

BACKGROUND - What are the Holcim Awards?

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The Holcim Awards are the world's most significant competition for sustainable design and showcase the potential for sustainable design and sustainable construction approaches to transform the building sector. The total prize money is USD 1M.

The Holcim Awards were created in 2004 to recognize and promote projects combining sustainable design and construction with architectural excellence.

With close to 30,000 entries received from 130 countries over the past two decades, the reach of the Holcim Awards is truly global. More importantly, the impact for the authors of the over 250 projects recognized to date is significant. From legitimacy to support project realization on the ground to peer recognition at a global scale, the Holcim Awards play a key role in accelerating the best ideas and solutions for a more sustainable built environment.

What about the Holcim Awards 2023?

Schedule:

- Competition opens on February 6, 2023
- Registration deadline: March 30, (14:00 hrs UTC)
- Jury evaluation: May/July 2023
- Nominee verification: August/September 2023
- Winners announced: November 18, 2023

The Competition:

- The global competition is conducted in five geographic regions: Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Middle East Africa, and North America.
- Independent expert juries will evaluate submissions and select the winners.
- USD 1 million in total prize money (USD 200,000 per region) will be shared between winners of a Holcim Awards Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Acknowledgement prize in each region.
- Gold, Silver, and Bronze winners from all regions will be invited to the prize announcement to be held at the Venice Biennale of Architecture 2023.

What's new in 2023:

- The revised competition supports a redefined mission of the Foundation to accelerate the global movement for sustainable construction and stimulate the transfer of knowledge.
- Holcim Awards will be held bi-annually starting in 2023, with results announced in the same calendar year.
- Entries are evaluated using the Foundation's refreshed goals for sustainable construction (Uplifting Places, Healthy Planet, Viable Economics, and Thriving Communities).
- The entry process requests qualitative and quantitative information to illustrate how the project meets the Foundation's goals for sustainable construction.

Eligibility:

- Project must not have started construction before January 1, 2022
- Projects may be at the following stages: detailed design, completed design, under construction, and completed construction
- Projects must be client-supported, meaning commissioned by an individual, a group of individuals, or an organization that seeks professional advice from the participating organization with whom the main author is associated.

How to enter?

- Entry is free
- Online entry form will be available from February 6, 2023
- Entry content includes a project summary, details on the project author/team, images, and information on the sustainability data points that are most relevant to the project
- Submissions must be in English
- No limit to the number of entries an individual/team may submit

What did they say about the Holcim Awards?

- *"The Holcim Awards highlight each project's contribution to solve a collective need and thus transform it into a collective desire."*

Alejandro Aravena, Partner Architect, ELEMENTAL, Chile; Member of the Holcim Foundation Board, and Holcim Awards Silver 2011 winner.

- *"The Holcim Awards competition gave our project global exposure."*

Kai-Uwe Bergmann, Partner, Bjarke Ingels Group, Denmark/USA; and Holcim Awards Bronze 2014 winner.

- *“Winning the Holcim Awards was an important motivation for our practice.”*

Loreta Castro Reguera, Design Director & Founder of Taller Capital; Professor of Architecture, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City; and Holcim Awards Gold 2018 winner.

- *“Winning a Holcim Awards prize was a milestone in my career.”*

Francis Kéré, Principal, Kéré Architecture, Germany; Pritzker Architecture Prize laureate (2022); and Holcim Awards Gold 2012 winner.

- *“The Holcim Awards gives project authors credibility and publicity – people begin to believe in them, and that really helps to build career momentum.”*

Brinda Somaya, Principal Architect, Somaya & Kalappa Consultants, India & Member of the Holcim Foundation Board.