

THE
D2 AWARDS
2026



sponsored by

CAD'oro

Jointly organized by D2 Conferences and the
CAD'oro Architectural Animation and Building
Visualization Film Festival

1. Introduction / Award Concept

The D2 Awards is an international competition celebrating outstanding architectural visualization, animation, and visual storytelling.

The awards are jointly organized by D2 Conferences and the CAD'oro Architectural Animation and Building Visualization Film Festival.

The goal of the D2 Awards is to recognize the creative, artistic, and technical achievements behind architectural imagery and films, and to give these works greater visibility within the professional community and the wider public.

Architectural visualization, 3D rendering, and animation have become essential tools for presenting unbuilt architecture, future developments, reconstructions, speculative ideas, and spatial experiences. Beyond their commercial or design communication role, these works often represent a high level of artistic vision, technical craft, and storytelling.

The D2 Awards aims to celebrate this field as a serious creative discipline and to showcase the best commissioned and non-commissioned works from the architectural visualization community.

2. Important Dates / Submission Timeline

Phase	Date
Call for Submissions	22. 06. 2026 - 02. 08. 2026
Judging Period and Nominee Review	02. 08. 2026 - 24. 08. 2026
Official Nominees Announcement	24. 08. 2026
Live Awards Ceremony	04. 09. 2026

Call for Submissions

22. 06. 2026 - 02. 08. 2026

Entries must be submitted before the official deadline to be eligible for review and judging.

Judging Period and Nominee Review

02. 08. 2026 - 24. 08. 2026

All eligible submissions will be evaluated by a professional jury panel.

During this period, the organizers may also conduct an internal nominee review to ensure that submitted works comply with all competition rules and eligibility requirements.

The organizers reserve the right to disqualify any entry that violates the submission guidelines or fails to meet the eligibility requirements.

Official Nominees Announcement

24. 08. 2026

Selected finalists will be officially announced and featured as the nominees of the year.

Live Awards Ceremony

04. 09. 2026

The D2 Awards will be presented live on stage during the D2 Conferences event in Budapest.

Award winners will be revealed during the live ceremony and published online afterward.

3. Categories

The D2 Awards 2026 accepts submissions in the following categories:

- Image Commissioned
- CAD'oro Movie / Animation Award - Commissioned
- CAD'oro Movie / Animation Award - Non-Commissioned

3.1 Image Commissioned

This category is intended for still images created as part of a professional assignment.

Eligible submissions include architectural visualization images produced:

- for paying clients
- for real estate developers
- for architectural firms
- for design studios
- for internal company use
- by visualization studios
- by solo professionals

Submitted images are typically connected to real-world projects, commercial goals, or professional design communication.

The aim of this category is to showcase the highest level of visual quality, atmosphere, composition, storytelling, and technical execution within a professional architectural visualization context.

3.2 CAD'oro Movie / Animation Award - Commissioned

This category is intended for architectural films, animations, and short movies created as part of a professional assignment.

Eligible submissions include work produced:

- for paying clients
- for real estate developers
- for architectural firms
- for design studios
- for internal company use
- by visualization studios
- by solo professionals

These works are usually connected to real-world projects and commercial objectives.

The aim of this category is to showcase high-level storytelling, visual quality, cinematic direction, animation craft, and technical execution in a professional context, where creative decisions are often shaped by project goals and client collaboration.

3.3 CAD'oro Movie / Animation Award - Non-Commissioned

This category celebrates independent creative vision in architectural animation and film.

Submissions must not be linked to a paying client or a commercially commissioned project.

Eligible works may include:

- conceptual explorations
- passion projects
- speculative designs
- artistic experiments
- portfolio pieces
- research-based visual films
- independently created architectural narratives

The non-commissioned category provides a platform for bold, imaginative work that pushes the boundaries of architectural storytelling.

In this category, entrants have full freedom to invent new narratives, aesthetics, spatial experiences, and visual languages beyond the constraints of client expectations.

4. Submission Rules

4.1 Submission Limits

Each individual, group, studio, or company may submit:

- up to four movie / animation works per category
- up to six still images in total for the Image Commissioned category

Each submission must comply with the technical and category-specific requirements listed below.

4.2 Submission Method

Still image submissions must be uploaded directly through the official submission form.

Movie / animation submissions must be provided through the official submission form as a public download link. The link must allow the submitted film to be viewed and downloaded in its original resolution.

Accepted link types may include:

- WeTransfer
- Google Drive
- Dropbox
- other public file-sharing links that allow direct viewing and download

The download link must be entered in the submission form and must remain active and accessible throughout the judging period.

Streaming-only links are not accepted.

Vimeo, YouTube, or similar video platform links are not sufficient for submission, unless they also provide access to download the original-resolution file.

4.3 Application Requirements

Applicants must complete the following steps:

- complete the online application form
- accept the Privacy Policy
- accept all relevant declarations
- accept all terms listed in the call for entries
- upload the submitted still images or enter the movie / animation download link in the submission form
- provide all required project and credit information

4.4 Entry Fee

Participation in the D2 Awards 2026 is free of charge.

There is no submission fee or registration fee for entering the awards.

4.5 Format and Resolution - Movie / Animation Categories

Accepted technical requirements for movie / animation submissions:

- accepted format: MP4
- minimum resolution: Full HD, 1920 x 1080
- minimum duration: 30 seconds
- minimum frame rate: 24 frames per second

4.6 Format and Resolution - Image Category

Accepted technical requirements for image submissions:

- accepted formats: JPG or PNG
- minimum resolution: 4K or higher

4.7 One Project per Submission

D2 Awards 2026 - Rules

Each movie / animation entry must focus on a single, standalone project.

Compilation reels or edited showreels featuring multiple projects are not permitted.

For image submissions, each submitted image must represent a single project or a clearly identifiable project context.

4.8 Category Eligibility

Image Commissioned

Any commissioned or client-directed still image must be submitted under the Image Commissioned category.

CAD'oro Movie / Animation Award - Commissioned

Any paid or client-directed movie, film, or animation must be submitted under the CAD'oro Movie / Animation Award - Commissioned category.

CAD'oro Movie / Animation Award - Non-Commissioned

Creative, speculative, artistic, or independently created movie / animation works not connected to a paying client must be submitted under the CAD'oro Movie / Animation Award - Non-Commissioned category.

5. 3D Production Requirement and Use of AI / Stock / Footage

All submitted works must be based on original 3D production.

This applies to both image submissions and movie / animation submissions.

Submitted works must include 3D content created using recognized 3D software, such as:

- 3ds Max
- Blender
- Unreal Engine
- Cinema 4D
- Maya
- Houdini
- or similar tools

Entrants are required to list all relevant software and tools used in the submission form.

Fully AI-generated works are not accepted.

AI tools may be used as part of the creative or post-production process, but the final submitted work must be based on original 3D production and must not be entirely generated by AI.

The use of additional content such as stock footage, real-life video footage, AI-assisted elements, or AI-generated supporting elements is permitted, but these elements must not replace the original 3D basis of the submitted work.

For movie / animation submissions, stock footage, real-life video footage, or AI-generated scenes must not exceed 50% of the film's total runtime.

AI tools used in post-production are allowed, provided that they are clearly disclosed at the time of submission.

Examples may include:

- frame interpolation
- upscaling
- denoising
- image enhancement
- retouching
- generative fill or similar AI-assisted editing tools
- other post-production enhancements

The jury and organizers reserve the right to request additional information after submission to verify the production process and the 3D basis of the work.

This may include, but is not limited to:

- raw renders

- clay renders
- viewport screenshots
- work-in-progress images
- scene breakdowns
- software screenshots
- production notes
- other supporting materials proving the 3D production process

Failure to provide sufficient supporting material upon request may result in disqualification.

This policy is intended to support technical innovation while protecting the value of original 3D craftsmanship, authorship, and professional production work.

6. Credits and Intellectual Property Responsibility

Entrants must ensure proper crediting of all contributors involved in the creation of the submitted work.

If the project was created through collaboration, the roles and responsibilities of each participant must be clearly stated in the submission.

The organizers accept no responsibility for:

- intellectual property disputes
- misattribution of authorship
- lack of proper crediting
- unauthorized use of assets, footage, images, music, or AI-generated material

The entrant bears full legal responsibility for ensuring that the submitted work respects all applicable intellectual property rights and that all contributors are appropriately acknowledged.

7. General Rules

By submitting an entry to the D2 Awards, participants agree to the following terms and conditions.

The D2 Awards are jointly organized by D2 Conferences and the CAD'oro Architectural Animation and Building Visualization Film Festival.

7.1 Promotional Use and Copyright

By entering the competition, participants grant D2 Conferences, CAD'oro, and their official partners and sponsors the non-exclusive right to use the submitted work, with proper credit, for promotional purposes.

This may include:

- websites
- social media
- printed materials
- press communication
- event screenings
- nominee and winner announcements
- other marketing and communication materials related to the awards or D2 Conferences

Entrants retain full copyright and ownership of their submitted work.

7.2 Name, Likeness, and Publicity

As a condition of receiving an award, winners grant the organizers the right to use their:

- full name
- studio or company name
- likeness
- image
- voice

- public comments
- submitted project information

These may be used for promotional and publicity purposes related to the D2 Awards, D2 Conferences, and CAD'oro. This includes online announcements, social media posts, printed materials, event communication, and media appearances, without additional compensation, unless prohibited by law.

7.3 Public Display Permissions

Entrants must ensure they have obtained all necessary permissions to publicly submit, screen, publish, and display the submitted work.

This includes permissions from clients, project owners, architects, developers, collaborators, music rights holders, and any other relevant rights holders where applicable.

The organizers accept no liability for unauthorized submissions.

7.4 Merging or Cancellation of Categories

Any category that does not receive a sufficient number of qualified entries may be removed or merged with another category at the discretion of the organizers.

7.5 Jury Decisions

All decisions made by the jury and organizing team are final and binding.

No appeals or disputes will be considered.

7.6 Liability Waiver

By entering the competition, participants release D2 Conferences, CAD'oro, their affiliates, partners, sponsors, jury members, and staff from any and all liability for loss, damage, or injury arising from:

- participation
- submission handling
- public screening
- online publication
- nominee selection
- award acceptance
- event participation

7.7 Fraud and Rule Violations

Any attempt to manipulate, circumvent, or disrupt the integrity of the competition will result in disqualification and may result in permanent exclusion from future editions.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- submitting work under false authorship
- submitting work without proper rights
- misleading the organizers about the use of AI
- misleading the organizers about the production process
- tampering with any voting or judging process, if applicable
- violating any of the listed submission rules

Officials, employees, and close relatives of the organizers and sponsors are not allowed to participate.

7.8 Event Cancellation or Modification

The organizers reserve the right to cancel, suspend, or modify the competition, in whole or in part, due to circumstances beyond their control.

Examples include:

- technical failures
- fraud
- force majeure

- cancellation or modification of the live event
- legal or organizational issues
- other unforeseen circumstances

7.9 Data Collection and Use

By submitting, participants consent to the collection and use of their personal information for the administration and communication of the D2 Awards and D2 Conferences.

This may include:

- name
- contact details
- company or studio information
- project information
- submission data
- credit information

No unrelated commercial communications will be sent unless explicitly consented to.

7.10 Governing Law

The competition is subject to all applicable laws and regulations.

In case of legal disputes, the rules shall be governed by the jurisdiction applicable to the principal office of the organizing entity responsible for the competition administration.

If any provision of these rules is found to be unenforceable, the remainder shall remain in effect.

7.11 Contributor Credits and IP Responsibility

Entrants must ensure proper crediting of all individuals and organizations involved in the project.

For collaborative works, roles and contributions must be clearly stated.

The organizers are not responsible for copyright disputes, misattribution, missing permissions, or lack of proper crediting.

The entrant assumes full legal responsibility for:

- authorship
- intellectual property ownership
- client permissions
- public display rights
- music and footage rights
- AI-generated or AI-assisted content
- proper accreditation

7.12 Making Of Feature

Finalists or winners may be invited to produce a Making Of article, interview, presentation, or behind-the-scenes feature about their submitted work.

Participation is encouraged to inspire and educate the community, but it may be subject to the entrant's availability, client permissions, and project confidentiality.