



HOSTED & CURATED BY
THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2026

11th-12th September 2026

DELHI | AGRA | JAIPUR

ARCASIA AWARDS FOR ARCHITECTURE 2026

RULES & CONDITIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

The ARCASIA Awards for Architecture (AAA) continue to stand as one of ARCASIA's most significant initiatives, recognizing and celebrating exemplary architectural works by architects across its 24 member countries in Asia. Presented as part of the 23rd ARCASIA Forum, the awards reflect ARCASIA's ongoing commitment to raising the standards of architecture and the built environment across the region. This year, in the context of the forum theme, "Bringing Back... Vernacular Wisdom," the awards take on even greater relevance, highlighting works that respond thoughtfully to culture, climate, context, and community. The winners are selected by an independent jury panel nominated by the ARCASIA Council, comprising distinguished architects from across Asia along with a non-architect member, ensuring a fair and well-rounded evaluation process. Through the AAA, ARCASIA not only honours excellence in design but also reinforces the importance of architecture that is rooted in identity, responsibility, and regional wisdom.

2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The ARCASIA Awards for Architecture (AAA) aim to honour exemplary architectural works that reflect the richness, diversity, and spirit of Asia. In doing so, the awards encourage the advancement of a more thoughtful, responsible, and inspiring built environment across ARCASIA's member countries, while also highlighting the important role of architects in the socio-economic and cultural development of society. The AAA affirms that good architecture is a vital and positive force in shaping the human environment, and that Asia's growth and physical development can evolve without compromising cultural values, national identity, or ecological balance.

3. SCOPE OF THE AWARD

The award will be given in the following categories:

3.1 CATEGORY A: RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

Category A-1 : SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

Single, Individual Dwelling Units, e.g. Houses

Category A-2: MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL COMPLEXES

- Multi-family Dwelling Units, Apartments, Flats, Mass Housing, Low Income Settlements,
- Dormitories, temporary housing, co-living complexes.

3.2 CATEGORY B: PUBLIC AMENITY BUILDINGS

Category B-1: PUBLIC AMENITY: COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

- Office Buildings, Co-working spaces and Shopping Centers.
- Commercial Mixed-use developments

Category B-2: PUBLIC AMENITY: RESORT BUILDINGS

- Resorts, Recreational or Leisure Buildings, Hotels, etc.

Category B-3: PUBLIC AMENITY: INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

- Institutional Buildings, Schools, Hospitals, Healthcare facilities, etc.

Category B-4: PUBLIC AMENITY: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BUILDINGS

- Religious Buildings, Community Centres, Museums, Performing Arts Centres, etc.

Category B-5: SPECIALISED BUILDINGS

- Sports Complexes, Stadiums, Airports, Train Stations, Port Terminals, Infrastructural buildings etc.

3.3 CATEGORY C: INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

- Manufacturing Facilities and Warehouses.

3.4 CATEGORY D: CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Category D-1

- Historical Restoration projects that conserve or restore the Architectural Heritage of Asian countries

Category D-2

- Adaptive reuse projects that conserve or restore the Architectural Heritage of Asian countries

3.5 CATEGORY E: INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

- Integrated development comprising a mixture of at least (3) three of the above categories/ subcategories of A, B, C & D

3.6 SPECIAL AWARDS

- The jury will evaluate every project for Socially Responsible Architecture and Sustainability.
- The jury shall recognize projects deemed outstanding in the respective area of concern, using the criteria set for the special awards.
- All projects are eligible to receive special awards, even if they have won an award in another category.
- Projects shortlisted for the special awards may be requested to provide additional supporting information for jury evaluation.

a) Special Award for SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE ARCHITECTURE

Outstanding achievement in:

Social inclusiveness, for example:

- Accessible to all
- Universal design
- Care for the vulnerable or underprivileged including gender equity

Delivering positive impact beyond architecture, for example, to:

- Natural resources
- Social equality, justice, values
- Policy and legislature
- Local economy and jobs
- Urban ecology and infrastructural systems
- Partnerships and stakeholder diversity

Outcomes and processes sensitive to local needs, for example:

- Community resiliency against disasters
- Quality of place/space – comfort & ease of use
- Culturally sensitive design features
- Affordable, Cost effective solutions
- Efficient use of locally scarce resources
- Participatory design and construction processes
- Choices of materials, building systems and equipment
- Construction techniques

b) Special Award for SUSTAINABILITY

Outstanding achievement in:

Sustainability Engagement and Performance for example:

- Designs that demonstrate strategic commitments to combat climate change; Encouraging stakeholders' engagement to build resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable design, conducting post-occupancy evaluations on user satisfaction & effectiveness of sustainable design measures.
- Design that inspires and promotes principles of sustainability considering durability, flexibility, adaptability in the long term.

Environmental Quality and Well-being for example:

- Quality of outdoor and indoor environment that promotes health and well-being through integration of architecture with light, view, water, air, acoustics and accessibility.
- Quality of built environment that values the ecological, social and cultural aspects of the site and its surrounding neighbourhood.

Resource Conservation for example:

- Building Design that promotes outcomes towards net zero-energy, low carbon emissions, and innovative use of renewable energy sources.
- Building Design that reflects reduction in material and resource consumption from a life-cycle perspective. (use of reusable/recyclable/recycled materials, use of clean energy, cost efficiency)
- Design, construction and operations that adopt effective waste management, minimizing material waste and environmental pollution.

3.7 Council may decide from time to time, as a matter of policy, to increase or decrease these Categories and the announcement released by the Convenor shall clearly state the category for which the Awards will be conferred in that cycle of the Awards well in time.

4. RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE: ELIGIBILITY

The following are eligible to participate:

- Registered Architects or Architectural firms from any ARCASIA member country for projects anywhere in the world.
- Registered Architects or Architectural firms from anywhere in the world for projects within the ARCASIA Member countries.

The awards are strictly for architects or firms who are **OFFICIALLY REGISTERED** to practice architecture in their country of origin.

The entry shall be submitted by the applicants directly for consideration of the ARCASIA AWARDS. Applicants will be required to submit documents in English to support their eligibility. During the review process, the Convenor of the Awards shall have full authority to disqualify any entry that is deemed ineligible, due to incomplete supporting documents or untruthful declarations of eligibility, without notice to the applicant.

4.1 The Awards Committee will accept all eligible entries for adjudication by the ARCASIA Awards Jury provided that

- a. The facility was completed and fully in operation for at least **TWO YEARS** before the date on which the ARCASIA AWARDS is **open for submissions**.
- b. Members of the Jury, their business partners or former business partner(s) or staff members within three years, or members of their immediate families shall not be eligible to participate or receive credit for an award.
- c. No project may receive more than one ARCASIA AWARD (except special awards).

4.2 Each award may only be credited to the legally registered lead principal architect(s) of the project and/or their firm, maximum 3 PARTIES in total.

5. AWARDS

Entries selected by the Jury will be awarded a GOLD MEDAL as the ARCASIA AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURE in each category for the year of the award. The Jury shall reserve the right not to grant an AWARD in any or all the categories if it so decides.

The Jury may at its discretion make HONORARY MENTIONS and MENTIONS of noteworthy projects in the categories.

6. SELECTION CRITERIA

In the assessment of the projects or facilities, the Jury will consider regional differences, paying particular attention to the socio-cultural, environmental location and the resultant standard of the facility.

Projects submitted should be sound both conceptually and technologically within the context of Asia. User response to them should be positive, and the project should not only be relevant but also a source of inspiration, at least in the country of its location and preferably in the Asian region.

7. MATERIALS TO BE SUBMITTED

7.1 The following materials will be required to assess the entries:

- A. Applicant details
- B. Documentary proof of current registration with respective architecture registration board/body (translated to English, where applicable)
- C. Project Description and Details
- D. Documentation Drawings
- E. Photographic Documentation with explanatory texts in English
- F. 1-min video of the building

7.2 Language of the AWARDS:

The working language of the AWARDS is English. All submitted documents, correspondence concerning the AWARDS and all written matter including descriptions, captions and explanations submitted by the entrants to the AWARDS will be in English.

7.3 Rights to Material or Documentation Submitted:

By submitting for the award, the applicant agrees to grant ARCASIA permission for all material submitted to be displayed or published at the discretion of ARCASIA. Therefore, the applicant making the entry submissions should have the legal rights and copyrights to all the material submitted and shall deem to have granted permission to ARCASIA with the submission of the entry.

8. PROCEDURE

Each applicant may submit one or more projects directly via the online awards application portal only. All forms and documents must be submitted online via the portal. No submissions via courier or email will be accepted.

Each submission must comply with the Scope of the Competition and the Right to participate stated above, and all required information shall be submitted for each project separately.

9. JURY OF ASSESSORS

The independent ARCASIA MASTER JURY shall consist of the following:

- **Ar. Wu Jiang - President of ARCASIA**
- **Ar. Abu Sayeed, Bangladesh**
- **Ar. Yolanda Reyes, Philippines**
- **Mr. Raghavendra Rathore - Fashion Designer, India**
- **Ar. Gregory Yager, USA**

10. PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

Awards Announcement : 7 April 2026

Submission Closes : 15 May 2026 (23:59 pm , UTC+5:30)

Compilation : 15 May 2026 – 1 June 2026

Jury Assessment : 1 June 2026 – 1 July 2026

Finalist Announcement : 7 July 2026

Awards Ceremony : 11 September 2026

11. PROCESSING FEE

100 USD (per entry)

75 USD (per entry for members of the ARCASIA Member Institutes, proof of membership required)

For more information, visit: <https://arcasiaawardsarchitecture.com/>

Contact us at aaa2026official@gmail.com