: seating, tables and more

Collectible + Craft: small-run, artisan-driven pieces

Consumer Product Design: decor (mirrors, rugs, etc), play (indoor and outdoor billiards tables, etc) and tools (desktop and tabletop accessories, etc)

Lighting

Decorative Lighting: indoor and outdoor fixtures (table, floor and sconces, etc) providing ambient lighting

Technical Lighting: indoor and outdoor systems, providing direct or focused lighting for office, museum, gallery and other architectural applications

Materials & Finishes

Surface + Flooring Materials: tile, solid surfacing, wood, composites, etc

Textiles + Acoustic Products: for ceilings, vertical applications, upholstery, etc

Doors + Windows: plus, related hardware

Kitchen, Bath & Wellness

Kitchen Systems: comprising cabinetry, islands, partitions

Bathroom Systems: comprising cabinetry and other furnishings

Fixtures: faucets and hardware

Kitchen Appliances: ovens, stoves, refrigerators, sinks etc

Bathroom Sanitaryware: bathtubs, toilets, sinks, shower systems, makeup storage, etc

Technology

Technology for Commercial and Residential: hardware and software solutions

Interior Design

Residential

Small Residential Interiors: complete home design, from dining / living room to kitchen, bath and bedroom, for homes up to 1200sqft

Large Residential Interiors: complete home design, from dining / living room to kitchen, bath and bedroom, for homes over 1200sqft

Residential Amenity Spaces: lobbies, gyms, shared spaces

Hospitality

Hospitality Interiors: complete spatial design of hotels, resorts, spas

Restaurant + Bar Design: complete interior scheme for dining venues

Commercial

Small Workplace Interiors: spaces measuring up to 1000sqft

Large Workplace Interiors: spaces measuring 1000sqft and over

Retail Interiors + Showroom Design

Institutional

Healthcare Interiors: hospitals, clinics, wellness centres, etc.

Educational Interiors: school interiors, from elementary to post-secondary

Cultural Interiors: museums, theatres, art galleries, etc.

Civic Interiors: government and other public spaces

Architecture

Residential

Urban Houses: single-family, multi-generational, infill, etc
Non-urban Houses: vacation homes, cottages, etc.
Multi-Unit Residential: condominium developments, co-ops, rental buildings, etc.
Affordable Housing: non-market housing, social housing, transitional housing for formerly unhoused people, etc.

Commercial & Institutional

Workplace: office and other commercial buildings
Cultural + Hospitality: museums, theatres, art galleries, flagship stores, etc
Educational: school buildings of all types
Healthcare: hospitals, clinics, wellness, etc.
Civic: government buildings, libraries, courthouses, community centres, etc.

Transformation

Adaptive Reuse: the transformation of an existing building to accommodate new uses
Architectural Renovation: the renovation of an existing building for heritage / preservation and continued use

Building Envelope

Projects that elevate their street presence through unique cladding, systems, etc

Landscape Architecture

Residential Landscape: private gardens and outdoor spaces for individual homes and multi-unit buildings

Public Landscape: urban open spaces, parks, waterfront, infrastructure spaces in the built environment and schemes for ameliorating transit, cycling and pedestrian circulation

Urban Design

Master Planning: completed master plan for transforming a district or neighbourhood with new building stock, public realm space, streets and landscapes
Transit + Mobility Infrastructure: completed buildings for public transportation systems; bike networks; etc
Urban Intervention: completed bridges, pavilions, street furniture, etc

Urban Developments

Mixed-Use Development, Built: completed mixed-use developments consisting of more than one building (not an entire master plan)

Unbuilt Urban Vision: multi-building plan, in design and planning stages

Experiential Design

Exhibition Design: temporary design for gallery, museum and other showcases
Experiential Installation (+ brand experience): immersive and/or participatory installation
Experiential Graphic Design + Wayfinding Systems: from signage and colour schemes to schemes that enhance a building's circulation
Lighting Schemes + Installations: experiential and/or immersive lighting experiences

Concepts

Conceptual Projects: purely speculative, or not green-lit
Prototypes + Research: from furniture to aging-in-place, newly envisioned tools
Unbuilt Commercial or Institutional Building: greenlit (in design or planning stages)

Social Good & Environmental Leadership

Social Good: Product
Social Good: Project
Environmental Leadership: Product
Environmental Leadership: Project

For the SOCIAL GOOD AWARD, products and projects must advance social equity and have a positive impact on the collective realm.

For the ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD, products and projects must show sensitivity and respect for the use and management of natural resources throughout their lifecycle, especially with respect to materials and energy use.

Outstanding Firm

Entrants to other categories can opt into consideration as Outstanding Firm

Student Awards

A+ Award: Any industrial design product, architectural structure, landscape, interior space or unbuilt/unrealized concept developed by a student enrolled in a post-secondary design or architecture program in 2026. Entries should be submitted by individual students or a duo working together on a thesis. The A+ Award bestows a $5,000 CAD cash prize; if there is more than one student winner, the cash prize is split among all winners.

School Award: Awarded to a large group project, including design-build projects, executed by an entire class or team of students (no monetary prize)

EMERGING Awards:

Inaugurated in 2025, the EMERGING Awards provide special recognition to firms in up to four categories:

- Architecture
- Design
- Landscape
- Interiors

The award is for a body of work that reflects the AZ Awards' criteria of aesthetics, function, creativity and social and environmental responsibility.

Eligibility and Requirements for Emerging Awards:

1. The firm needs to have been established within the past 10 years
2. Architecture and landscape firms need to have at least one principal who is licensed
3. Firms need to submit the following works:

- **Architecture Firms:** 2 projects (of any scale) completed, 2 underway, 2 concepts
- **Design Firms:** 2 to 3 products in production (small batch run to mass production), 2 products in design or development, 1 concept
- **Landscape Firms:** At least 1 project completed, 1 underway, 2 concepts
- **Interiors Firms:** 2 to 3 projects completed, 2 underway, 2 concepts

4. Entry Requirements:

- Images and description of completed projects and renderings and description of in-progress projects and concepts (no more than 300 words for each description)
- Rationale for EMERGING recognitions – 500- to 800-word description of the firm's portfolio and how it reflects the AZ Awards' criteria of aesthetics, function, creativity and social and environmental responsibility
- Support letters from at least two notable members of the A&D profession (these could include practitioners, critics, academics, etc.)

People's Choice

All entrants can opt in to be considered for the People's Choice selection, decided by the general public. Voting will take place on awards.azuremagazine.com.

Fees

Early Bird Fees: For entries submitted by Friday, December 11, 2026 at 11:59 pm EST

- A+ Award for Student Work: $40 per submission
- All other categories: $260 for the first submission, $235 for each additional entry

Regular Fees: Entries submitted after the Early Bird deadline

- A+ Award for Student Work: $50 per submission
- All other categories: $285 for the first submission, $250 for each additional entry

Add-On Fees

- People's Choice: $50 per entry
- Outstanding Firm: $50 per entry

Each entry includes a 1-year digital subscription to AZURE Magazine, valued at $28.95 CAD.

Full payment must be received by the submission deadline. Entries submitted without the appropriate submission fee will not be eligible for judging. Payments are only accepted online.

Please Note: The above submissions fees are in USD for all submitters based outside of Canada. For submitters based in Canada, the above submissions fees are in CAD.

Submission Specs

Images: Entrants may submit up to 30 images and/or drawings/renderings in jpg or tif format, at least 300 dpi. If submitting a rendering, please ensure that this is clearly indicated in the file name; indicate any images made with A.I. Make sure to credit the photographer. When submitting images from multiple photographers, include the photographer's name in the file name.

Video: Entrants are encouraged to share videos of their work that help to communicate the project; indicate any video made with A.I. It is preferred if the video is shared via web link (e.g. YouTube, Vimeo), but we will accept direct uploads in .mov, .mp4 or mpg format with a file size less than 1 GB.

NOTE: Images and videos are primarily for the jurors to get a better representation and thorough understanding of your projects. If there are any images or videos that should not be published – should your entry be shortlisted – make sure to add DO NOT PUBLISH in the image/video file name.

Project name: Indicate the name that represents your project/product and that should be used when referring to your project/product.

Project description: First, provide a short description that provides us with the main gist of your project (a 150- to 200-word synopsis or abstract). You can then elaborate to include details on objectives and how they were met, design challenges, technological and/or material innovations, social and environmental impact.

Project specs: Indicate dimensions, materials, fabrication techniques, manufacturing process.

Project credits: Include the proper list of individuals to be credited, with correct name spellings, to accurately reflect the project's design team.

Works are excluded from the competition if their presentation would infringe a right. The entrant authorizes AZURE to publish the submission in the print edition of *Azure* Magazine, on azuremagazine.com, and any websites affiliated with the AZ Awards competition. The submission may be reproduced, in whole or in part, for editorial and promotional purposes.

Contact For more information and support: **azawards@azureonline.com**

Checklist

Use this document as a guide to help you prepare your 2027 AZ Awards submissions:

☐ Are you eligible?

The AZ Awards is open to architects, designers, landscape architects, urbanists, developers, firms, companies, clients, manufacturers and students of design-related disciplines. All built work must have been completed anytime between Nov. 1, 2022 and Dec. 31, 2026. For Student work: any industrial design product, architectural structure, landscape, interior space or unbuilt/unrealized concept developed by a student enrolled in a post-secondary design or architecture program in 2026.

☐ Select your category

Pick the category best suited for your project. You may submit your project in multiple categories – each as a separate entry.
NOTE: AZURE reviews all entries to ensure they are in the right category. You will be notified if your entry needs to be moved to a different category.

☐ Name your submission (Project Name)

Select a Project Name to represent your project or product.

☐ Select your submission type

- Select Designer/Architect/Developer **if you are** the designer/architect/developer OR **submitting on behalf** of the designer/architect/developer
- Select Client/Manufacturer **if you are** the manufacturer OR **submitting on behalf** of your client or the manufacturer
- Select Student **if you are a student** submitting your work OR if you are submitting on behalf of a student

☐ Describe your submission (Project Description)

Provide a description of your project or product.
Include objectives and how they were met, design challenges, social and environmental impact.

☐ Provide technical details about your submission (Project Specs)

Provide a technical description of your project or product.
Indicate dimensions, materials, fabrication techniques and/or manufacturing process.

☐ Upload images, drawings or renderings

Provide up to 30 images and or drawings/renderings in jpg format, at least 300 dpi. Make sure to credit the photographer. When submitting images from multiple photographers, include the photographer's name in the file name. If submitting a rendering, please ensure that this is clearly indicated in the file name; indicate any images made with A.I.

☐ Share a video (Optional but recommended)

You may share a web link to a video related to the project. A video is beneficial, but not required. It could provide the jury with a better representation of your project.

☐ Credit your team (Team Credits)

Provide relevant credits for the team that worked on the project: Involvement/Role, Full Name, Company Name, Email and Country. Please list all team members in the order they should appear and make sure all names are spelled correctly.

☐ Provide a rationale for Special Awards

In addition to the category in which they are submitted, entries may be considered for the Social Good Award and/or Environmental Leadership Award. For more details on requirements for these elective awards, see page 3.

☐ Provide your contact information

The last step is to provide the contact information for those directly related to the project (lead designer, lead architect, etc). **Provide the main contact for verification of credits and fact-checking, should your entry be shortlisted.**

☐ Payment

Full payment must be received by the submission deadline. Entries submitted without the appropriate submission fee will not be eligible for judging. Payments are only accepted online via credit card.

Ready to submit? awards.azuremagazine.com

Earlybird Deadline: **December 11, 2026** / Deadline: **February 26, 2027**

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

All information and requested materials must be provided by the deadline or the submission will be disqualified without notice or return of payment.

No refunds will be issued under any circumstances.

Works are excluded from the competition if their presentation would infringe a right.

The entrant authorizes AZURE, a SANDOW DESIGN GROUP title, to publish the submission in the print edition of AZURE Magazine, on azuremagazine.com, on AZURE's social media channels and on any online platforms affiliated with the AZ Awards competition. The submission may be reproduced, in whole or in part, for editorial and promotional purposes.

By entering the AZ Awards the submitter grants AZURE a royalty-free, transferable worldwide right to use and publish in print, online and on social media, all entries and their corresponding photographs and videos, as well as any photos and/or videos of the submitter and their team members. The submitter also grants AZURE a royalty-free right to share the said entries, photographs and videos with AZURE's international partners who would be posting news about the AZ Awards on their website, newsletter and social channels.

If the photography/videography rights are owned by a party other than the submitter, the submitter must obtain copyright permission on behalf of AZURE. When entering the AZ Awards, the submitter indemnifies and holds harmless AZURE, SANDOW and its partners against any claims or causes of action that would allege that the use of the submitter's entries, photos and videos by AZURE and/or AZURE's partners' violates a third party's intellectual property rights.