

ARAB WORLD DESIGN AWARD 2026 FOURTH EDITION

CALL FOR PROJECTS

Arab World Institute Design Award 2026 – Fourth Edition

The Arab World Institute Design Award aims to highlight emerging and established designers from the Arab world, showcasing craftsmanship, productive ingenuity, and the creation of new materials. Through the lens of design, it offers a contemporary interpretation of the Arab world's exceptional art of living.

The Arab World Institute is pleased to open its call for applications for the 2026 Arab World Institute Design Award. Projects will be recognized in the following categories:

- 1. Emerging Talent Award (student or early-career designer) :** This award places particular emphasis on solutions addressing challenges specific to Arab countries, manufacturing processes, and development potential.
- 2. Contemporary Craftsmanship Award :** Looking toward the future, this award honors craftsmanship that revisits traditions– including through the use of technological innovation– to address contemporary challenges such as sustainability, customization, and the enhancement of local heritage.
- 3. Impact Award, Arab Bank Switzerland :** This award recognizes:
 - Social impact (education and knowledge transmission, preservation of territories, protection of communities);
 - Environmental impact (ecological solutions, local production, use of low-carbon materials);
 - Economic impact (development of effective processes and technologies, modernization of traditions, job creation).
- 4. Grand Prize (established architect or designer) :** This award recognizes a concrete realization–an object or an interior architecture project–revealing the creator's talent developed over the course of a recognized career.

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Eligibility Criteria and Participation Guidelines

- Projects must have been created between 1 September 2024 and 30 April 2026;
- Candidates must be nationals of an Arab League country or have developed their production within the geographical area of one of the twenty-two Arab League countries: Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen;
- Applications, together with the signed Rules of Participation, must be submitted no later than 26 April 2026 in digital (PDF) format to: arabworlddesignaward@imarabe.org

Selection

Design expert François Leblanc di Cicilia, design entrepreneur Ismail Tazi, and Frédérique Mehdi, Director of Cultural Programs at the Arab World Institute, will announce the shortlist of finalist projects in May. The selected projects will then be submitted to the jury, composed of eminent figures from the world of design.

The laureates will receive their awards during a ceremony at the Arab World Institute in September 2026, in partnership with Paris Design Week. As part of the Arab World Institute Design Award, an exhibition of the finalist projects is planned.

Please consult the “Rules of the Arab World Institute Design Award.pdf” (download link).

Contact: arabworlddesignaward@imarabe.org