

PREAMBLE

These Competition Rules (hereinafter referred to as the «Rules») set out the conditions governing participation in the competition entitled Stairs Design Awards (hereinafter referred to as the «Competition»).

The purpose of these Rules is to govern the relationship between the Competition organizer, on the one hand, and the candidates participating in the Competition, on the other.

By entering the Competition, candidates expressly acknowledge and accept these Rules and undertake to comply with all rights and obligations set forth herein.

ARTICLE 1 - THE ORGANISER

The Competition is organised by PBM Groupe, a simplified joint-stock company (SAS) registered with the Lyon Trade and Companies Register under number 483 335 097, with its registered office located at 97, allée Alexandre Borodine, Bâtiment Cèdre 2, 69800 Saint-Priest, France (hereinafter referred to as the «Organiser»).

The Organiser is a French group specialised in the precast concrete industry. It designs, manufactures and markets solutions for the building, public works and civil engineering sectors.

Among its areas of expertise is the design and manufacture of precast concrete staircases, a historic activity of the company in which it is now the European market leader, as part of an ongoing commitment to development and innovation.

The Organiser is responsible for the design, management and proper conduct of the Competition. As such, it is the sole point of contact for candidates regarding any matter related to the organisation of the Competition.

For further information about the Competition organised by the Organiser, candidates may visit the Competition website at www.pbm.fr/stairs-design-awards or contact the Organiser using the following details:

By email :
communication@pbm.fr

By téléphone :
+33 (0) 4 72 81 21 80

By post :
PBM - Stairs Design Awards
97 allée Alexandre Borodine - Bâtiment Cèdre 2
69800 SAINT-PIEST
www.pbm.fr

ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

Candidates are invited to design an innovative staircase project with a strong identity, transforming the staircase into a key architectural feature that goes far beyond its original functional purpose (hereinafter referred to as the «Project»).

Candidates are encouraged to explore new approaches to staircase design while complying with the following requirements:

- The staircase must be primarily made of concrete;
- The staircase must retain its functional use.

Other materials may also be incorporated, provided that concrete remains the predominant material. In addition to demonstrating originality, the staircase must comply with applicable accessibility requirements and be feasible to manufacture.

ARTICLE 3 - ELIGIBILITY AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

The Competition is free of charge and open to all students enrolled in schools of architecture in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Spain, Italy, Germany and England during the 2026–2027 academic year.

Candidates may enter either individually or as part of a team comprising at least one architecture student and, where applicable, additional architecture students and/or one engineering student.

Teams may not exceed three members.

Each team member participating in the Competition must be a student and hold a valid student card.

Upon submission of the Project, all team members must have been declared in the online registration form and will be considered co-authors of the Project alongside the team representative, who acts on behalf of the team.

ARTICLE 4 - REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Registration is a mandatory prerequisite for participation in the Competition.

Registration opens on the Competition launch date, Monday 1 October 2026, and closes on Friday 12 February 2027.

Each candidate or team of candidates must register online via the WiiN application platform, accessible from the Competition website at www.pbm-stairsdesignawards.fr or directly at:
<https://pbm-groupe.wiin.io/fr/applications/3-Stairs-Design-Awards>

Applicants must provide the following information, it being understood that for team entries, these details must be provided for each team member:

- Last name
- First name
- Postal address
- Postal code
- City
- Country
- Email address
- Telephone number
- Name of higher education institution
- Level of study
- Copy of a valid student card or current academic enrolment certificate

Only the individual candidate or, in the case of a team entry, the team representative will receive an acknowledgement of receipt by email.

A confirmation email containing the registration number assigned to the candidate or team will then be sent. This registration number will be automatically displayed on the submitted Project.

This email serves as proof of registration and contains a link to the candidate's or team's submission file.

Each candidate may submit one Project in each of the three categories referred to in Article 5.

Any questions regarding the registration procedure may be submitted by email until the registration closing date at the following address: communication@pbm.fr.

ARTICLE 5 - AWARD CATEGORIES

5.1 – “Public Building”, “Housing” and “Functional Building” Awards

Three awards will be presented during the awards ceremony on Thursday, 13 May 2027, to be held at the Palais de la Bourse in Lyon, France.

Public Building Award

This category is open to projects incorporating a staircase within a facility intended for public use. As a genuine architectural feature, the staircase contributes to the identity of the space while meeting the requirements of functionality, accessibility and durability specific to public buildings (sports facilities, cultural venues, administrative buildings, healthcare facilities, educational institutions, etc.).

Housing Award

This category is open to projects incorporating a staircase within a residential development, whether a new-build or a renovation project, including single-family, multi-family or social housing. The staircase combines architectural quality, functionality and user comfort while integrating harmoniously into the occupants' living environment.

Functional Building Award

This category is open to projects incorporating a staircase within a commercial or tertiary-sector building. Beyond its circulation function, the staircase contributes to the identity of the space and enhances the user experience in workplaces, reception areas and service environments (offices, retail premises, hotels, coworking spaces, etc.).

Candidates may submit only one Project per award category but may compete in all three categories.

5.2 – People's Choice Award

A People's Choice Award will also be presented during the awards ceremony on Thursday, 13 May 2027, at the Palais de la Bourse in Lyon, France.

This award will be based on all projects shortlisted by the Jury for the three award categories referred to above. These projects will then be submitted to a public vote.

ARTICLE 6 - COMPETITION TIMELINE AND SELECTION PROCESS

Projects may be prepared and submitted in either French or English.

The Competition submission process consists of two phases.

Phase One is open to all candidates wishing to participate in the Competition and serves as a preliminary selection stage.

The deadline for Project submission is Friday, 12 March 2027, at 12:00 noon.

Phase Two is open only to candidates shortlisted during Phase One.

Among the candidates who have submitted a Project in accordance with the requirements of Phase One, an initial selection will take place from Monday, 22 March 2027 to Friday, 26 March 2027 at 12:00 noon, during which the Jury will select three finalists in each award category.

The Organiser will announce the selection of the nine finalists on Monday, 29 March 2027.

All Projects complying with the provisions of these Rules will be showcased on the Competition website, pbm.fr/stairs-design-awards, as well as on the Organiser's social media channels (Instagram and LinkedIn) from Monday, 29 March 2027.

The public will then be invited to vote in the first round of the People's Choice Award from among all showcased Projects until 30 April 2027 at midnight. The second round will take place live during the award ceremony, with voting by attendees.

The nine finalist Projects across the three award categories will be evaluated by the Jury during the award ceremony on Thursday, 13 May 2027.

The Jury will announce the winner of each of the three Competition categories, as well as the People's Choice Award, during the awards ceremony.

Phase One – Project Submission Requirements

Projects and all required supporting documents must be submitted in searchable PDF format (unless another format is expressly required by these Rules) via the Wiin application platform, accessible directly at:
<https://pbm-groupe.wiin.io/fr/applications/3-Stairs-Design-Awards>

The candidate or, in the case of a team entry, the team representative must complete the following information fields:

- Registration number (automatically generated)
- Project title
- Intended building type
- Materials used
- Number of steps
- Brief Project description (maximum 100 words)

The submission file must include all of the following documents:

- Main image showing the staircase in its intended setting and in its entirety (JPEG format)
- Additional images (JPEG format)
- Project presentation document (PDF format), including: a description of the Project, design concept, technical performance characteristics, technical details and rendering information
- One A2 drawing showing the staircase within its architectural environment
- One A2 portrait-format drawing showing an elevation of the staircase
- One IFC file (maximum size: 2 MB)
- Any other information or detailed views considered relevant by the candidate

Phase Two – Final Jury Presentation

The presentation of Projects shortlisted for Phase Two must include the following elements:

- A PowerPoint presentation supporting an oral presentation of no more than 5 minutes, followed by a 5-minute discussion with the Jury.
- A physical model of the Project, which will be displayed during the awards ceremony and may be used to support the presentation before the Jury.

- Any additional materials or documents that the candidates consider useful for the presentation and exhibition of their Project.

Any presentation that does not comply with the requirements set out in these Rules may, at the Jury's discretion, result in the immediate and permanent disqualification of the candidate or team.

The scale of all drawings and presentation materials must be clearly indicated on the relevant documents, and the orientation must be specified on all plans.

Each candidate or team is solely responsible for ensuring that the graphic representation of their Project is suitable for reproduction in future publications.

ARTICLE 7 - JURY COMPOSITION

The Jury shall be composed of members including:

- Architects;
- Representatives of professional architectural bodies;
- Representatives of leading media organisations;
- Representatives of the Organiser.

The composition of the Jury may be amended during the organisation and implementation of the Competition at the sole discretion of the Organiser.

ARTICLE 8 - EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Jury will pay particular attention to projects that demonstrate innovative thinking and showcase the predominant use of concrete.

The Jury will assess each Project for compliance with these Rules and may decide to immediately and permanently disqualify any Project that does not comply with the requirements set out herein.

In all cases, the Jury shall select the three award-winning Projects at its sole discretion.

The evaluation criteria considered by the Jury include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Compliance with the Competition requirements;
- Technical and structural justification;
- Suitability for prefabrication and transportation;
- Compliance with applicable French standards and regulations;
- Environmental considerations and justification;
- Market analysis;
- Overall vision and contextual integration;
- Aesthetics and visual impact;
- Accuracy and level of Project development;
- Quality of the presentation.

These evaluation criteria may be amended at the Organiser's discretion up to the official launch date of the Competition.

The three Projects awarded by the Jury, together with the Project selected through the People's Choice Award, will be published on the Organiser's website: pbm.fr/stairs-design-awards

ARTICLE 9 - AWARDS

The Awards will be paid to the winning candidates or, in the case of a team entry, to the team's designated representative by bank transfer in the days following the awards ceremony.

The Awards are allocated as follows:

Public Building Award: €5,000
Housing Award: €5,000
Functional Building Award: €5,000
People's Choice Award: €2,500

ARTICLE 10 - SUPPORT FOR ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

In support of architectural education, the Stairs Design Awards undertake to allocate a portion of their apprenticeship tax contribution to the educational institutions attended by the award-winning candidates, subject to the eligibility of those institutions under the applicable scheme.

ARTICLE 11 - ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS

11.1. By entering the Competition, candidates and teams of candidates agree to assign exclusively to the Organiser all rights to exploit the submitted Project, worldwide and for the entire duration of copyright protection, in order to enable the Organiser to carry out its activities and to make use of the Projects, whether for commercial or non-commercial purposes, including, without limitation, communication, promotion and implementation purposes.

11.2. The rights assigned include, in particular:

- The right of communication to the public, meaning the right for the Organiser to communicate, publish, display or otherwise make the Project available to the public, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly;
- The right of reproduction, meaning the right for the Organiser to reproduce the Project, in whole or in part, in any number of copies;
- The right to modify the Project, in whole or in part, including the right to adapt or have it adapted, correct it, develop it further, digitise it, and incorporate it into existing or future works, subject to respect for the authors' moral rights.

11.3. The rights assigned are granted for :

- All types of media and formats, whether currently known or developed in the future, including digital, print, magnetic and optical media, such as, but not limited to, CDs, DVDs, hard drives, informational and promotional materials, publications, brochures, models, media content, films, websites, social media platforms and similar media;
- All forms of presentation, including reports, still images, animated sequences and any other format;
- Any form of use, whether currently known or developed in the future, including, without limitation, plans, models, physical construction, graphic, photographic, pictorial and digital representations;
- Any technical means or process, whether currently known or developed in the future, including, without limitation, physical reproduction, construction, digitisation, digital storage, audiovisual and multimedia processes, and any public or private telecommunications network, including the Internet, Intranet and Extranet;

- All methods and channels of distribution..

11.4. This assignment includes the right for the Organiser to apply, in its own name and in any country worldwide, for trademark, design and patent protection relating to the Project.

At the Organiser's request and expense, candidates undertake to sign any application, assignment, document or provide any information that may be necessary to obtain patents, intellectual property rights, design rights, trademark rights or any other form of legal protection relating to the Project anywhere in the world.

11.5. In return, the Organiser undertakes that any reproduction, publication or display of the Project, whether direct or indirect, shall clearly and visibly identify the candidate(s) as authors of the Project whenever the chosen medium or communication channel reasonably permits.

11.6. The assignment of rights described above is made free of charge by the candidates and teams of candidates, except for the award winners, whose compensation is deemed to be included in the prize awarded under Article 9 of these Rules.

The Parties agree that 10% of the prize awarded constitutes consideration for the assignment of rights under this Article.

Consequently, the award winners shall not be entitled to any additional remuneration arising from the future exploitation of their Projects.

ARTICLE 12 - WARRANTIES

Candidates and teams of candidates expressly represent and warrant that they hold all rights relating to the Project submitted as part of the Competition.

Accordingly, they shall indemnify and hold the Organiser harmless against any claim, action, proceeding, dispute or demand brought by any third party in connection with the Project or the rights assigned pursuant to Article 11 of these Rules.

ARTICLE 13 - PERSONAL DATA

13.1. The personal data of candidates participating in the Competition shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of this Article of the Rules (hereinafter referred to as the «Data»).

The Data is processed by the Organiser of the Competition, acting as data controller, which entrusts its collection to an external service provider, WiiN SAS.

13.2. As part of the Competition, certain Data relating to candidates is collected, in particular the information expressly listed in Article 4 of these Rules.

Such Data is collected through the registration form completed by candidates in order to participate in the Competition.

13.3. The Data is collected on the following legal bases:

- Performance of the agreement between the candidates and the Organiser under these Rules;
- The Organiser's legitimate interest in retaining candidates' Data in order to contact them regarding opportunities related to its activities and projects and to keep them informed of its latest news and developments..

The Data collected by the Organiser is necessary for the management of applications and the organisation of the Competition.

13.4. Access to the Data is strictly limited to employees of the Organiser who need such access in order to perform their duties and who are bound by strict confidentiality obligations regarding the Data, in particular those responsible for organising the Competition and managing the Organiser's projects.

13.5. The Organiser stores the Data on servers located in France and ensures that the Data collected is protected against loss, damage, destruction or disclosure to unauthorised third parties.

The Organiser also implements appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure the security of the Data throughout its processing and retention period, including securing access to its premises and servers, securing IT systems used to store Data, the use of SSL encryption for email communications, and similar protective measures.

13.6. Data collected in connection with Competition applications shall be retained for a maximum period of three (3) years from the date of the last contact between the data subject and the Organiser.

By way of exception, Data collected in connection with the electronic agreement entered into between the award winners and the Organiser shall be retained for a period of ten (10) years.

13.7. In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which entered into force on 25 May 2018, and French Data Protection Act No. 78-17 of 6 January 1978, as amended, individuals whose Data is collected have the right to access, rectify, restrict and erase their Data, the right to Data portability, and the right to provide instructions regarding the handling of their Data after their death.

Data subjects may also object, on legitimate grounds, to the processing of all or part of their Data.

13.8. To exercise any of these rights, data subjects may contact the Organiser's data protection contact directly at the following address: communication@pbm.fr.

13.9. Data subjects also have the right to lodge a complaint with the French Data Protection Authority (CNIL) regarding any alleged failure by the Organiser to comply with a request relating to the exercise of their rights or, more generally, with the applicable personal data protection regulations.