

COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE
AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURAL THESIS 2026
&
JK AYA BEST ARCHITECTURE STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD 2026

WILD CARD ENTRY

GENERAL RULES

INVITATION

- 1.1 **The Council of Architecture (Promoter)**, with a view to encourage and motivate the students of Graduate Courses in Architecture has instituted all India Awards for Excellence in Architectural Thesis, submitted in compliance to the requirements of the Bachelor's degree program in Architecture and invites students to participate in this prestigious competition by submitting their thesis projects in accordance with the conditions and instructions set out below.

JK Cement Ltd. has come forward to collaborate with COA and promote the JK AYA Best Architecture Student of the Year Award to be jointly conducted with the COA Awards program for excellence in Architectural Thesis.

The joint awards program is promoted with an objective to encourage talent of students from across the country.

A Wild Card Entry mechanism is introduced from the COA Awards 2026 onwards with the following provisions.

Provisions for Wild Card Entry

1. All nominations already submitted by institutions shall remain valid without any modification.
2. Eligible students who were not nominated by their institutions may apply directly to COA under the **Wild Card Entry mechanism**.
3. The Nominated entries and Wild Card entries received for the COA Awards 2026 (AEAT2026) shall be merged into a single pool for evaluation. The evaluation and prizes will be common for all entries. There will be no separate evaluation or prizes for the Wild Card entries.
4. A student shall be eligible to apply under the Wild Card Entry category provided that he/she fulfils all of the following conditions:
 - a) The applicant must be a Bonafide student of an institution approved by the Council of Architecture and must satisfy all eligibility requirements prescribed for the respective COA Award category.
 - b) The applicant must have not been nominated by his/her institution under the COA Award category for the current year.
 - c) The work submitted must have been completed within the period prescribed under the Award guidelines.
 - d) The submitted work must be the original work of the applicant and must not infringe upon any copyright or intellectual property rights.
 - e) The applicant shall submit a Bonafide Certificate (Declaration Form B) signed by the Head of the Institution/Principal certifying the student's enrolment and the Originality and Authenticity of the submitted work in the prescribed format.

- f) The applicant shall submit all documents, drawings, reports, photographs, and supporting material as prescribed under the respective Award category.
 - g) The applicant shall complete the online registration and upload all required documents within the stipulated Wild Card Entry submission period.
- 5. Submission of a Wild Card Entry shall not entitle the applicant to automatic acceptance. The entry shall be subject to scrutiny, eligibility verification, and compliance with the Award guidelines prescribed by the Council of Architecture.
 - 6. The number of Wild Card Entries shall be limited to 25 (5 in each zone) for each category. Accordingly, a maximum of 50 Wild Card participants shall be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - 7. The decision of the Council of Architecture regarding eligibility, acceptance of the application, and evaluation of the Wild Card Entry shall be final and binding, and no correspondence in this regard shall be entertained.

APPROVAL OF CONDITIONS

- 1.2 This awards program will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the Council of Architecture, which also apply in case of points which have not been specifically covered by these conditions.
- 1.3 A copy of the awards guidelines has been filed with the Council of Architecture.

PERSONS INELIGIBLE

- 1.4 No blood relative of any member of the Board of Assessors shall take part either directly or indirectly in the awards program nor be entrusted either directly or indirectly with work connected with the award-winning thesis.

No member of the promoting body or an associate an employee or any member concerned with the preparation or organizing of the competition shall be eligible to assist a student participating in the program.

ENTERING IN THE AWARDS PROGRAM

- 1.5 The conditions for participation and Online Registration Forms will be available on the website www.coa.gov.in shortly.
- 1.6 Last date of online registration and other deadlines shall be announced on the website www.coa.gov.in shortly.

The complete set of Declaration Forms A & B duly filled in and completed in all respects should be sent, in original, together with a Pen Drive (as prescribed), to **Director, COA-TRC, Pune**, through Principal / HOD, by registered speed post or forwarding agent to reach the given address before the declared deadline. No registration fee is charged.

Each thesis project received as a wild card entry for the awards programme shall be allocated a code number by the Promoter and the author shall be duly informed of the same via e-mail not later than the declared deadline.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

- 1.7 The members for Zonal Jury shall be appointed on the Board of Assessors to adjudicate on the thesis projects submitted and make the award. The appointments shall be made by the promoter from amongst the eminent architects.

Of the three members for the final jury, two members shall be appointed by the promoter and one member shall be appointed by JK Cement Ltd. from amongst eminent architects.

ADVISERS

- 1.8 If necessary, the Board of Assessors may consult the promoter of the awards program. The promoter may be consulted on any aspect of the competition. The promoter and his representative/s may remain available during the judging to give advice on various aspects of the awards program when invited to do so.

PRIZES AND MENTIONS

The promoter undertakes to accept the decisions and the awards of the Board of Assessors and pay the following awards.

At each Zonal Event:

A. Architectural Project

1. To the author of the best thesis projects - Rs 15,000 /- + Certificate each
2. To the authors of the next Four thesis projects - Rs 10,000 /- + Certificate each

B. Project addressing concerns within the society

1. To the author of the best thesis projects - Rs 15,000 /- + Certificate each
2. To the authors of the next Four thesis projects - Rs 10,000 /- + Certificate each

At the National Event:

A. Architectural Project

1. To the authors of the best Two thesis projects - Rs. 100,000/- + Certificate each
2. To the authors of the next Three thesis projects - Rs. 25,000/- + Certificate each

B. Project addressing concerns within the society

1. To the authors of the best Two thesis projects - Rs. 100,000/- + Certificate each
2. To the authors of the next Three thesis projects - Rs. 25,000/- + Certificate each

The awards mentioned above shall have two components - Cash & Certificate for all winners.

At the National Event:

- 1. To the author of the thesis project selected for JK AYA Best Architecture Student of the Year Award - Rs. 25,000/-, Trophy and citation. (by J.K. Cement Ltd.)**

SUBMISSION OF THESIS PROJECTS

- 1.1 Submission of the thesis projects implies acceptance of the awards program conditions. Participants are advised to retain copies of the material submitted.
- 1.2 No symbol, motto or distinguishing mark will be placed on any part of the submitted panel, presentation except the title of the project.
- 1.3 Each participant must be prepared to satisfy the Board of Assessors that he is the bonafide author of the thesis project he has submitted.
- 1.4 Submission/uploading of Declaration forms both A & B, drawing panels, presentation, not later than declared deadline.

INSURANCE OF THE THESIS PROJECT

Each participant is responsible for insuring his entry against loss, damage, or non-delivery up to the time of its receipt at the address given on the website www.coa.gov.in

JUDGING PROCEDURE

- 1.5 The promoter will place a secretariat at the disposal of the Board of Assessors to minute their meetings and record their decisions.

- 1.6 The deliberations of the Board of Assessors will be secret. No member of the Board or Technical Adviser or member of the promoter's staff or competition secretariat may disclose any details of the competitions, deliberations, or decisions.

The decisions of the Board of Assessors are final and binding on the promoter.

- 1.7 The judging of the entries is scheduled to take place in three stages as listed below
The awards at the zonal and all India levels shall be in two categories:

A. Architectural Project

- 5 projects to be shortlisted for presentation at each zone
- 1 project from each zone to be selected for presentation at the final jury
- 2 projects to be awarded as the best among the five presented at the final jury

B. Project addressing concerns within the society

- 5 projects to be shortlisted for presentation at each zone
- 1 project from each zone to be selected for presentation at the final jury
- 2 projects to be awarded as the best among the five presented at the final jury

Stage1 (Short listing)

A team of three assessors will short list ten thesis projects (five in each category) for stage 1B assessment. The code numbers of the shortlisted thesis projects will be announced and communicated to the participants by a draw of lots on the day of the Zonal Jury, before each assessment at Stage 1B after commencement as per the procedure stated below.

The board of assessors may at its discretion select two entries as standby, (to be listed in order of merit), in addition to the shortlisted ten, code numbers of whom will be listed and kept in a separate envelope. Standby entries may be announced only if authors of any of the ten shortlisted entries are not present at the jury, and only after presentations of other shortlisted participants are complete.

Stage 1B (Zonal Jury)

Authors of the ten short listed thesis projects (five in each category) shall make an audio-visual presentation to members of Jury (Assessors) in a public jury attended by eminent citizen, public and students, held on the given date. Each participant must make the presentation himself/herself.

The promoter or his representative will announce code numbers of the shortlisted projects 30 minutes before commencement of first presentation and by draw of lots, the sequence of first presentation will be decided and announced. At the beginning of the first presentation, code number of the second presenter will be announced. At the end of first presentation code number of the third presenter will be announced, and at the end of the second presentation code number of fourth presenter will be announced and so on. Each participating student will be given a minimum of 20 minutes & maximum of 30 minutes for the entire Jury. It will consist of maximum of 15 minutes for the presentation on screen & 15-20 minutes for the question-answers.

Two thesis projects (one in each category) from each zonal jury will be selected for final Jury. These awards will be declared after completing all presentations.

Stage 2 (Final Jury)

Authors of the ten selected thesis projects (two from each zone) shall make an audio-visual presentation to members of Jury (Assessors) in a public jury attended by eminent citizen, public and students, held on the date of the Final Jury. The participants must make the presentation himself/herself. The sequence of presentation at the Final Jury will be announced in a manner similar to that of the Zonal Jury. Each participating student will be given a minimum of 20 minutes & maximum of 30 minutes for the entire Jury. It will consist of maximum of 15 minutes for the presentation on screen & 15-20 minutes for the question-answers.

- 1.8 The promoter will announce the COA Awards for Excellence in Architectural Thesis and JK AYA Best Architecture Student of the Year Award, after completion of presentations, on the declared date.

- 1.9 A copy of the report of the Board of Assessors will be made accessible for inspection to participants at the same time as the Board's award is made public.

DISQUALIFICATION

- 1.10 The Board of Assessors may disqualify entries for the following reasons:
- 1.If dispatched by post or through the forwarding agent to the address given on the website www.coa.gov in after declared deadline.
 - 2.If the participant disregards any of the conditions of the program.
 - 3.If the participant attempts to influence any member of the Board of Assessors.

TERMINATION OF AWARDS PROGRAM

- 1.11 If against all expectations entertained by the promoter, the result of the awards program is such that none of the participants could be declared by the Assessors as the winners of the awards, the program could be regarded as terminated and the promoter will on the advice of the Board of Assessors award ONLY the consolation awards to all the thesis projects selected for Final Jury.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD AND EXHIBITION

- 1.12 The promoter will publish the award of the Board of Assessors and inform the Council of Architecture after having first informed the authors of the award-winning thesis projects.

RIGHTS

- 1.13 All Pen Drives will be retained by the promoter as his property.
- 1.14 Copyright of all thesis projects including the thesis projects winning the prizes will be that of the authors of the designs, however, the promoter will have the right to publish the projects received, in architecture journals and as compilation of entries received, for the purpose of records and academic interest. JK Cement Ltd. will share the rights to publish the project of the winner of the JK AYA Best Architecture Student of the Year Award.

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

- 1.15 In the event of dispute not related to the judging procedure or the award of the Board of Assessors, the settlement will be by arbitration without recourse to the legal authorities.

AWARDS PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

- 1.16 The competition will be run in accordance with the following time table:

IMPORTANT DATES	
Awards guidelines will be made available by the promoter	Dates will be published on www.coa.gov.in shortly.
Deadline for submission or upload of • Declaration forms A & B	
Allocation of code numbers to participants	
Deadline for upload of Single PDF file containing all A2 sized sheets/panels (Min. 06 & Max. 10) comprising an entry	
Deadline for upload of presentation	
Deadline for hard copy of Declaration Form (in original) and Pen Drives to be received at COA-TRC, Pune	

JURY DATES

Zonal Jury Zonal Jury (Presentation by shortlisted participants) Declaration of Zonal Awards	Dates will be published on www.coa.gov.in shortly.
Final Jury Presentation by the 10 zonal winners	
Declaration of Awards Declaration of JK AYA Best Architecture Students of The Year Award	
Prize distribution of JK AYA Best Architecture Student of The Year Award	

SUBMISSION FOR AWARDS

1.17 Submission to the promoter at COA-TRC Pune:

To be submitted at the time of registration (for receipt on or before the declared deadline)

Envelope containing Forms as per 1.17.1 + Pen Drive as per 1.17.2

1.17.1 **A complete set of forms**, in original (Declaration Forms both A & B) duly filled in and completed in all respects.

1.17.2 **Pen Drive (bearing the code number provided by the promoter) adequately protected for handling and containing:**

- 1 Scanned copies of the completed declaration forms both A & B
- 2 Passport size photograph of the participant
- 3 High resolution PDF files of drawing panels to be submitted.
- 4 Minimum four photographs of Models or 3D visualizations. (All the photographs and visualization shall be in jpg format at resolution of 300 DPI.)
- 5 *Design brief:* The participant should give a brief write up of the project in minimum 900 words to maximum 2000 words as a MS word file in Arial 12 points, double spacing in A4 portrait format. In the first section of approx. 300-600 words they should spell out the architectural concern of their project. In the next 300-600 words they may elaborate on the architectural and conceptual strategies to address the concerns stated above for their projects. In the last 300-600 words they may elaborate on the architectural language that they have achieved for their project.
- 6 *AutoCAD / Photoshop / Corel Draw drawings:* Drawings containing all finished plans, site plans, elevations, sections of the project in simple line drawings with line thicknesses (without render) in proper layers and purged files in AutoCAD format.
- 7 *jpeg/pdf files:* 3d views, conceptual drawings, model images, rendered plans, sections, elevations should be in Jpeg images/PDF format.
- 8 *Power point presentation:* A copy of the presentation to be made to the jury at the Zonal Jury and Final Jury in ppt and pdf format.
- 9 Single PDF file containing all A2 sized sheets (minimum six but not more than ten) comprising the entry.

The submission (as per 1.17.1 + 1.17.2) should be sent at the following address:

The Director,
Council of Architecture Training & Research Centre (COA-TRC),
2nd Floor, A-4(B), Abhimanshree, Off. Pashan Road, Pune - 411 008.
Tel: 0-9764-000-352
Email: director@coatrc.in

1.18 Items to be uploaded by competitors online:

1. Single PDF file containing A2 sized sheets (minimum six but not more than ten, size limit upto 30MB).
2. Power point presentation: A copy of the presentation to be made to the jury at the Zonal Jury and

Final Jury in ppt format and video (optional) in mp4 format, total size limit upto 30MB.

3. Power point presentation: A copy of the presentation to be made to the jury at the Zonal Jury and

Final Jury in pdf format, size limit upto 30MB.

NAME ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS

1.19 Director,

Council of Architecture Training & Research Centre (COA-TRC),
2nd Floor, A-4(B), Abhimanshree, Off. Pashan Road, Pune - 411 008.
Tel: 0 9764-000-352
Email: director@coatrc.in

- 1.20 Any changes in dates or details of zonal and all India events will be displayed on the website**
www.coa.gov.in

1.21 Label for Dispatch of declaration forms A & B and Pen Drive

DECLARATION FORMS A & B AND Pen Drives
To, The Director, Council of Architecture Training & Research Centre (COA-TRC), 2 nd Floor, A-4(B), Abhimanshree, Off. Pashan Road, Pune - 411 008. Tel: 0-9764-000-352 email: director@coatrc.in
AWARDS PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURAL THESIS 2025 & JK AYA BEST ARCHITECTURE STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD 2025
COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE TRAINING & RESEARCH CENTRE (COA-TRC), Pune (Academic Wing of Council of Architecture)

1.22 Sticker for envelope containing the Pen Drives

ENTRY Pen Drive Code Number Project title: Institute Code Institute Name	CHECKLIST: <table border="1"><tbody><tr><td>Declaration forms both A & B</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Passport Photos</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>All Sheets (PDF)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Photographs of Model</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Synopsis</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>AutoCAD / Photoshop/Corel Draw drawings</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>	Declaration forms both A & B		Passport Photos		All Sheets (PDF)		Photographs of Model		Synopsis		AutoCAD / Photoshop/Corel Draw drawings	
Declaration forms both A & B													
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Synopsis													
AutoCAD / Photoshop/Corel Draw drawings													

Name of the Candidate: Signature of the Candidate:	Images	
	Presentation	
	Single PDF of sheets	
AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURAL THESIS 2026& JK AYA BEST ARCHITECTURE STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD 2026 COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE TRAINING & RESEARCH CENTRE (COA-TRC), Pune (Academic Wing of Council of Architecture)		