



INTERIOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026



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INTRODUCTION

ABID, (Association of Architects, Builders, Interior Designers, and Allied) invites architects and interior design professionals to participate in **IDEA – Interior Design Excellence Awards 2026**, a premier **Interior Design Awards platform in India**, celebrating and honoring outstanding achievements in **Interior Design** across **Eastern India**.

IDEA recognizes projects that push the boundaries of creativity, material innovation, and design ingenuity. It is a **call for submissions** of **completed projects** that demonstrate a bold and progressive approach to interior environments.

In 2026, **IDEA** evolves beyond a conventional awards platform into a **dynamic design award ecosystem**, one that not only recognizes the depth of designers' thinking, but also celebrates the products, materials, systems, and decisions that collectively shape a space and bring a designer's vision to life.

Entries must be submitted under **five** broad categories: **Residential, Commercial, Hospitality, Public & Institutional, and a Special Category for Emerging Practice**.

Each project will be evaluated through a holistic framework while also being examined across multiple design lenses, recognizing both **'Complete Design Excellence'** and **'Specific Design Strengths Within The Project.'**

IDEA is a platform that champions both **emerging talent and established practices** alike. Free from restrictions on age or experience, it invites all practicing **architects and interior design professionals from Eastern India** to showcase their innovative thinking and exemplary execution.



AWARD CATEGORIES

While **IDEA 2026** does not place any restrictions on project size or area, each category includes a **list of suggested functional typologies** for reference. Participants are welcome to submit any project that fits the intent of the category, even if the exact typology is not specifically mentioned.

Each submission will be evaluated holistically - both for its **‘Complete Design Excellence’** and for its performance across multiple aspects of design, including materials, lighting, spatial planning, craftsmanship, detailing etc.

Projects may be submitted under any of the following **five broad categories**:

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

- + Apartments / Condominiums
- + Studio Apartments (Compact Living Units)
- + Villas / Bungalows / Independent Homes
- + Vacation Home / Second Home (non-urban locations)
- + Residential Renovation Projects

COMMERCIAL DESIGN

- + Offices / Corporate Workspaces
- + Co-working / Flexible Workspaces
- + Retail Spaces (Showrooms, Experience Centres, Shop Designs, Stores etc)
- + Salons / Small Commercial Establishments.

HOSPITALITY DESIGN

- + Hotels / Resorts / Guest Houses / Home Stays / Service Apartments etc. (Provide social media or website link of the commercial property for small home stays to clarify the typology)
- + **Leisure, Health & Wellness Spaces** (Luxury Spas, Wellness Retreats, Yoga Centres, Gym/Fitness Centres, Spiritual Centres, Meditation Centres, Ayurvedic Healing Centres etc)
- + **Food & Beverage Spaces** (Restaurants, Cafés, Bars, Nightlife Spaces etc)
- + **Entertainment Spaces** (Lounges, Gaming Zones, Party Hubs, Community Clubs, Recreation Spaces, etc)

PUBLIC & INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN

- + Healthcare Spaces (Hospitals, Clinics, Diagnostic Centres etc)
- + Educational Spaces (Kindergartens, Schools, Training Institutes, Sports Centres etc)
- + Cultural Spaces (Auditoriums, multipurpose halls, galleries),
- + Government / Civic Buildings
- + Institutional Interiors (Libraries, Research Centres, etc.)

EMERGING PRACTICE OF THE YEAR AWARD (SPECIAL CATEGORY)

- + Participants must submit any **three projects of any typology** to compete for this special **Emerging Interior Design Practice Award**. (Showcase two completed and one ongoing project that best represents your practice)
This is a **special category** award. The Principal of
- + the practice must be **35 years of age or younger** on the date of submission.



AWARD STRUCTURE

“Reframing Interior Design Awards Through the Lens of Design + Material + Making”

Interior design today is not just about space planning, it is about how materials, craftsmanship, and systems come together to shape experience. This year **IDEA 2026** follows a ‘**two-layered awards structure**’ (evaluation framework):

CATEGORY AWARDS

These awards are presented across **five broad categories** with one overall recognition in each category, honoring the best project/practice.

- + **Complete Design Excellence AWARD** - the highest overall recognition for outstanding achievement in Residential, Commercial, Hospitality, and Public & Institutional Categories.
- + **Emerging Practice of the Year AWARD** - Special Category

(**ABID IDEA 2026** reserves the right to **further bifurcate or cancel categories**, if deemed appropriate, based on the entries received. The **conferral of awards in each category** is subject to the **jury’s discretion**. The jury’s decision shall be final and binding.)

SPECIALIZED DESIGN AWARDS

IDEA 2026 will also confer a curated set of ‘**Specialized Interior Design Awards**’, recognizing specific design strengths, ideas, and contributions within projects through distinct design lenses.

These recognitions will be conferred based on merit, quality, and relevance. **ABID IDEA 2026** reserves the right to **introduce, modify, or withdraw** any indicative recognition, in line with the nature of entries received and the jury’s discretion.

Indicative recognitions include:

Contemporary Material Narratives

(**Focus:** The thoughtful selection, composition, and layering of materials, along with the use of colour, texture, surface treatments, and finishes to create depth, contrast, and visually cohesive spaces with rich tactile experiences, demonstrating a strong contemporary design language.)

Regional/Cultural Intelligence

(**Focus:** The meaningful integration of regional materials, indigenous design elements, contextual colour palettes, and climate-responsive approaches that reflect cultural identity, geographical sensitivity, and a strong connection to place.)

Lighting & Ambience

(**Focus:** Integration of natural and artificial lighting systems to enhance mood, spatial quality, and user experience)

Craftsmanship, Art & Detailing Excellence

(**Focus:** The integration of craftsmanship by designers in collaboration with artisans and artists, with a strong emphasis on furniture design/selection, sculptures, artifacts, installations, detailing, and statement elements used within interior or landscape environments that add depth, character, and value to the overall design.)

Note: Alongside designers, recognition may also extend to collaborating artists, sculptors, or artisans where relevant (and mentioned).

Compact Design Intelligence

(**Focus:** Efficient and innovative use of limited space through smart planning, multi-functionality, and optimized spatial organization.)

Sustainable & Conscious Design

(**Focus:** Holistic sustainability through passive strategies, climate-responsive planning, responsible material use, energy efficiency, biophilic integration, and long-term environmental impact.)

Transformation (Renovation Projects)

(**Focus:** Renovation projects. Old spaces reimaged)

ABID Arcause Design Responsibility Awards (Nominated AWARD)

(**Focus:** Practices and Projects that demonstrate design as a tool for Social Responsibility, Inclusion and Environmental Stewardship through innovative and replicable approaches)

Lifetime Achievement in Interior Design (Nominated AWARD)

(Conferred upon a distinguished individual for long-standing contributions to the field; the recipient will be nominated by ABID IDEA management and announced at the grand finale.)



ELIGIBILITY

Interior Designers and Architects

representing any design practice, including proprietary ownerships, partnership firms, and private or public limited companies with **head offices located in Eastern India**, are eligible to participate.

Participants should be based in the **Eastern Indian states** - Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Manipur.

Projects submitted may be located anywhere across India, but must have been completed between **March 2024 and May 2026** (within the last two years).

Each participant may choose their category of submission from the **five broad categories** listed above.

Previous winners of the **ABID IDEA Awards** are allowed to take part, however the same winning projects cannot be submitted again.

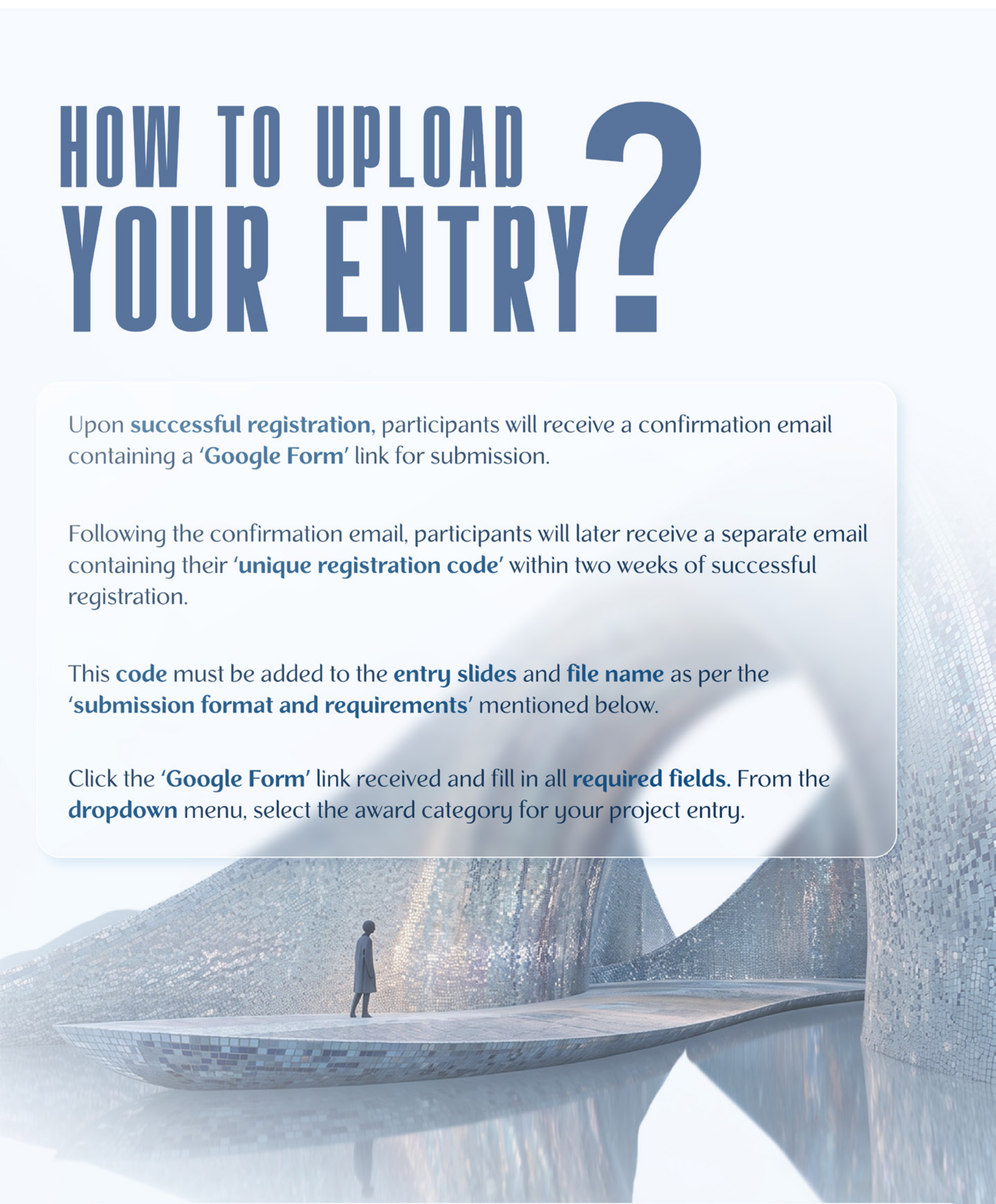
HOW TO UPLOAD YOUR ENTRY?

Upon **successful registration**, participants will receive a confirmation email containing a '**Google Form**' link for submission.

Following the confirmation email, participants will later receive a separate email containing their '**unique registration code**' within two weeks of successful registration.

This **code** must be added to the **entry slides** and **file name** as per the '**submission format and requirements**' mentioned below.

Click the '**Google Form**' link received and fill in all **required fields**. From the **dropdown** menu, select the award category for your project entry.

A person in a dark coat stands on a large, curved, mosaic-covered structure that resembles a giant's foot or a large bowl, set against a backdrop of water and a city skyline at dusk. The structure is covered in a mosaic of small, colorful tiles. The person is looking out over the water.

Based on your selection, a **section will appear** for you to upload your **PDF entry**. Upload your file and click '**Submit**' to complete your entry.

Only one project upload is allowed per '**Google-Form**' submission.

Multiple entries require multiple registrations on the website and multiple '**G-form**' submissions.

If participants are submitting more than one project, they must fill out and submit a separate '**Google Form**' for each entry.

ENTRY LIMIT

A maximum of **three entries** may be submitted across the **five broad categories**.

Duplicate submissions of the same project across multiple categories are discouraged - each entry must be distinct and unique.

However (in exception), if the same project is submitted under more than one category, the submission must be adapted to clearly demonstrate how it meets the specific criteria of each category, with distinct highlights and justifications tailored to the respective category.

SUBMISSION FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS

Submission Mode

All entries must be submitted **online only** via a provided **Google Form** link. **No hard copy submissions** will be accepted.

File Template

Check the **attachments at the bottom of the website** to download the standard **PPT template** for your project presentation. All entries must be structured using this template.

File Format

Upload your entry as a **PDF file** (maximum size: 10 MB) via the provided **Google Form** link. PPT files will not be accepted - only PDF submissions are allowed.

Submission Content

Each submission may include **6-8 slides in a 16:9 ratio** (template as above) with:

- 1 Fact File (Slide 1):** Include Project Title, Location, Built-up Area (in sq.ft), Materials Used, Project Cost, and Category under which it is being submitted
- 2 Project Statement (Max 300 words):** Include a concise project statement within your presentation, ideally on the **first slide** alongside the **Fact File**. It should clearly articulate the project name, the design narrative, and the client brief (without disclosing names), along with a compelling project description. Highlight key challenges and the design responses, outline the site location and contextual conditions, and include any additional insights—particularly around the materials, products, and systems used that you wish to emphasize.
- 3 Drawings:** Minimum **1 floor plan** is mandatory. (Entries without a floor plan will be subject to disqualification.) Relevant drawings such as sections, elevations, joinery and material details.
- 4 Real Photographs:** Clear and unedited **high-resolution actual photographs (not renders)** showcasing the completed project.
- 5 Material, Product & System Detailing / Information (Optional):** You may include additional details on material articulation, lighting strategies, and furniture or product design through relevant drawings and photographs, where necessary.
- 6 Project Walkthrough (Optional):** A **QR code or hyperlink** to access the **project video/walkthrough** may be included in the presentation PDF (Direct video or PPT file uploads are **NOT allowed** on the Google form while uploading submissions)

Anonymity

DO NOT include any personal or firm identification on your submission slides.

Mention only your '**unique registration code**' on the top right corner of each slide (*this code will be separately mailed to participants within 2 weeks of successful registration*).

File Name

While uploading, name your PDF entry file as YourUNIQUE RegistrationCode_Category. (Example: 43852_Residential Design).

EVALUATION CRITERIA



Each project will be evaluated holistically across the following parameters:

- + **Design Innovation & Originality:** Strength of concept, originality in spatial planning, zoning, circulation, and response to the design brief.
- + **Functionality & User Experience:** Efficiency, usability, comfort, overall well-being of its occupants with thoughtful consideration of ergonomics, accessibility, and inclusivity in design.
- + **Material Intelligence & Application** (Contemporary/Regional as applicable): Thoughtful integration of various materials, textures, finishes, colours, furnishings, regional elements, and contextual material strategies contributing to both the overall design narrative and performance.
- + **Lighting Design:** Use of natural and artificial lighting systems to enhance spatial experience - smart systems, advanced technologies, fixture design, etc.
- + **Craftsmanship, Art & Detailing:** The integration of craftsmanship by designers in collaboration with artisans and artists, with a strong emphasis on furniture design/selection, sculptures, artifacts, installations, detailing, and statement elements used within interior or landscape environments that add depth, character, and value to the overall design.
- + **Overall Aesthetic & Visual Impact:** Spatial composition, material harmony, visual coherence, and overall experiential quality.
- + **Contextual Sensitivity & Relevance:** How well the project responds to its cultural, geographical, historical, and environmental context, preserving or enhancing its surroundings.
- + **Sustainability:** Use of eco-friendly, locally sourced, or sustainable materials, energy-efficient design strategies, biophilic elements, and waste-reduction measures.
- + **Impact Beyond Design:** The project's influence on its users, community, and the environment.

JURY PROCESS

A **distinguished jury panel** comprising industry leaders and design luminaries from across India will evaluate all submissions through a rigorous, anonymous, and impartial process.

Each entry will be assessed holistically, considering '**Complete Design Excellence**', 'Specific Design Strengths', innovation, contextual relevance, and impact. This comprehensive evaluation will culminate in a **grand awards ceremony** in **Kolkata**, scheduled for **September 2026**, where the most outstanding contributions to interior design and architecture will be honored.

Shortlisted candidates will be notified in advance and invited to attend the awards ceremony.



IMPORTANT DATES (Extended Timeline)

Registrations and
Submissions Open

27th May 2026

Registrations and
Submissions Close

17th August 2026

Jury Evaluations

August/September 2026

Award Ceremony

September 2026

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Winners will be selected individually across the **five broad categories**, with the best designs receiving top honors & awards at a prestigious Ceremony in Kolkata, around September 2026.

Additionally, a set of '**Specialized Design Awards**' recognizing distinct strengths within projects may also be conferred at the **jury's discretion** to recognize exceptional work and significant contributions across the design industry.

Finalists' entries will also be published on the **ABID Website** and promoted extensively on **Social Media platforms**.

Winning entries will be featured in a curated digital editorial/magazine. Winners will also receive competition winner badges as digital assets for self-promotion, coverage, announcements, and press releases to industry outlets.

Winners' works, along with their photographs, will be projected on screen during the awards ceremony. **All shortlisted candidates'** work will also be showcased at the finale exhibition.

Additionally, the **1st Winner in each category** will be offered a complimentary (free) stall to showcase their work/products at the **ABID Interior 2027 exhibition**, taking place from 8th to 12th January 2027 in Kolkata. The details for the same shall be conveyed to the winners.

REGISTRATION LINK / QR CODE

SCAN QR to **Register** or Visit www.abididea.com

There is **no registration fee** to participate in **ABID IDEA 2026**

For interesting updates about **ABID IDEA 2026**, follow us on

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Award Structuring Rights

ABID IDEA 2026 reserves the right to introduce, modify, merge, or withdraw any award category or recognition at any stage, based on participation, jury discretion, or institutional requirements.

Category/Award Elimination

ABID IDEA 2026 reserves the right to eliminate any award category in case of an insufficient number of quality submissions. The decision will be final and binding.

Category/Award Reclassification

ABID IDEA 2026 Management reserves the right to reclassify entries into a different category if deemed more appropriate without requiring prior consent from the participant. (Entries may be reassigned to a more suitable category or evaluated under additional design lenses if deemed appropriate)

Jury Discretion & Disqualification

The jury holds sole discretion to disqualify entries that do not meet the expected standards on a case-by-case basis. The jury's decision will be final, and no further communication on the matter will be entertained.

Submission Compliance

All participants must strictly adhere to the submission guidelines and utilize the prescribed presentation format and template. Non-compliance with any of the stated criteria will lead to disqualification.

Project Documentation & Media Rights

By participating in the **ABID IDEA 2026**, all entrants understand and agree that the contest will be documented on different mediums of promotion, and they grant **ABID IDEA 2026** and its affiliates full and unrestricted rights to use the submitted entry and award photographs for promotional purposes.

Participant Responsibility

It is the sole responsibility of participants to ensure that the firm name and contact information provided during registration is accurate and up to date. The Certificate/ trophy will be issued only in the name of the Design Practice.

Right to Modify

ABID IDEA 2026 reserves the right to amend, update, or modify these Terms & Conditions at any time without prior notice.



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www.abididea.com