



**2nd edition 2026
regulations**

1 call for submissions

Basque Architecture Institute/EAI and arc en rêve, with the sponsorship and collaboration of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda of the Basque Government, announce the public call for submissions for the 2nd edition of the European Collective Housing Award.

The award is intended to showcase collective housing in Europe, and in so doing to highlight its importance and particular characteristics in shaping European society. Collective housing is one of the foremost identifying features of the European city and one of the pillars of the European welfare state.

The award seeks to generate a critical debate between stakeholders and citizens on the subject of housing architecture, its quality and impact on city construction, in all its forms: public, private, new, renovated, etc.

The award will recognize built works of collective housing, acknowledging the involvement of all stakeholders in the process, from those who contribute to the design to the promoters of the buildings.

The award has an organising board and an advisory board.

The organising board is made up of the following people:

• Director of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda of the Basque Government • Director of arc en rêve — centre d'architecture • Director of the Basque Architecture Institute/EAI.

The members of the advisory board are:

• Bernard Blanc, winner of the Mies van der Rohe Award and member of Bordeaux City Council • Aurora Fernández Per, journalist and founder of a+t architecture publishers • Carmen Imbernón, Secretary General of European Spain • Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani, former Director of the German Architecture Museum in Frankfurt and former Chair for History and Urban Design at ETH Zurich • Kristiaan Borret, Professor of urban design at the Ghent University | Belgium.

2 entries and categories

Candidates for the award will be housing developments with a completion date falling between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2025, both inclusive. All buildings submitted must include at least three dwellings within a single development.

The awards will be conferred in two categories:

- Best Collective Housing Development of New Construction;
- Best Collective Housing Development Resulting from Renovation.

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jury

For the second edition, the jury brings together five internationally renowned professionals with a wide range of perspectives and experience in the field. The composition of the jury reflects the Award's commitment to celebrate collective housing that balances design, social responsibility, and environmental sustainability, while recognizing the diversity of the actors involved in its creation.

The confirmed members of the Jury are:

- Carme Pinós (SPAIN) — Chair of the Jury, architect and founder of Estudio Carme Pinós
- Jing Liu (USA – NETHERLANDS) — Architect, co-founder of SO-IL
- Catherine Sabbah (FRANCE) — Housing expert and Executive Director of IDHEAL
- David Madden (UNITED KINGDOM) — Sociologist and Associate Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences
- Lucia Tozzi (Italy) — Urban researcher and journalist.

The jury will evaluate submitted projects based on their architectural quality, contribution to the collective housing culture, urban and social impact, and alignment with the values of the Award.

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participants

Eligible candidates for the 2nd European Collective Housing Award are collective housing developments located in one of the 46 countries making up the Council of Europe: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine.

Submissions can be made by:

- Public Bodies responsible for promoting national, international, regional or municipal developments;
- Development companies, either individually or in collaboration;
- Architects involved in the project, either individually or as a team;
- Construction companies, either individually or in collaboration;
- Users of the development, either individually or collectively.

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digital submission of proposals and documentation

To make a submission, all of the required documents must be uploaded to the form found on the award website:

www.europeancollectivehousingaward.eu

The form for uploading documentation will open on 30th January 2026.

The deadline for submitting applications is 30th April 2026 at 19:00 CET.

The required documents are as follows:

1 A description of the development, in no more than 800 words, explaining its challenges and aims, as well as its contribution to the collective housing culture and to the numerous European ways of life.

2 Technical specifications of the work, with the following information:

- General details of the built work (including key features such as number of units, site context, materiality or social aspects)
- Full name of the project
- Location details (country, city, street, etc.)
- Development completion date
- Full name of the authors
- Collaborators
- Other technical personnel
- Owner Developer or Institution
- Construction company
- Site leader, construction engineer, master builder or technical architect
- Total construction cost (excluding taxes and fees)
- Cost/m² (gross floor area)
- Gross floor area
- Author of the photographs

3 A collection of up to ten photographs showcasing the finished project. These images should be in JPG or PNG format, with a minimum resolution of 2.000 pixels on the longer side, and each file should not exceed 3 MB in size. This collection should comprehensively include interior and exterior shots, detailed sections, and any other perspectives that the contributors find vital for fully conveying the essence of the project.

4 A comprehensive set of the project's plans in PDF format. This should include essential plans such as site plans, floor plans, sections, detailed drawings, and any other types of drawings deemed necessary for a complete understanding of the project, like elevational views or specific construction details. While there is no limit on the number of PDF files or the size of each individual file, the total size of the submitted documentation should not exceed 20 MB, ensuring detailed representation of the project within efficient file transfer limits.

The Technical Secretariat will confirm receipt of each submission by email once the registration process has been completed in full. Any doubts regarding the submission process and uploading of documents can be sent to the Technical Secretariat of the award at the following email address:

info@europeancollectivehousingaward.eu

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process, selection criteria and awards

The deliberation process will include:

1 Initial online session (April 2026):

Presentation of the methodology, tools and evaluation criteria. The jury will also review a pre-selection (longlist) of submitted projects prepared by the Organising Board.

2 First in-person meeting (5th June 2026):

The jury will assess the longlist and select a shortlist of five finalist projects per category. These finalists will be officially notified and invited to participate in the final stage of the process.

3 Optional site visits to finalist projects (summer 2026)

During this period, members of the jury may carry out on-site visits to finalist buildings, at their discretion.

4 Final in-person meeting and public session (7th to 9th October 2026):

Finalist teams will present and defend their projects in front of the jury in a public session in the Basque Country (Spain). Following these presentations, the jury will meet privately to deliberate and designate the winning collective housing buildings in each category. The winning works will be revealed live during the official award ceremony, held the following day. One representative of each finalist candidature will be required to attend the final event, all travel expenses will be covered by the organisers.

Prior to the Jury meeting, the Technical Secretariat will draw up a document listing the applications received. Having made the corresponding deliberations, the Jury will draw up a document explaining the selection process, with a list of up to 5 finalist developments and 1 award-winner for each category. The Jury of the European Collective Housing Award can reserve the right not to select a winner of the award.

The winning and finalist collective housing works will be featured in an exhibition and in informational materials produced by the organizers. Being selected as a finalist or winning collective housing work carries no economic reward other than the distinction of having been selected and the public visibility of the selection. In addition to the winning and finalist developments announced by the Jury, up to another 40 submissions will be selected to participate in the aforementioned exhibition and informational materials. The exhibition will display the documents selected both at the Basque Architecture Institute /EAI and at arc en rêve.

- 7 acceptance of the terms and conditions** By submitting a project to the second edition of the European Collective Housing Award, participants agree to these terms and conditions and authorise the release of information related to the selected works. The decision of the Jury is final and not subject to appeal.
- 8 key dates**
- 30th January 2026
Official publication of the open call and competition regulations.
Opening of the submission period.
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- 30th April 2026 19:00 CET
Deadline to submit award entries, submissions will no longer be accepted from this date.
Deadline to submit queries regarding the open call.
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- 5th June 2026
Jury meeting to select five finalist projects per category (New construction and Renovation). The finalists will be publicly announced after this session.
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- Summer 2026
Optional site visits to finalist projects.
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- 7th to 9th October 2026
Jury's final session and Award Ceremony.
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- Participation in the final event is mandatory for all finalists. Travel and accommodation expenses for one representative per finalist candidature will be covered by the organisers.

- 9 legal stipulations and conflicts of interest** Collective housing buildings in which members of the Jury, members of the European Collective Housing Award organisation, associated architects, or their first-degree relatives have been involved are not eligible for the award.
- All the data provided through e-forms and / or by email will be handled with strict confidentiality in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016 / 679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 27th 2016 and of Organic Law 3 / 2018, of December 5th, on the Protection of Personal Data and the Guarantee of Digital Rights.
- Selected candidates shall, in all cases, guarantee the accuracy and truthfulness of the information provided. The European Collective Housing Award reserves the right to exclude from the selection process any candidate who has provided false or misleading information, without prejudice to any other legal actions available under applicable law.

- 10 information and queries** Queries should be emailed to the Technical Secretariat of the award at the following email address: info@europeancollectivehousingaward.eu



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