

# **The Religion & Culture Award**

## **AT Awards Entry Pack**



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**Architecture**

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**Today**

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**Test of Time**

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**Awards**

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**2026**

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## The Religion & Culture Award

The Religion & Culture award celebrates a diverse array of building types with from churches and mosques to galleries, museums and visitor centres. Past winners have included world-class cultural institutions, a youth centre and a Buddhist Retreat Centre.

Projects are judged on their fitness for purpose, but also for their ability to adapt to changes in behaviour, technology or use. As civic buildings, they are also assessed for their openness and inclusivity, and for their contribution to the public realm.

Read what the judges had to say about previous winners for a sense of the diversity of the previous winners, and the wide-ranging nature of the judges' discussions.

*Left: 2025 Religion & Culture Award winners, Vajrasana Buddhist Retreat, Suffolk, by Walters & Cohen Architects*

**"We spend a lot of our time trying to make sure our buildings will stand the test of time, it's wonderful to have someone appreciate that"**

*Cindy Walters,  
Walters & Cohen Architects*



# About the awards

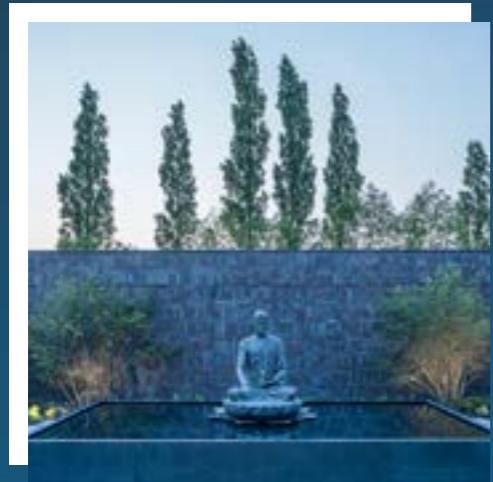
We launched our awards as a direct riposte to the prevalent awards culture. Instead of focussing on what's new, what's fresh, what's perfect, what's pristine, we look at what has endured, what's flexible, what's adaptable, what works, what performs. Submitting an entry isn't about salesmanship or showmanship. It's about engaging with this discussion; revisiting projects with the benefit of hindsight and reflecting on lessons learnt.

The aim is not to hold an annual beauty parade, but to establish a canon; an archive of projects that represent best practice and have demonstrated their worth. And to demonstrate the long-term value of projects that stand the test of time. Crucially, these awards exist to make the long-term value of architecture visible: to show that flexibility, longevity, and performance are not secondary virtues, but the most meaningful measure of success.

Isabel Allen  
**Editor, Architecture Today**



# Previous winners



**Vajrasana Buddhist Retreat, Suffolk  
by Walters & Cohen Architects**

“A sophisticated fusion of architecture and spirituality. The complex is beautifully orchestrated and the exterior courtyards exquisitely done, while the dialogue between the shrine and the accommodation achieves an unusually high order of beauty and delight.”

[Find out more](#)



**National Theatre NT Future, Central London, by Haworth Tompkins Architects**

“In the 50 years since it was built the National Theatre has had to evolve to reflect the changing expectations of theatre and audiences, and the evolution of the South Bank. Haworth Tompkins’ intelligent and sensitive interventions have been pulled off with aplomb and will set the stage for the next 50 years.”

[Find out more](#)



**TNG Youth & Community Centre, South London, by RCKa**

“This incredible project has enabled and empowered local people as well as the wider community. In the decade since its completion, it has clearly transformed the lives of those associated with it. As a test of time, this achievement will be felt for at least as long as the building itself.”

[Find out more](#)



**The Ashmolean, Oxford, by MICA Architects**

“A remarkably accomplished work, both spatially and environmentally. The Ashmolean is beautifully executed and, thanks to the careful custodianship of the design team and its client, seems as immaculate today as it was on completion. The whole building feels alive with different possibilities.”

[Find out more](#)



## Why enter?

- Demonstrate your ability to produce work that deliver long-term value over time.
- Showcase your expertise in this sector to a wide audience of judges, collaborators and clients
- Reconnect with clients and collaborators and to reflect on lessons learned
- High-profile media exposure with all shortlisted projects announced on *Architecture Today*'s website and social media channels
- All winning projects covered extensively on *Architecture Today*'s website and in a **special awards issue of *Architecture Today***
- All winning projects are rephotographed by leading architectural photographer Timothy Soar
- Teams behind the winning projects record a **presentation** on their scheme, which is widely promoted through AT's media channels and forms part of an archive of best-in-field projects that have stood the test of time

**“For me, the greatest reward an architect can receive is history itself—and these awards capture exactly that. They celebrate the enduring relationships we build with our clients long after a project is complete”**

*Dav Bansal,  
Howells*



# Process

All entries are thoroughly reviewed by our Awards Panel, who typically select three finalists in each category. The teams behind the shortlisted projects are invited to present their project to our expert jury at the Live Finals, a day of live crits which will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> July at The Society Building in central London.

We work with the successful entrants to record their presentations for the AT archive of outstanding buildings that have stood the test of time, a free-to-access resource for academia, practice and clients.

The winning project in each category is rephotographed by Timothy Soar and published on AT's website and in a **special awards issue of Architecture Today**.

**“These awards have real integrity”**

*Paul Monaghan,  
Allford Hall Monaghan Morris*





# Jury

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**Isabel Allen,**  
Editor, Architecture Today

**Paul Monaghan,**  
Executive Director, Head of  
Design Studio, AHMM

**Dav Bansal,**  
Partner, Howells

**Gerry O'Brien,**  
Design Director, Co-Founder,  
Agentia Design Engineering

**Peter Bishop,**  
Professor in Urban Design, The  
Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL

**Roger Madelin,**  
Joint Head, British Land

**Catherine Burd,**  
Director, Burd Haward Architects

**Sunand Prasad,**  
Principal, Perkins&Will

**Andy Downey,**  
Director, Elliott Wood

**Neil Thomas,**  
Founder and Director, Atelier One

**Jonathan Falkingham,**  
Founder & Creative Director,  
Urban Splash

**Kimberly Tryba,**  
Managing Principal, LILA Studio

**Johanna Gibbons,**  
Partner, J&L Gibbons,

**Charlotte Walker,**  
Senior Planner, Lichfields

**Lee Mallett,**  
Director, Urbik

**Cindy Walters,**  
Director, Walters & Cohen Architects

**Selina Mason,**  
Director of Masterplanning &  
Strategic Design, Lendlease

**Keith Williams,**  
Founder + Director of Design, Keith  
Williams Architects



# Winners' Party

The winners will be announced at an awards party on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 76 Southbank, a Grade II listed building designed for IBM by Sir Denys Lasdun and completed in 1983, and recently refurbished and extended by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris for Wolfe Commercial Properties.

**“This is a critically important award, particularly in the era we live in, where responsibility is increasingly central to architectural practice. This is not about designing something wonderful and then disappearing; it’s about standing by your decisions and a powerful way of reflecting on those responsibilities, and reminding ourselves what they really mean”**

*Peter Bishop,  
The Bartlett School of  
Architecture, UCL*





## Entry criteria

The Test of Time Awards are designed to showcase, celebrate and share knowledge about buildings that have stood the test of time.

Projects will only be considered if they have been in use for at least three years and can demonstrate a strong track record for delivering on their environmental, functional, community and cultural ambitions.

Each category is open to new-build and retrofit projects. Projects can be of any scale or typology and in any part of the world, but must have been completed before April 1st 2023 to be eligible for entry.

You do not have to be a registered architect to submit a project. We actively encourage submissions from consultants, clients, charities, residents and community groups.

Group submissions are particularly welcome. Some of the strongest submissions and presentations have been made by a designer in tandem with a collaborator or client.

**“I want to congratulate Architecture Today for doing what many of us have dreamed of happening for a long time. To reward buildings, not out of fashion the day they’ve finished, not because of the way they look, but how they actually work out in practice, and how they stand the test of time”**

*Sunand Prasad  
Perkins&Will*



# Start your entry today

**Deadline for entries**

19th June 2026

**Live Finals**

16th July 2026

**Awards Party**

12th November 2026

**Single entry**

£395 + VAT

**Multiple entries**

£295 + VAT

**Entries enquiries**

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**“These awards are a breath of fresh air. This kind of conversation was way overdue”**

*Hanif Kara,  
AKTII*





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