

INSTITUT DU MONDE ARABE
DESIGN AWARD

RULES OF PARTICIPATION

PREAMBULE

The **Institut du monde arabe**, a private foundation, is a cultural center resulting from a partnership between France and the twenty-two countries of the Arab League. The **Institute** was designed to promote and spread Arab culture. Today, it has become a true “cultural bridge” between France and the Arab world.

The **Institute** wishes to reward designers from the Arab world by awarding an “Arab World Institute Design Award” divided into four categories:

- Emerging Talent Award
- Contemporary Craftsmanship Award
- Impact Award, Arab Bank Switzerland
- Grand Prize

The purpose of these awards is to promote the career development of a designer, to recognize a company in the design sector, to celebrate an established figure in design, and to honor a creation resulting from craftsmanship.

These awards will be presented under the conditions and according to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

Article 1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All forms of design-related expression are eligible for the “Arab World Institute Design Award”, including product and object design, furniture design, textile design, spatial design, design research, digital design, etc., created by an artist or designer—whether a natural person or a legal entity—originating from one of the 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.

Other nationalities are eligible provided that the submitted work was produced and developed within the geographical area of one of the Arab League countries.

The same applies to legal entities: they must be registered in one of the Arab League countries, or the submitted production must have been produced and developed within the geographical area of one of these countries.

Design works submitted for the Award of year N must have been completed between 1 September of year N-2 and 30 April of year N.

The **Institute** reserves the right to reject any application that is subject to civil or criminal proceedings, infringes on the rights of individuals or legal entities, or violates applicable laws and regulations.

Depending on the projects received, the **Institute** may create additional categories and/or special mentions.

1.1 Emerging Talent Award

The **Emerging Talent Award** recognizes a design production created by an early-career designer or architect, or by a student enrolled in a design or architecture school, possibly in collaboration with partners, craftspeople, or companies. Team applications are allowed. Special attention will be paid to the conceptual approach, solutions addressing issues specific to Arab countries, manufacturing processes, and development potential.

1.2 Contemporary Craftsmanship Award

The **Contemporary Craftsmanship Award** honors the work of a craftsperson or company that, including through the use of technological innovation, shapes a new future for vernacular know-how in Arab countries. This award highlights the convergence of knowledge that pushes the boundaries of creation while reaffirming the importance of craftsmanship, materials, and cultural history. Looking toward the future, this form of craftsmanship revisits traditions to address contemporary challenges such as sustainability, customization, and the enhancement of local heritage.

1.3. Impact Award, Arab Bank Switzerland

The **Impact Award, Arab Bank Switzerland** recognizes a design studio, architecture firm, company, or design-sector business duly registered in its country, possibly in collaboration with partners, craftspeople, or companies. The applicant must demonstrate the social, environmental, and economic impact of its activities:

- 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

1.4. Grand Prize

The Grand Prize honors a design production by an established designer or architect, possibly in collaboration with partners, craftspeople, or companies. Team applications are allowed. The prize recognizes a concrete realization—an object or interior architecture project—revealing the creator's talent developed over a career recognized by peers.

Article 2. APPLICATION

The **Institute** organizes an open call for applications to award the above-mentioned prizes. Applications are free of charge.

Submitted design productions must demonstrate authenticity. **Candidates** bear full responsibility for written documentation and, where applicable, project registration.

Applications must be submitted in French or English. The format is open, but the application file must include:

- The Award category applied for
- The creation date and project title
- A presentation of the author(s) (CV)
- An intention statement (context, stakeholders, key challenges)
- A conceptual note (approach, objectives, solution)
- A detailed project description
- Visual materials (drawings, renderings, photographs with credits)
- A project summary of no more than 5,000 characters
- A presentation of partners, if applicable
- The signed Laureate Charter and these Rules, constituting acceptance
- Additional documents for companies:
 - Certificate of registration (legal document)
 - Presentation of the entity's background

Applications must be submitted before 30 April of year N in digital PDF format to: arabworldddesignaward@imarabe.org

If the file is too large, submission in ZIP format is recommended. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Article 3. SELECTION

The “Arab World Institute Design Award” will recognize one **Candidate** per category, for a total of four laureates.

3.1 Pre-selection

A preselection committee appointed by the **Institute**—composed of design experts and Institute representatives—will shortlist five to eight Finalists per category, based on identified or submitted projects.

No **Candidate** may have more than one project selected. **Candidates** not selected will be notified by email.

3.2 Selection

The jury appointed by the **Institute** consists of recognized professionals from the design sector, cultural institutions, and specialized design or lifestyle media.

The jury’s composition and decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Decisions are made by a relative majority. In the event of a tie, the Jury President’s vote counts double. Jury decisions are sovereign and may be reasoned.

Selection criteria include the quality of the proposal: originality, relevance, aesthetic value, environmental responsibility, valorization of local traditions, exploration of know-how, production quality, economic outlook, services provided, and presentation quality.

The jury may decide not to award a prize if submissions do not meet expectations.

Article 4. PRIZES

Each **Laureate** or **Winning collective** will receive a lump-sum award, the amount of which will be determined by 30 June of year N, and/or an in-kind reward (notably communication and promotion), shared equally among team members if applicable.

The jury may also award one or more special mentions.

The **Laureates** will receive the “Arab World Institute Design Award 2026”. The Award ceremony will take place on Wednesday, 9 September 2026, during Paris Design Week, subject to **Laureates’** availability.

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Article 5. ASSIGNMENTS OF RIGHTS

By participating, **Candidates** grant the **Institut du monde arabe** a non-exclusive, royalty-free right to present their projects to jury members and organizing staff.

Finalists must agree to the exhibition of their projects at the **Institute**. Exhibition and potential touring arrangements will be governed by a specific contract.

Article 6. LIABILITY AND GUARANTEES

Each **Candidate** agrees to:

- Not disclose results before the official announcement
- Not use the **Institute's** or sponsors' logos without prior authorization

Candidates guarantee that they hold all rights necessary for the use of the submitted designs and that no third-party authorization is required.

Laureates must mention "Laureate of the Arab World Institute Design Award" in accordance with the Laureate Charter and participate in promotional activities.

The **Candidate** undertakes to provide information, captions, descriptions, or any other element that describes their design and creation, which is a true and honest reflection thereof. In the event that this information of any kind is incorrect and/or defamatory, the **Candidate** shall be held directly liable.

It is understood that **Candidates** undertake to ensure that the obligations set out in this article are complied with by any person who may participate in or be associated with the Project or its implementation.

Article 7. RIGHT OF CANCELLATION

The **Institute** expressly reserves the right to decide how often the Prize is awarded, without any obligation to award it annually, and also reserves the right to cancel the award of the Prize under these rules at any time and for any reason, without any compensation being payable in this regard.

Article 8. AMENDMENT OF THE ENTRY RULES

The **Institute** reserves the right to amend or update these Rules and the organization of the "Arab World Institute Design Award".

Article 9. GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

These regulations can be downloaded free of charge from the Institute's website:
www.imarabe.org

Article 10. PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

It is specified that the **Institute** may collect personal data concerning the **Candidate** and process this data electronically in order to comply with its tax, social security, and administrative obligations.

This data will also be transmitted to the staff in charge of organizing the Prize and to the members of the jury, who may be located outside the European Union.

Under the conditions defined by the French Data Protection Act of January 6, 1978, and by the European General Data Protection Regulation, which came into force on May 25, 2018, the **Candidate** has the right to access, rectify, query, restrict, transfer, and erase data concerning him or her. The **Candidate** may also, for legitimate reasons, object to the processing of this data.

The **Candidate** may exercise all of the above rights by contacting the **Institute** at the following email address: vosdonnees-dpo@imarabe.org

Consequently, the **Parties** acknowledge that all such **Data** is subject to compliance with applicable regulations. The **Parties** undertake to implement all necessary procedures to ensure the confidentiality and maximum security of such **Data**.

Article 11. APPLICABLE LAW AND COMPETENT JURISDICTION

All provisions of these rules are subject to French law, regardless of where they are enforced.

The **Parties** undertake to seek in good faith an amicable solution to any disagreement concerning the validity, interpretation, or execution of these **Rules**, without, however, compliance with this obligation constituting grounds for the inadmissibility of any legal action.

In the event that the **Parties** are unable to reach an amicable agreement in the event of a dispute concerning the validity, interpretation, performance, or implementation of these **Rules** or its **Annexes**, the **Parties** agree to submit to the competent courts of Paris any dispute or litigation that may arise between them concerning the validity, interpretation, or execution of these Rules.

Article 12. REGISTRATION FORM AND SIGNATURE

The **Candidate** indicates the category of the “Arab World Design Award” for which the application is submitted:

Category:

Project title:

Type of project (interior design, architecture, furniture design, textile design, etc.):

Country associated with the project:

Candidate's Identification

Last name:

First name:

Nationality:

Structure / Company (if applicable):

Email address:

Telephone number:

I, the undersigned, hereby certify the accuracy of the information provided and declare that I have read these Rules.

I acknowledge that I accept them without reservation and undertake to comply with all their provisions.

Done at:

On:

Signature preceded
by the words “Read and approved”:

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LAUREAT'S CHARTER OF THE ARAB WORLD INSTITUTE DESIGN AWARD

The candidate acknowledges the values and objectives pursued by the Institute and undertakes to comply with the reciprocal obligations associated with the awarding of the Arab World Institute Design Award, should they become a laureate.

ABOUT THE ARAB WORLD INSTITUTE (AWI)

1. A private-law foundation recognized as being of public interest by decree of 14 October 1980 (bylaws amended by decree of 23 March 2010), the Institut du monde arabe is the result of a partnership between France and twenty-two Arab 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.

2. The **Institut du monde arabe** was created to promote and showcase Arab culture. Today, it stands as a true "cultural and social bridge" between France and the Arab world.

3. Dialogue, diversity, aesthetics, transmission, and conviviality are the core values underpinning the **Institute's** mission.

ABOUT THE ARAB WORLD INSTITUTE DESIGN AWARD

1. This Award, granted by the **Institute**, recognizes Arab design productions created by emerging and established talents, as well as by entrepreneurial initiatives.

2. Awarded by a prestigious jury, this Prize is far more than financial support: it is recognition of the quality of the laureate's work and may serve as a springboard for the continuation of their career.

3. **Laureates** form a dynamic and supportive community that entails rights and obligations for both the **laureates** and the **Institute**. Some of these rights and obligations are already set out in the **Rules** of the Arab World Institute Design Award, which the **laureate** undertakes to respect.

COMMITMENTS OF THE LAUREATES AND THE INSTITUTE

1. **Laureates** undertake, as far as possible, to attend the award ceremony.

2. **Laureates** undertake to include, in any subsequent re-edition of their awarded design production and in any publicity relating thereto, the mention:

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“Laureate of the Arab World Institute Design Award.” Should any obstacle arise, the laureate shall inform the Institute in advance. The **Parties** will consult together to find an acceptable solution to overcome such obstacle.

3. In order to enable the **Institute** to support the laureate throughout their professional journey and to strengthen the sharing of experiences and community spirit around the **Institute**, the **laureate** undertakes to provide the **Institute**, on their own initiative and at least once per year, with professional information concerning them. The **laureate** also undertakes to respond to any questionnaire sent by the **Institute**. In return, the **Institute** will endeavor to report on the **laureates**' careers on its website and, where applicable, on social media.

4. The **Institute** may invite **laureates** to take part in initiatives it supports. **Laureates** undertake to consider such proposals. These initiatives provide opportunities for **laureates** to place their talent and creativity at the service of others.

5. Supporting **laureates** requires, under all circumstances, respect for the **Institute**'s name and the values it embodies.

6. **Laureates** authorize the **Institute** to disseminate images, photographs, information, and/or biographical elements provided by the **laureates** on its website and social media platforms.

I, the undersigned,

Undertake to comply with this Charter in the event that I become a winner.

[date]

[signature]

WINNERS' CHARTER

TO BE RETURNED DULY DATED, INITIALLED AND SIGNED