



**BIGMAT
INTERNATIONAL
ARCHITECTURE
AWARD 2025**

LEGAL RULES

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1 ORGANISER

The BigMat International Group, with headquarters in Paris and operating out of seven European countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Slovakia, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain), is proud to announce the latest BigMat International Architecture Award.

The group was founded in 1981 in a bid to improve and streamline the distribution of construction materials by bringing independent businesses under the umbrella of an association. The BigMat Architecture Award originated in Spain back in 2005 and following three back-to-back national editions, it evolved into an international event garnering overwhelming levels of interest. The first international edition of the award took place in 2013 and the winner, Belgian architect Xaveer de Geyter, was announced at the final award ceremony held in Granada. Spanish architect Alberto Campo Baeza was proclaimed the winner of the second edition of the event held in Berlin in 2015. The third edition was held in 2017 in the Italian city of Florence, with French architects Anne Lacaton & Jean-Philippe Vassal emerging triumphant. The fourth edition was held in the French city of Bordeaux in 2019 and was won by Portuguese architect Eduardo Souto de Moura. In the fifth edition, held in Paris in 2021, Belgian architect Xaveer de Geyter was once again proclaimed the winner. The sixth edition, in 2023, was won by Spanish architects Ramón Pico and F. Javier López (Estudio ACTA) in the general category and by Portuguese architects Hugo Ferreira and Nuno Melo Sousa in the small-scale residential architecture category, with the awards ceremony taking place in the Spanish city of Seville.

In the upcoming 2025 edition, the awards ceremony will coincide with the BigMat International Group's annual congress to be held in the European city of Warsaw on Friday, 7 November 2025.

2 SPIRIT OF THE AWARD

The award provides recognition and international exposure for outstanding works of architecture—of any size or category—to have made a telling contribution to contemporary architectural culture in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain. To mark the 20th anniversary of the award since its first edition at BigMat Iberia, this latest edition will feature a new special category for those projects to have been developed in recent years by builders and architects working alongside BigMat distribution centres. This new award has been named the Proximity Architecture Award.

3 ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the award, the project must have been built in one or other of the participating countries between the following dates:

- For the Architecture category: between 1 January 2021 and 1 January 2025.
- For the Proximity Architecture category: between 1 January 2016 and 1 January 2025.



Buildings that won an award in previous editions of this competition may not be entered again into this seventh edition.

Moreover, architects or architectural firms that have won the BigMat Grand Prize in previous editions will not be eligible to enter the BMIAA again.

The BigMat International Architecture Award is aimed exclusively at architects based in one or other of the seven participating countries. The works submitted must have been built in the same country. When a project is entered, it will be assigned to the country in which the architect responsible for the project is based, which must also be the country where the work of architecture was built. If the project was created by several architects working out of different countries, it should be entered by the architect based in the country where the project was built.

Architects may enter as many works as they see fit, but must enter each one individually. In the case of joint works, at least one of the creators must meet the above requirements. Each architect must validate their entry by choosing either "Architecture" or "Proximity Architecture", without these options being mutually exclusive.

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AWARDS

The panel will award a total of fourteen (14) BMIAA'25 National Awards: seven in the Architecture category and seven in the Proximity Architecture category, one for each participating country. The winning projects in each category will compete for the two BMIAA'25 Grand Prizes, namely the Grand Prize for Architecture and the Grand Prize for Proximity Architecture, each worth 30,000 euros.

Prize money:

Architecture Awards: encompass all architectural works carried out across different categories and scales.

- **7 x BMIAA'25 National Awards for Architecture.** Prize money: 1,500 euros
- **BMIAA'25 International Grand Prize for Architecture.** Prize money: 30,000 euros (1,500 euros for the National Award + 28,500 euros for the Grand Prize)

Proximity Architecture Awards: projects developed in close collaboration between local architects and builders, using materials purchased from BigMat stores. To be eligible for this category, the architect must have an entry code obtained from any BigMat store located in the vicinity of the project. This code can be obtained directly from the BigMat partner or from the builder who has collaborated on the construction, provided that the builder purchased materials from a BigMat distribution centre.

- **7 x BMIAA'25 National Awards for Proximity Architecture.** Prize money: 1,000 euros for the Architect and 1,000 euros for the Builder. The Builder will receive this prize money in the form of a trade discount which they can redeem at the assigned BigMat store (according to the code provided when entering the competition).
- **BMIAA'25 International Grand Prize for Proximity Architecture.** Prize money: 20,000 euros for the Architect (1,000 euros as the National Prize + 19,000 euros as the Grand Prize) and 10,000 euros for the Builder (1,000 euros as the National Prize + 9,000 euros as the Grand Prize). The builder will receive this prize money in the form of trade discount, which they can redeem at the assigned BigMat store (according to the code provided upon entering the competition).

Young Architect Award: a single BMIAA'25 Young Architect Honorary Award will be awarded to an architectural project built by an architect who was aged under 40 on the date the work was completed. For team or joint entries, all team members must meet this requirement in order to be eligible for this award, which will invariably be chosen from among the 140 shortlisted entries.

- **BMIAA'25 Young Architect Honorary Award.** Prize money: 1,500 euros.

The awards panel may choose to grant other honourable mentions, albeit without any prize money.

The panel reserves the right to declare any of the prizes envisioned in these terms and conditions null and void if, in its opinion, the entries presented do not reach the level of quality considered worthy of recognition. Justification will be provided for any such decision and the reasons will be reflected in the final deliberations document so as to preserve the level of excellence and prestige associated with these awards.

A catalogue of the winning entries will be published. The prize money for each award will be paid to the creator or creators appearing on the award entry form and will be subject to the tax agreements in effect between Paris and the relevant country or countries of the prize winners.

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PANEL

The panel will comprise renowned figures from each of the countries taking part in the award. No panel member may enter their own work or enter any work in which they were involved. Moreover, they may not be related up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity with any of the participants.

- **SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION:**

CHAIR: Jesús Aparicio. PhD Architect and Chairman at the Polytechnic University of Madrid.

SECRETARY: Jesús Donaire. PhD Architect and Professor at the Polytechnic University of Madrid and Visiting Professor at the Polytechnic University of Milan. The Secretary has the right to speak, but not to vote.

- **VOCALS:**

Oana Bogdan (&bogdan), representing Belgium.

Anne Lacaton (Lacaton & Vassal), representing France.

Francesca Torzo, representing Italy.

José Neves, representing Portugal.

Martin Jančok (Plural), representing the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

María Langarita (Langarita-Navarro), representing Spain.

The awards panel shall adopt decisions by majority vote from among its seven voting members.

Two certificates will be issued over the course of the process. The first of these will contain a short-list of up to twelve (12) works of Architecture and a further eight (8) works of Proximity Architecture for each country. This list will be posted on the competition website in due course. The Awards Office will notify the shortlisted participants by email.

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ENTRIES

The registration period and term for submitting entries will run from 14 February 2025, ending at 23:59 on 24 April 2025. The documentation needed for phase one of the BMIAA'25 Awards should be delivered in digital format and contain all the information needed to appraise the

project. Project documents can be uploaded by heading to the “ENTER PROJECT” section of the website: www.architectureaward.bigmat.com.

Shortly after entering their project, each candidate will receive a confirmation email containing a registration number to identify them during the first stage of receiving entries and appraisal by the jury.

The BigMat Group accepts no liability for the truthfulness or accuracy of the information provided by participants on the entry forms and it reserves the right to bar or remove any project that breaches this requirement.

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INFORMATION, DOCUMENTATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

PHASE ONE

To have their entries validated, candidates must upload the following information and documentation for each project under the “ENTER PROJECT” section of the website:

INFORMATION

- Full name and contact details of the office or studio that created the project.
- Full name and contact details of the architect or head of the project team.
- Title, year of completion and location of the project.
- Identification of the category of the entry as either A or B:

Category A - Architecture Projects

This category includes works of architecture of all types and sizes.

Required information

The architect must provide the following information:

- **Description of the project:** Brief description of the project in English (no more than 300 words).
- **List of collaborators:** List of all persons or entities to have taken part in the project.

Required documentation

- **Format:** A single PDF file weighing no more than 15 MB.
- **Content:** Two horizontal panels in DIN A3 format, including all elements needed to understand and appraise the project.
- **Identification:** A 10 x 30 mm rectangle must be included in the upper right corner of each panel, showing the project entry code for easy identification.

Category B - Proximity Architecture Projects

This category is intended for projects that have been developed in close collaboration between local architects and builders, using materials purchased from BigMat centres.

Entry requirements

• **Entry code**

- An entry code provided by a BigMat retailer located in the vicinity of the project is mandatory.
- This code can be obtained in two ways:
 - Directly from any local BigMat partner store.
 - From the builder who has collaborated on the project, provided that they acquired the materials from a BigMat centre that previously provided the builder with the code.



- **Registration of the code**

- Once the code has been obtained, it should be entered in the “BigMat Partner Code” box when completing the entry form on the competition website.

- **Name and details of the construction firm**

- During the entry process, the Architect must identify the construction firm involved in building the project entered into the competition. This will be the firm with which the prize will be shared if the entry happens to win. If the entry was built by several construction firms all of which purchased materials from BigMat, the architect should identify only the main company involved in the build that provided the entry code. Aside from naming the company, the Architect should also provide its tax number on the registration form.

Entry process

Once the code has been registered, the procedure will be the same as for **Category A**.

Required information

- **Description of the project:** short text in English of up to 300 words.
- **List of collaborators:** list of all persons or entities to have taken part in the project.

Required documentation

- **Format:** single PDF file weighing no more than 15 MB.
- **Content:** two horizontal panels in DIN A3 format presenting all the information needed to understand and appraise the project.
- **Identification:** Each panel should include a 10 x 30 mm rectangle in the top right corner showing the project entry code.

The panel will select, for each country, up to twelve (12) Architecture projects and up to eight (8) Proximity Architecture projects, for a maximum of 140 projects from among all seven countries taking part.

PHASE TWO

Once a maximum of twelve (12) works have been selected for each country in the Architecture category and once up to eight (8) works have been selected for each country in the Proximity Architecture category, the Awards Office will ask the selected candidates to send additional information in hard copy format to the headquarters of the BigMat Group in Madrid, Spain, where the awards panel will decide on the final winners. Once convened, the panel will select the BMIAA'25 National Awards, the BMIAA'25 International Grand Prize for Architecture, the BMIAA'25 International Grand Prize for Proximity Architecture and the BMIAA'25 Young Architect Honorary Award.

Those selected will be asked, by email, to provide proof that the documentation has been submitted by post. Projects will be automatically excluded from the competition if any required documentation is missing upon reaching the deadline.

FINAL PHASE AND AWARDS CEREMONY

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The jury will convene to decide on the 15 prizes. The final decision will be announced at the award ceremony to be held in the European city of Warsaw in November 2025.

To receive any award, the main architect responsible for the winning project must be able to attend the awards gala at the invitation of the BigMat Group. Otherwise, the award will be forfeited.



Once the awards ceremony has ended, the BigMat Group may organise further events and actions to promote and publicise the winning projects and those that were short-listed, including catalogues, exhibitions and/or postings on social networks. The authors will be duly informed of any such events. For this purpose, the authors must provide the images associated with each shortlisted and/or winning project.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Participation in this competition implies full acceptance of these terms and conditions. The panel's decision will be final. Any doubt concerning these terms and conditions or any proposed change will be appraised and resolved by the panel, whose decision will be final and will be announced on the website in due course.

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DATA PROTECTION

In accordance with the European General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679, participants are advised that to enter the Architecture Award they will be asked to complete a questionnaire by entering their personal and professional data. The data will be processed for the lawful basis of managing the award and to process your image in any format as a participant, finalist or winner in any of the events relating to the award.

Since the award is to receive international coverage and exposure, participants, winners and those in attendance must allow photos and videos to be taken of them during the events and proceedings leading up to the award and during the awards ceremony, so that they may be published on the website <http://architectureaward.bigmat.com/> and on social media sites relating to the Award and the BigMat Group.

Accordingly, data subjects must consent to the processing of the personal data obtained through the questionnaire and to the use of their images. Refusal to grant such consent will render the subject unable to take part in the award.

The lawful basis for the processing of the personal data as described above is the subject's voluntary participation in the award. No personal data will be disclosed to third parties except for the purpose of managing the award.

The organiser shall retain the personal data provided for the necessary period of time and for as long as the relationship between the parties continues for the purpose of managing the competition and for disseminating information on participants, finalists and winners.

Moreover, the personal data and image of the finalists and winners will be retained once the competition has ended for cultural outreach purposes so as to showcase and promote the winning projects or works.

In any case and insofar as possible, we will proceed to erase or destroy the personal data securely if and when the subject exercises his or her right of erasure, objection to processing or restriction of processing, or when we consider that the participant's data require no further processing, unless the data must be retained in order to fulfil a legal obligation, in which case we will inform the subject and ensure that his or her data remain blocked.

We likewise inform participants that their personal data will be processed with the utmost confidentiality.

All such personal data will be introduced into a filing system owned and controlled by BIGMAT INTERNATIONAL for the purpose described above of managing and promoting the award, of keeping participants informed of future editions as and when these arise, and of sending information of interest in relation to the sector. Subjects are advised that they may exercise their rights of access, rectification, erasure, objection to processing, restriction of processing and data portability in respect of their personal data by writing to 14, Boulevard Montmartre - 75009 Paris; telephone: +33 1 53 32 80 30, or by sending an email to architectureaward@bigmat.com. For more information, please visit <http://architectureaward.bigmat.com/>