



ERICH MENDELSON AWARD 2026

FOR BRICK ARCHITECTURE

ENTRY DOCUMENTS



COMPETITION

ERICH MENDELSON AWARD 2026 FOR BRICK ARCHITECTURE

WANTED: THE BEST BUILDINGS MADE FROM BRICK

The Erich Mendelsohn Award for Brick Architecture is entering its seventh round. It will honor distinguished achievements in construction and design that best showcase a special building material.

The **Erich Mendelsohn Award 2026 for Brick Architecture** recognizes projects that are building bridges and use the potential of the traditional building material sustainably and future-proof to create special and remarkable pieces of architecture. Brick is the generic term for façade bricks fired from clay, which are also known as facing bricks or clinker bricks. Since 2008 the Award for Brick Architecture was held every three years and in that time has grown into one of the largest German architectural awards with more than 600 national and international entries.

The competition is looking for entrants that exhibit impressive brick architecture and create a tangible added value – either in economic, ecological, creative, or functional terms. This appears in the way details are worked out, in simplicity and uniformity, in the structure of the façade, in its color, and other aspects – regardless of the size of the building or its character. Does your reference convince, surprise and demand to be seen? The jury is looking forward to your entry.

The Erich Mendelsohn Award for Brick Architecture is and remains an independent, non-commercial architectural competition – even if a participation fee is being charged since 2020. It only serves to cover the increased administrative costs. All fees are used for the award as an investment into the attractiveness of its public image and the quality of its publications. And ultimately, as award-winners the architects will benefit from the reputation the award has developed.

IN COOPERATION WITH

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Bauwelt

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INFORMATION CONCERNING PARTICIPATION

CATEGORIES

Prizes will be awarded to projects in the following categories:

- Residential Building/Apartment Complex
- Public Buildings, Recreation and Sport
- Office and Commercial Buildings
- Detached House/Semi-detached House

Additional awards will be presented for:

- Energy efficiency/Sustainability/Recycling/Renovation
- Best in Germany: All buildings realized in Germany are automatically eligible for the award, regardless of the location of the architectural firm. The award honors buildings that, under Germany's stringent building regulations, not only achieve a high level of ecological sustainability but also demonstrate an exceptional degree of aesthetic sustainability. The decision on how many awards are granted lies with the jury.

In addition, the Newcomer Award for emerging architects will be awarded for the fifth time.

COMPETITION AND DECISION

An independent jury of experts, whose members are appointed by the initiators of the Erich Mendelsohn Award, judges the entries submitted. The jury meets in a closed session. The shortlist (including the winners) is notified after a decision has been reached. The award ceremony will be held in Berlin in the autumn of 2026.

JURY

The final composition of the high-profile panel of experts will be announced shortly.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

Those eligible to take part include architects, architectural teams and architectural/engineering teams as well as building owners and other third parties, provided they submit a declaration of intellectual authorship for the buildings submitted. Entries must meet the following requirements:

1. Design: For a building to be eligible, it has to employ bricks in a distinctive fashion, so that the particular architectural properties and the immense potential of the material are showcased.

2. Completion: A building is only eligible for submission if it has been completed after 01/01/2021. Buildings that were previously submitted for the Erich Mendelsohn Award 2023 may be resubmitted, provided they have been completed after 01/01/2021 and were not nominated for the Erich Mendelsohn Award 2023.

Submission period: 01/05/2026 – 04/30/2026

The documents for participation can only be submitted online at erich-mendelsohn-preis.com/en/entry

Participation fee

A participation fee will be charged for the Erich Mendelsohn Award 2026 for Brick Architecture and is due upon submission. It will be used exclusively to cover the increased administrative costs and to maintain and enhance the usual high quality of external communications. The Newcomer Award is exempted from the participation fee.

The participation fee of EUR 349 applies to each project upon submission at erich-mendelsohn-preis.com/en/entry

MEDIA PACKAGE

Winners in the individual categories will receive an exclusive media package:

- Certificate and trophy
- Winner's package (for display on the product and in communications)
- Visual material/winner's photo (participation in the awards ceremony is a prerequisite)
- Presence in the touring exhibition at numerous universities in Germany
- Press release including visual material
- Publication in the brick magazine VORTEILE
- Extensive press publications (print, digital, moving image)
- Presence in the digital channels of the Award

Those who miss out on an award also benefit:

- Invitation to the awards ceremony
- Inclusion in the database
- Inclusion in the press distribution list

SIMPLY SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY ONLINE NOW

GENERAL

You can submit your entry for the Erich Mendelsohn Award 2026 for Brick Architecture directly and exclusively online at erich-mendelsohn-preis.com/en/entry. Ideally, it will include the following documents:

1. DESCRIPTION/PROJECT DATA/CV

- Project data
- Brief description
- Detailed project description (length 1.200 to 3.000 characters)
- Information about architects or architects' office

2. IMAGES/PLANS

- Images : 4 to 12 impactful photos of the property (incl. copyright)
- Plans: location map, floor plan, elevations, perspective views, façade cross section
- Additional material (optional): details, sketches, model photos, etc.



Scan now and register online!
erich-mendelsohn-preis.com

ONLINE SUBMISSION

Entries for the Erich Mendelsohn Award 2026 for Brick Architecture can only be submitted online. A participation fee will be charged for the submission of each project. You are able to temporarily save entries at any time and resume as often as you like at a later date up to the final submission of the project.

STEP 1: LOGIN/REGISTRATION

Visit our website: erich-mendelsohn-preis.com/en/entry



- If you have already submitted a project to the award in the past, simply use your existing login data.
- If not, please register.

STEP 2: CREATING PROJECTS/UPLOADING DATA

Log in and follow the instructions to create your project(s).



- Complete the fields marked with *.
- Upload impactful visual material (DIN A4, 300 dpi, printable data) as well as plans and sketches (b/w, line art, PDF files).

STEP 3: SUBMITTING PROJECTS AND PAYING THE PARTICIPATION FEE

Once you have finished describing and illustrating your project, you can submit it.



- A participation fee will be charged for the submission of each project.
- The participation fees of EUR 349 are payable immediately upon submission online via PayPal, Klarna or credit card.

STEP 4: PROJECT REVIEW

Your data will be checked after you have submitted your project.



- If your entry is complete, your project will be accepted for the competition. Your project will be reactivated for editing if there are missing data.
- You will subsequently receive a confirmation e-mail with a project summary and a declaration of copyright.

STEP 5: CONFIRM THE ENTRY



In addition to your online submission, send the signed **declaration of copyright** by post, fax, or e-mail to the address indicated below. That's it!

SUBMISSION AND DELIVERY

SUBMISSION PERIOD

01/05/2026 – 04/30/2026

Complete entries must be submitted by 04/30/2026.

POSTAL ADDRESS

Erich-Mendelsohn-Preis
für Backstein-Architektur
Am Mittelhafen 10
48155 Münster (Germany)

SUPPORT

We will be happy to assist you with any questions you may have concerning your entry.

Initiative Bauen mit Backstein

T 0251 / 9 79 17-640

F 0251 / 9 79 17-77

info@erich-mendelsohn-preis.com



Empfohlene Qualität
für zweischaliges
Bauen mit Backstein

By participating in the Erich Mendelsohn Award 2026 for Brick Architecture, the participant declares their consent that all documents submitted for publication may be used by the Initiative Bauen mit Backstein with regard to publications, exhibitions, internet postings, public relations and other similar purposes. The Initiative Bauen mit Backstein may publish the documents submitted without being liable to the payment of royalties at any time and use the visual material submitted free of charge. The participant also guarantees that the items submitted for participation in the competition are free from third-party rights, or, if rights of third parties are involved, that consent to publication has been granted. There is no entitlement to remuneration. The right to legal recourse is excluded.