



**public space  
2026**

# **european prize for urban public space 2026**

**The Center for Contemporary Culture of Barcelona is a multidisciplinary cultural centre that deals with the key challenges of contemporary society. One of its key areas of interest are cities as physical structures but also, and essentially, as basic political and cultural entities.**



# in favour of urban public space

Throughout history, Europe has produced cities that are exemplary in terms of their compactness, diversity, and human scale. One of its great contributions to the world has unquestionably been its particular way of understanding and experiencing urban public space.

In European cities, the natural setting for the Prize, public space plays a key role as a collective meeting place, charged with political, economic, and social values, which are inseparable from a physical design that harbours them and makes them possible. As a consequence, in observing the quality of public spaces, the Prize also becomes a project that draws attention to and invites reflection on the quality of life and the democratic quality of European cities.

Europe's cities are facing challenges and transformations that are present in urban realities around the world. In this regard, the Prize offers a special perspective, from our most immediate reality, in a more comprehensive debate on the future of cities, which is becoming increasingly important every day in an ever more urbanised world. Thinking about the European city means thinking about particular

solutions that are presently materialising in Europe in response to the worldwide challenge of the urban future.

Today, the climate emergency has transformed global agendas and has become a central vector of urban thinking. Issues such as shortages, rising sea levels, or the pandemic present challenges for cities, for which there are still no clear solutions, and which have a direct impact on urban design and public spaces. At the same time, increasing inequality and the effects of technological transformations are elements that have a direct impact on urban conditions everywhere. The Prize aims to reflect the centrality of these issues and serve as an observatory that facilitates possible solutions for a future where cities will play a key role in defining the evolution of human society.

**The Prize upholds an open, compact city of universal access, guaranteeing harmonious coexistence of citizens, mixed uses, sustainable mobility, preserving the historical memory of places, and favouring the participation of citizens in the design of its shared spaces.**



# the prize



**The European Prize for Urban Public Space** is a biennial competition which, since 2000, has recognised the creation, recovery and improvement of public spaces whose condition is understood as a clear indicator of the democratic health of our cities.

Throughout its 12 editions, the Prize has received 2,507 works from 43 European countries. The Prize has therefore become a window with privileged perspectives on the transformation of public spaces in Europe and a gauge of the main concerns of European cities. Emerging from the Prize, the online archive of the web brings together the best 382 works from all the awards.

The Prize has several **distinguishing features**. First, it is conceded to both the architect and the branch of public administration (council or political representative) that has taken the political decision to produce the intervention and, frequently, to guarantee its funding as well. Second, is the honorific nature of the Prize. Third, the Prize is not so much concerned, at least not uniquely or as a priority, with large-scale urban planning operations, as it is with interventions – great or small – that aim, above all, to improve the lives of citizens. Priority is given, then, to architecture with a social vocation rather than to that with an aesthetic or spectacular accent. This enables us to situate architects who are as yet unknown or just starting to be known, alongside the great names of the world of architecture. Fourth, the Prize is distinctive in its clearly European vocation. While respecting local particularities, it is concerned to pay tribute to the common features of urban planning interventions throughout the geographic space of Europe, and to endorse and make known a certain European identity in the domain of architecture.





# 2026 edition



The CCCB announces a new edition of the Award with the aim of valuing those works made **between 2021 and 2025**.

The call is open, free and takes place in two rounds. In the first round, the Jury of this edition will select 25 works that will be published on the project's website and will become part of its archive. From among the 25 selected, there will be 5 finalist works that will go on to the second round.

## **10 December 2025**

Start of submissions at 12:00 (GMT+1)

## **26 February 2026**

Closing of submissions at 12:00 (GMT+1)

## **2-3 July 2026**

Jury meeting to select the shortlisted and finalist works

## **9 July 2026**

Announcement of the 25 shortlisted works

## **9 September 2026**

Announcement of the 5 finalist works

## **15-18 October 2026**

Presentation of the 5 finalist works at the CCCB  
Final Jury deliberation and award ceremony



# advisory committee

The Prize counts on a network of institutions of recognised prestige which consolidate the project throughout Europe and ensure that the most interesting interventions in public space will have access to the call.

The institutions have an advisory role in proposing Jury members and expert nominators. They also review works that are nominated for the competition, as well as supporting the dissemination of information about the Prize –the call for entries and the results– in the country and network of influence.

The institutions that are part of the Advisory Committee for this year's edition are:

## **arc en rêve centre d'architecture**

Arc en Rêve (Bordeaux)



Vienna Centre of Architecture - AzW (Vienna)



ArkDes (Stockholm)



The City of Architecture and Heritage (Paris)



CIVA (Brussels)

German Architecture Museum - DAM (Frankfurt)



Estonian Museum of Architecture (Tallinn)



Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre - KÉK (Budapest)



Museum of Architecture and Design - MAO (Ljubljana)



The Architecture Foundation - AF (London)



# 2026 edition international jury

The international Jury will be made up of independent experts who change with each edition in order to guarantee new perspectives on the project. The 2024 Jury will consist of a president, six members and a secretary.

The work of the Jury will be carried out in two phases. In a first round they will select the 25 best works and, among them, 5 finalist works. The second phase will take place at the CCCB on October 28th when 5 finalists will be presented to the Jury and the winning project, as well as special mentions when appropriate, will be announced at the awards ceremony on October 29th.



**Eva Prats. President of the Jury**

Architect. PhD from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. She worked with Enric Miralles before co-founding a studio with Ricardo Flores in 1998. Her best-known works include Sala Beckett in Barcelona and Casal Balaguer in Palma. She has received international awards and her work has been exhibited at the Venice Biennale and in museums such as the Royal Academy of Arts and the Swiss Architecture Museum. She combines practice with teaching and has taught at ETSAB, ETH Zürich, RMIT and Arizona State University. Since 2023, she is full professor at the Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio. She is the author of books and essays such as *Dibujar sin borrar* (2023) and *Building Communities* (2024).



**Lluís Ortega. Secretary**

Lluís Ortega is Ph.D. Architect by the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), MA in Philosophy by the Universitat de Barcelona, and obtained his Master of Science degree (AAD) from Columbia University. Co-founder and principal at JL-Office, at present he is Distinguished Research Professor Beatriz Galindo at UPC.





## Members of the Jury



### Angelika Fitz

Architectural theorist, curator, and Director of the Architekturzentrum Wien since 2017. She previously developed an international career as a curator, visiting professor, and author in architecture and urban planning. Her work focuses on the social contextualization of architecture, responsible use of resources, and a global perspective, and she is a member of international advisory boards and juries, including the IBA Expert Council for the German government in Berlin.



### Monika Konrad

Architect, urban planner, and researcher, and Deputy Director of the Warsaw Municipal Office of Architecture and Spatial Planning, where she is chief designer for the Warsaw General Strategic Plan. She studied in Poznań, Rotterdam, and Lund, and gained experience at OMA, Claus en Kaan Architecten, and Strelka KB.



### Inês Lobo

Architect, educator, and curator. In 2002 she founded her own studio, which develops projects across multiple fields—from public facilities and housing to the rehabilitation of buildings and public spaces. She has taught as a visiting lecturer in Portugal and abroad and has curated several architecture exhibitions. She has also served on advisory boards and juries for national and international awards of architecture.



### Bas Smets

Landscape architect and civil engineer, known for his interdisciplinary approach addressing climate change and public space. He founded Bureau Bas Smets in Brussels, developing projects across 12 countries. His work focuses on “augmented landscapes” to create new microclimates. He also teaches as Professor in Practice at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.



### Philip Ursprung

Professor of the History of Art and Architecture at ETH Zürich, where he served as Dean 2017–2019. He studied art history in Geneva, Vienna, and Berlin and has taught at UdK Berlin, Columbia University, the Barcelona Institute of Architecture, the Singapore ETH Center, and Cornell University.





# 2026 edition network of experts



At the same time as an open call takes place, a group of recognised professionals in the domains of architecture, urban planning, journalism, and other disciplines related with urban issues nominate interventions in public space which they deem particularly successful. The experts send the list of these works to the CCCB, which is responsible for contacting their authors to invite them to enter the project for the Prize.

Besides, they contribute to the international dissemination of the Prize and are also welcome to participate in public events, publications and other activities related with it.

The presently confirmed network of experts of the European Prize for Urban Public Space is composed of the following specialists:

Cosmin Caciuc, Romania  
Rodrigo Coelho, Portugal  
Daniela Colafranceschi, Italy  
Pelin Derviş, Turkey  
Anneke Essl, Austria  
Žaklina Gligorijević, Serbia  
Kathrin Golda-Pongratz, Spain  
Tinatin Gurgenidze, Germany  
Valeri Gyurov, Bulgaria  
Konstantinos Ioannidis, Norway  
Jelena Ivanovic Vojvodic, Serbia  
Juulia Kauste, Finland





Igor Kovačević, Czech Republic  
 Višnja Kukoč, Croatia  
 Piotr Lewicki, Poland  
 Dan Merta, Czech Republic  
 Henrieta Moravčíková, Slovakia  
 Maroje Mrduljas, Croatia  
 Nedim Mutevelić, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
 Shane O'Toole, Ireland  
 Sarhat Pertrosyan, Armenia  
 Silje Pihlak, Estonia  
 Levente Polyak, Hungary  
 Ewa Porębska, Poland

Jelena Prokopljević, Spain  
 Gustavo Ribeiro, Denmark  
 Socrates Stratis, Cyprus  
 Hans Teerds, Netherlands  
 Ed Wall, United Kingdom

**Additional expert confirmations  
 currently in progress...**





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