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AWARDS

# Information Pack

08 October 2025

[WWW.INDEX-AWARDS.COM](http://WWW.INDEX-AWARDS.COM)



# About The INDEX AWARDS

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The INDEX AWARDS 2025 proudly highlights the talents and innovative projects within the GCC, enhancing our living, working, and social spaces. These awards acknowledge the significant achievements of designers across various disciplines, including architecture, fit-out, and setting clear benchmarks in the industry.

- **Creativity:** The awards recognize designs that establish new standards, encouraging designers to explore unique and effective solutions.
- **Inspiration:** They highlight innovative ideas that challenge conventional design norms and propel the industry forward.
- **Recognition:** They honor individuals and teams whose contributions have had a profound impact on the design landscape, shaping how environments are perceived and utilized.

We are committed to promoting exceptional design and innovation, supporting the growth of future leaders in design.

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# Submission Information

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## Entry Submission

- Open to individuals, teams, or companies. Detail roles in collaborative projects.
- Ensure compliance with regional codes and originality of work.
- Collaborative projects should clearly outline the roles and contributions of each participant.

## Submission Documentation:

- Provide a clear summary of the project objectives, design process, and outcomes.
- Include supporting visuals like high-quality images, drawings, or videos.
- Include client or stakeholder testimonials or feedback (if applicable).
- For Concept Design of the Year, visionary designs are eligible even if not completed.

## How to Submit

- **Register:** Create an account on the INDEX AWARDS platform: <https://indexawards.awardsplatform.com/>.
- **Start Your Entry:** You can save and revisit your submission.
- **Pay Entry Fee:** Required to finalise your submission.
- **Submit:** Complete your entry to be considered for shortlisting and judging.



## Entry Fees

- **Primary Entry Fee (\$195)** : Applies to the first submission in any category with 1 complimentary ticket for the awards night
- **Additional Entry Fee (\$150)** : Applies to each additional entry with 1 complimentary ticket for the awards night
- All fees are subject to 5% VAT, non-refundable and must be paid in full at the time of submission.

# Categories and Criteria

## Restaurant/Bar Design of the Year

Honors outstanding design in restaurant or bar environments that create a memorable dining experience.

Criteria:

- Ambience and atmosphere
- Innovative design elements and layout
- Effective use of space and functionality

## Boutique Design Company of the Year

Recognizes boutique design firms that deliver unique, high-quality designs with a personalized approach.

Criteria:

- Distinctive design style and approach
- Craftsmanship and attention to detail
- Client satisfaction and project innovation

## Concept Design of the Year

Celebrates visionary design concepts that showcase creativity and potential, regardless of project completion.

Criteria:

- Originality and boldness of concept
- Feasibility and innovation
- Visual appeal and coherence

## Small-Scale Fit-Out Project Design of the Year

Awards creativity and excellence in fit-out projects with limited square footage, optimizing space and function.

Criteria:

- Effective use of compact spaces
- Cohesive and impactful design elements
- Attention to detail and craftsmanship

## Office Design of the Year

Recognizes outstanding office designs that inspire productivity, collaboration, and employee well-being.

Criteria:

- Layout supporting productivity and flexibility
- Balance of aesthetic and functional aspects
- Use of materials and finishes to enhance work environment

## Café/Casual Dining Design of the Year

Recognizes creative and inviting designs in cafes and casual dining venues that enhance guest comfort and experience.

Criteria:

- Aesthetic appeal and comfort
- Cohesiveness of design with brand identity
- Practical use of materials and finishes

## Interior Designer of the Year

Awards to an interior designer with an exceptional portfolio and a proven influence on the industry.

Criteria:

- Portfolio originality and quality
- Innovation and trendsetting
- Professional impact and recognition

## Large-Scale Fit-Out Contractor of the Year

Recognizes large-scale fit-out contractors who demonstrate excellence in project execution and client satisfaction.

Criteria:

- Project quality and client feedback
- Timeliness and efficiency
- Adaptability to project requirements

## Retail Design Project of the Year

Awards excellence in retail design that enhances the shopping experience and aligns with brand identity.

Criteria:

- Effective brand integration
- Customer flow and functionality
- Aesthetic appeal and creativity

## Large-Scale Fit-Out Project Design of the Year

Celebrates impressive design and execution in large-scale interior fit-out projects that redefine commercial spaces.

Criteria:

- Execution quality and attention to detail
- Efficiency and innovation in space usage
- Impact on overall brand and client experience

## Hotel Design of the Year (4-Star and Above)

Celebrates exceptional hotel designs in 4-star and higher establishments that elevate guest experiences through luxury and function.

Criteria:

- Cohesiveness of design and theme
- Functional and comfortable layout
- Innovative use of space and materials

## Rising Star of the Year

Recognizes a promising new talent in the design industry, showing exceptional potential and creativity.

Criteria:

- Portfolio of fresh, original ideas
- Growth potential and innovation
- Industry engagement and feedback

# Categories and Criteria

## Wellness & Healthcare Design of the Year

Acknowledges designs in wellness and healthcare facilities that prioritize comfort, safety, and a calming environment.

Criteria:

- Support for wellness and tranquility
- Effective spatial planning for care and privacy
- Thoughtful use of colors, materials, and lighting

## Architect of the Year

Honors an architect with an outstanding body of work that advances architectural design and community impact.

Criteria:

- Innovation and originality in design
- Portfolio breadth and depth
- Impact on architectural practices

## Interior Design Company of the Year

Celebrates the top interior design firm showcasing a portfolio of successful and innovative projects.

Criteria:

- Portfolio diversity and innovation
- Client testimonials and satisfaction
- Impact on the design industry

## Architectural Project of the Year

Recognizes outstanding architectural projects that shape the built environment with innovation and vision.

Criteria:

- Architectural innovation and originality
- Impact on surrounding environment and community
- Excellence in form, function, and sustainability

## Residential Design of the Year

Awards excellence in residential design that enhances daily living with comfort, functionality, and aesthetic appeal.

Criteria:

- Personalized, functional, and welcoming spaces
- Cohesive and stylish interior elements
- Creative use of materials and finishes

## Architecture Firm of the Year

Recognizes a firm with a transformative impact on architecture and community through innovative design.

Criteria:

- Innovation in Design showcased by groundbreaking architectural solutions.
- Portfolio Excellence demonstrated by diverse and impactful project range.
- Industry Influence by setting standards and shaping architectural practices.

## Boutique Fit-Out Contractor of the Year

Acknowledges boutique fit-out contractors known for high-quality work and personalized service.

Criteria:

- Attention to detail and craftsmanship
- Creativity and problem-solving ability
- Client satisfaction and project delivery

## Best Use of Sustainable Materials

Honors a project that showcases innovative and responsible use of sustainable materials in interior design.

Criteria:

- Use of certified, recycled, or renewable materials
- Reduction of environmental impact
- Seamless integration into the overall design

## Best Use of AI in Design/Architecture

Honors a completed project that demonstrates the innovative use of artificial intelligence to enhance the design or architectural process.

Criteria:

- Integration of AI tools in design development
- Enhancement of creativity, efficiency, or functionality
- Original and effective use of AI in achieving design outcomes

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Entry deadline: 10 August 2025.

Shortlist announced: 01 September 2025.

Awards ceremony: 08 October 2025.

# Judging Rounds & Criteria

## Round 1: Independent Scoring (Shortlisting Round)

- Process: Our shortlisting jury independently score entries based on predefined criteria.
- Outcome: The top-scoring entries are shortlisted for further review in the final round.

## Round 2: Independent Review (Final Round)

- Process: Our judging panel reviews the shortlisted entries independently, reassessing each with a fresh perspective.
- Outcome: Scores are tallied by the awards committee to determine the category winners, who will be announced on the awards night.

**Criteria:** Detailed on the previous page.

**Geographical Eligibility:** All entries must be from the GCC region (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates).



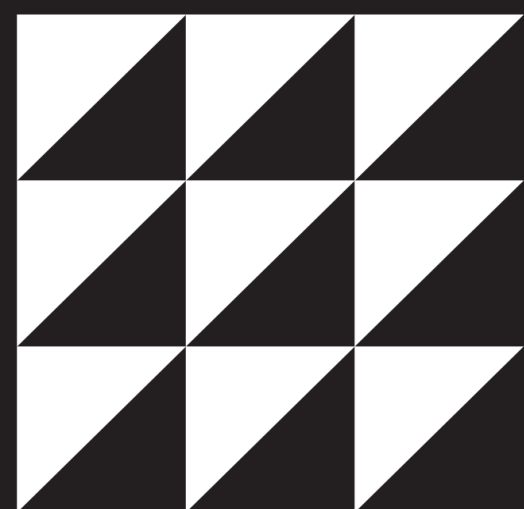
## Eligibility Window:

- Projects must be completed between 1 July 2023 and 31 July 2025. Projects outside this period are ineligible.
- Boutique Fit-Out Firm: A firm with fewer than 100 employees, excluding labor staff.
- Large Fit-Out Firm: A firm with more than 100 employees, excluding labor staff.
- Small-Scale Fit-Out Project Criteria: Size & Scope: Typically, under 1,000 sqm (10,000 sq ft), focusing on single units, boutiques, or defined spaces within a larger development.
- Large-Scale Fit-Out Project Criteria: Size & Scope: Typically exceeds 1,000 sqm (10,000 sq ft), involving multiple zones or floors within a commercial, hospitality, or residential development.



# Terms and Conditions

- By participating, entrants agree to these Terms, which may be updated without prior notice. Participants are encouraged to review the updated Terms on the website.
- The Organizer reserves the right to modify or cancel any Award process, category, or prize based on the number and quality of entries. Categories may be added, removed, or canceled if no entry is deemed worthy.
- Nominations must be submitted online, in English, and by the deadline. Incomplete or late entries will not be considered.
- A Primary Entry Fee is required for each initial submission. Additional submissions within the same category or across multiple categories will incur an Additional Entry Fee. All fees are non-refundable.
- The Organizer may verify information provided in submissions. If no entries meet the criteria, no award will be presented in that category.
- Decisions by the Judging Panel are final and not subject to appeal. The Organizer is not obliged to provide explanations for decisions.
- Submissions will be treated as confidential and shared only with the Judging Panel, whose members are bound by confidentiality agreements.
- Entries are accepted in good faith as accurate. Submission signifies acceptance of these Terms.
- In the event of disputes, the decision of the Organizer and Judging Panel will be final, with no correspondence entered into.



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