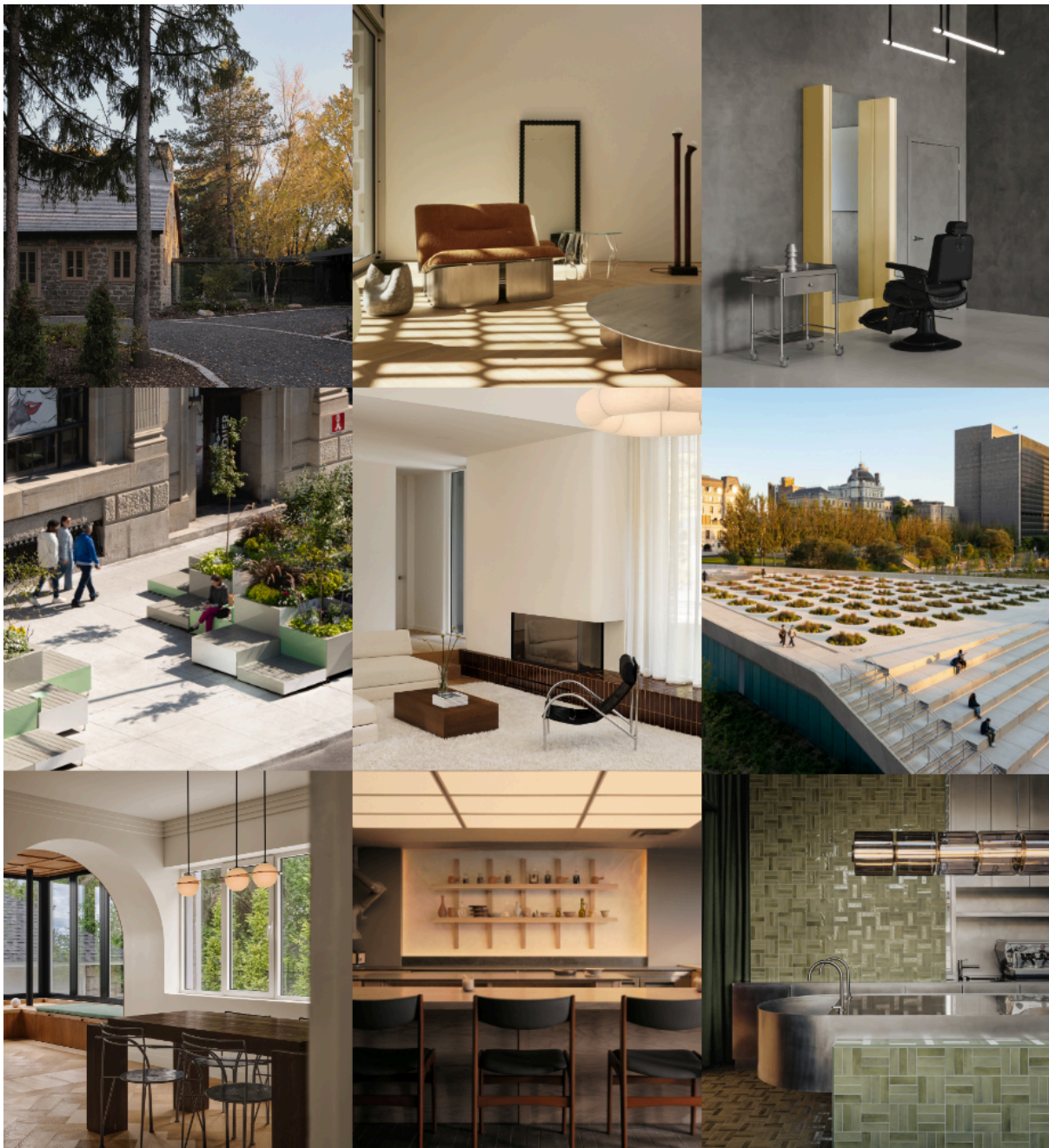


THE INDEX-DESIGN AWARDS 2027

Recognizing those shaping the future of
architecture and design in Québec



A DISTINCTION, NOT A COMPETITION

On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, Index-Design is launching the **Index-Design Awards**, a new annual distinction dedicated to Québec architecture and design, presented as part of Montréal Design Week.

For nearly 20 years, the *Guide 200 Québec Architects and Interior Designers* has documented the richness, diversity and evolution of design practices in Québec. The Index-Design Awards build on this legacy with a new ambition: **to identify and spotlight the projects, practices and ideas that move architecture and design forward.**

The Index-Design Awards are not simply about determining which projects are the most remarkable of the year. Through **10 categories** that move beyond traditional typologies and **a completely free entry process**, the Awards aim to reflect the many ways architecture and design shape the way we live, our experiences and our relationship with places.

They seek to recognize **those who open new paths, raise meaningful questions, offer thoughtful responses or contribute to transforming the way we conceive, build, inhabit and experience our environments.**

Design is a multifaceted discipline. It shapes our spaces, uses and experiences, while also contributing to our culture, economy and quality of life.

The Index-Design Awards therefore seek to recognize **the importance of architecture and design in society**, while highlighting those who contribute to the evolution of their practices.

THE 4 FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

The Index-Design Awards are built on four principles:

01 ACCESSIBILITY

Opening recognition to a broader design community through a free entry process— open to all eligible design professionals.

02 INDEPENDENCE

Placing every decision in the hands of an independent, multidisciplinary jury, guided by a clear and transparent framework.

03 PLURALITY

Celebrating design in all its forms—across disciplines, scales, approaches and ways of practising.

04 MEMORY

Recognized projects are documented and preserved as part of a lasting record of Québec design and creation, its projects, ideas and practices, and the imprint they leave behind.

THE CATEGORIES

The ten Index-Design Awards categories move beyond traditional typologies of buildings, spaces, objects and scales to reflect the many ways architecture and design shape uses, experiences and our relationship with places.

DWELL

Recognizes a **residential project** distinguished by the thoughtfulness of its design, its relationship to how spaces are used, the quality of its spaces and the coherence of the experience it offers.

WORK

Recognizes a **workplace environment** that rethinks the ways a professional space is occupied, shared and experienced through a design approach that is relevant, functional and inspiring.

WELCOME

Recognizes a project that creates a **distinctive hospitality experience** through the quality of its spaces, atmosphere, relationship to use and coherence of its identity.

The category includes hospitality, restaurants, bars, cafés, wellness and leisure spaces.

SERVE

Recognizes a project **designed for the community** that stands out for its architectural quality, design, functionality and contribution to the common good.

The category includes educational and healthcare facilities, libraries and community spaces.

ENGAGE

Recognizes a **commercial space**, retail store, showroom or service space that transforms the act of doing business into a distinctive spatial experience, consistent with its identity and attentive to the way it is used.

TRANSFORM

Recognizes a **renovation, transformation, rehabilitation or adaptive reuse project** that gives new life to an existing building or space, whether heritage-listed or not.

The project may stand out for the sensitivity of its intervention, its relationship to the existing context, its adaptability or the relevance of its new programme.

BELONG

Recognizes an intervention that establishes a **remarkable relationship with its territory, landscape, public realm, natural or urban environment**, enriching the relationship between people, uses and their surroundings.

RETHINK

Recognizes a project that proposes **a different way of designing, building, inhabiting or using resources.**

The project demonstrates ingenuity in its use of materials, processes or technologies and shows a concrete commitment to generating a positive impact on its environment.

CROSSOVER

Recognizes a project whose strength lies in **the coming together of multiple disciplines or areas of expertise.**

The project may bring together artists, craftspeople, designers, architects, manufacturers, professionals from the crafts and applied arts, or other creators.

Temporary projects and installations are eligible.

NEW VOICE

Recognizes **a project led by an emerging practice** distinguished by its vision, methodology, sensibility or new approach to architecture and design.

THE 2027 INDEX-DESIGN GRAND PRIZE

The Index-Design Grand Prix is the programme's highest distinction.

It does not necessarily recognize the most spectacular, most expensive or most technically complex project. It distinguishes **the project that opens a new path.**

The Grand Prize is awarded to one of the 10 Index-Design Award-winning projects that, in the jury's view, demonstrates an exceptional combination of vision, thoughtfulness, singularity, impact and relevance.

It represents the year's most significant contribution to the evolution of Québec architecture and design.

THE SELECTION CRITERIA

The Index-Design Awards offer an approach that differs from traditional industry competitions. Entry is **completely free** and open to all eligible design professionals.

Projects may be submitted directly by their designers, but may also be **proposed or identified by Index-Design or members of its professional community.**

All eligible projects are evaluated according to six cross-disciplinary criteria:

DISTINCTIVENESS & MEMORABILITY

The project demonstrates a strong formal exploration. Its treatment of materials, spatial configuration or design choices gives it a distinctive and memorable character.

INGENUITY

The project demonstrates creative adaptability, whether formal, technical, material or conceptual.

USER EXPERIENCE

The project tangibly improves the lives of those who inhabit or use it.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The design choices reflect a genuine commitment to sustainability.

CREATIVE COHERENCE

Formal quality, mastery of materials and coherence of the creative approach.

CREATIVE IDENTITY

Rooted in Québec's creative identity, the project stands out for its boldness and impact. It reflects the vitality of local creation and actively contributes to the evolution of Québec architecture and design.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

The Index-Design Awards favour an independent, open and transparent selection process.

Step 1

SUBMISSION — Until January 29, 2027

Professionals may submit their projects free of charge **via the entry form** during the eligibility period, **until January 29, 2027**.

Projects may also be identified or proposed by Index-Design and its community.

Step 2

PRESELECTION — January 29 to February 11

Eligible submissions are reviewed by the Index-Design team according to the established criteria. A selection of projects is then presented to the jury.

Step 3

SUBMISSION REVIEW — February 11 to 25

The jury evaluates submitted projects according to the assessment criteria and scoring grid provided by Index-Design.

Step 4

JURY DELIBERATION — February 26, 2027

Each jury member conducts an initial individual assessment. Selected projects are then discussed and deliberated collectively.

Step 5

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED — March 10, 2027

The finalists whose submissions have been shortlisted are publicly announced on the Montréal Design Week website and social media channels.

Step 6

WINNERS — February 26, 2027

One winner is selected in each of the ten categories.

The jury may also decide not to award a prize in a category if no project meets the expected level of excellence.

The Index-Design Grand Prix is awarded to the winning project that, in the jury's view, represents the most significant contribution to the evolution of Québec architecture and design.

Step 7

AWARDS CEREMONY & GALA — June 1, 2027

The winners are officially announced during the Gala evening, taking place on June 1, 2027, at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts.

THE JURY

The jury for this inaugural edition is chaired by architect **Pierre Thibault**.

It is composed of recognized figures from a range of fields, including architecture, design, culture, business and media.

Its composition prioritizes:

- expertise;
- diverse professional backgrounds;
- disciplinary plurality;
- generational diversity;
- diverse perspectives;
- Québec and international representation.

The jury is independent from Index-Design's commercial activities.

All jury members must disclose any situation that could constitute a conflict of interest and may not participate in the evaluation of a project with which they have a direct relationship that could compromise their impartiality.

ELIGIBILITY

Who can participate?

Architecture and design firms, architects, designers, artisan-creators, collectives and designers with an office in Québec.

Projects may have been completed in Québec or elsewhere in the world.

Eligibility period

Projects must have been completed between **July 2025 and January 2027**.

The submission deadline is **January 29, 2027**.

Submission

The submission must include:

- a project presentation;
- a description of the intent and creative approach;
- full project credits;
- a minimum of six high-resolution professional photographs, cleared for digital and print use;
- any relevant supporting material: plans, sketches, drawings, videos, etc.

Submissions are accepted in French or English.

AI-generated or AI-modified images are accepted as supplementary material when clearly identified.

The New Voice category is intended for emerging practices.

Eligibility is determined according to one of the following criteria:

- professional aged 35 or under;
- company or practice established less than eight years ago.

What matters is the newness of the voice, approach or vision.

WHAT WINNERS RECEIVE

Each winner receives:

- an official Index-Design Awards trophy;
- the title of **2027 Index-Design Award Winner**;
- editorial coverage in the *Guide 200 Québec Architects and Interior Designers*, 18th edition, a lasting archive of Québec design and creation;
- visibility across Index-Design and Montréal Design Week's digital platforms;
- inclusion in media communications surrounding the Awards;
- a digital visibility kit;
- recognition during the Gala;

Winners are authorized to use the official Index-Design Awards seal in their communications.

THE GALA

The Index-Design Awards will be presented as part of the second edition of **Montréal Design Week**, on Tuesday, June 1, 2027, at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts.

The Gala will bring together approximately 350 professionals from the fields of architecture, design, culture and business.

The ceremony will be followed by a cocktail reception with food at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts.

FAQ

What are the Index-Design Awards?

The Index-Design Awards are an annual distinction that highlights projects, practices and approaches contributing to the evolution of architecture and design in Québec.

Is it a competition?

The Index-Design Awards differ from the traditional competition model. Participation is free, projects may be submitted or identified, and selection is entrusted to an independent jury.

They are recognition awards, rather than a competition.

How much does it cost to participate?

Participation is completely free.

Is an advertising purchase in the Guide 200 required?

No. The Index-Design Awards are entirely independent of any advertising purchase or media placement in the *Guide 200 Québec Architects and Interior Designers*.

Who can submit a project?

Eligible professionals and organizations with a professional presence in Québec may submit a project.

Is a project completed outside Québec eligible?

Yes. A project may have been completed anywhere in the world, provided it was designed or led by a professional or organization with an office in Québec.

Can multiple projects be submitted?

Yes, provided that each project meets the eligibility criteria and is submitted in the relevant category or categories.

Can projects be submitted by someone other than their designer?

Projects may be proposed by a member of the community. The Index-Design team may contact the designers involved to complete the submission.

Are AI-generated images accepted?

Only photographs of completed projects are accepted as part of the submission. However, AI-generated renderings are accepted as supplementary documentation to support a submission. Any significant use of artificial intelligence must be disclosed in the submission.

Do projects have to be completed in 2027?

No. Projects must have been completed during the eligibility period established for the 2027 edition, between **July 2025 and January 2027**.

When will the winners be announced?

The finalists will be publicly announced at the end of winter 2027.

The winners will be announced at the Index-Design Awards Gala, taking place on June 1, 2027, at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, as part of Montréal Design Week.

How are projects evaluated?

Projects are evaluated according to the six selection and evaluation criteria considered by the jury:

DISTINCTIVENESS & MEMORABILITY

The project demonstrates a strong formal exploration. Its treatment of materials, spatial configuration or design choices gives it a distinctive and memorable character.

INGENUITY

The project demonstrates creative adaptability, whether formal, technical, material or conceptual.

USER EXPERIENCE

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Who sits on the jury?

The jury brings together professionals and recognized figures from architecture, design, culture, business and media. Its composition aims to reflect disciplinary, generational and cultural diversity.

The 2027 jury is chaired by architect Pierre Thibault of Atelier Pierre Thibault.

What distinguishes the Index-Design Awards?

The Index-Design Awards combine free participation, an independent process, an open selection process, a multidisciplinary jury and an editorial approach led by an organization that has documented the evolution of Québec architecture and design for nearly 20 years.