

09
2026

CITY'SCAPE

SYMPOSIUM & AWARD



TRIENNALE DI MILANO

Co-organizzato da

PAYSAGE
TOPSCAPE



CNA
PPC

CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE
DEGLI ARCHITETTI
PIANIFICATORI
PAESAGGISTI
E CONSERVATORI

PAYSAGE TOPSCAPE in collaboration with **CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE
DEGLI ARCHITETTI PAESAGGISTI, PIANIFICATORI e CONSERVATORI**

lunches the
11° EDITION OF THE AWARD

CITY'SCAPE AWARD

17/18 September 2026

Salone d'Onore - Palazzo della Triennale di Milano, viale Alemagna 6

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1. Introduction

The National Council of Architects, Planners, Landscape Designers, and Conservators, together with PAYSAGE – Promotion and Development for Landscape Architecture, promote and organize the **CITY'SCAPE AWARD** International Design Competition within the **International Symposium CITY'SCAPE**. Landscape project for life and climate. This initiative aims to attract excellence in international landscape architecture and award the best projects. The recognition seeks to promote and explore new possible balances in spaces designed to foster dialogue between architecture and landscape, aspiring to create synergies between built environments and nature for new territorial dynamics within sixteen proposed thematic categories:

- **CATEGORY A** – Urban Forestry and Landscape Redevelopment of Urban Spaces
- **CATEGORY B** – Drosscape: Landscape Redevelopment of Former Industrial Areas
- **CATEGORY C** – Street Landscape & Slow Landscape: Slow Mobility, Bike Lanes, Traffic Calming
- **CATEGORY D** – Parks and Gardens of Historical, Artistic, or Landscape Interest
- **CATEGORY E** – Brand & Landscape: Landscape Design for Industrial, Retail, and Brand Identity Locations
- **CATEGORY F** – Landscape for Wellbeing and Care: Landscape Integration of Hospitals, Healthcare Facilities, and Healing Gardens
- **CATEGORY G** – City Sport & Play: Sports Areas, Play Spaces, and Leisure Areas in the Landscape
- **CATEGORY H** – Urban Furniture: Innovative Products and Technologies for Urban Furnishings
- **CATEGORY I** – Tourism Landscape: Landscape Design for Tourism
- **CATEGORY L** – Energy Landscape
- **CATEGORY M** – Hi-Tech Landscape: Green Roofs, Vegetated Covers, and Green Walls
- **CATEGORY N** – Landscape in Light: Lighting Design for Landscape Enhancement
- **CATEGORY O** – Landscape Green Company: Product Innovation, Processes, Start-ups, and Patents
- **CATEGORY P** – Phygital Landscape: Software for Landscape Experience
- **CATEGORY Q** – Research on Landscape Design
- **CATEGORY R** – Initiatives for the Promotion and Enhancement of Landscape
- **CATEGORY S** – FSB FORUM ITALY SPORT&PLAY

2. Topic

Climate change is the most pressing challenge of our time, a **global phenomenon** influenced by our behaviors and decisions. It is imperative to **reconsider all the intricate relationships** defining urban landscapes to make them increasingly **sensitive to environmental values** and **biodiversity conservation**, adopting a **systemic approach**.

Protecting and designing **urban landscapes**, integrated with **resilience and climate adaptation strategies**, are essential tools for understanding the current interaction between **human, natural, and semi-natural elements**. This challenge requires professionals with a **deep awareness of nature and its phenomena**, implementing **appropriate actions to adapt urbanized, densely populated, and impermeable areas** to **new environmental conditions**, reducing risks related to **global warming and increasingly frequent extreme weather events**.

Given this **global challenge**, the **design world** should aim to **network all experiments, achievements, and experiences** that are either **replicable or inspiring for new, more efficient applications**. This is not just a **design challenge** but a **civic mobilization**.

CITY'SCAPE, with even greater determination, wants to offer **this opportunity as an open platform** to gather **best practices, case studies, research, and innovations** aimed at **improving places in all**

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their forms. The initiative promotes **effective design strategies** in landscape architecture capable of **attributing new ecological, ethical, economic, and social values to territories.**

3. Focus Areas

Landscape design as a tool for climate resilience

- Adapting cities to climate change
- Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)
- Ecological regeneration of urban spaces

From Grey Infrastructure to Green Socialstructure

- Moving beyond traditional engineering toward integrated landscape solutions
- The role of green infrastructure in social cohesion
- Strategies for de-impermeabilization and urban ecosystem regeneration

The social and ecological dimension of landscape design

- Creation of resilient and inclusive public spaces
- The value of the landscape in building sustainable communities
- Productive and circular landscapes

Landscape as an active infrastructure

- The role of ecological networks in connecting urban and natural areas
- Sustainable drainage system design
- The multifunctionality of green infrastructures

Phygital landscape design

- Digitalization of analysis and design processes to support resilience and adaptation
- Intelligent monitoring and maintenance of green and blue infrastructure
- Phygital experiences and services in public spaces to strengthen participation and care for places
- Governance and participation

4. Promoters and Sponsorships

The Award is organized in collaboration with the National Council of Architects, Planners, Landscape Designers, and Conservators. PAYSAGE will organize the events through TOPSCAPE, the International Journal dedicated to contemporary landscape projects, published by PAYSAGE – Promotion and Development for Landscape Architecture, in collaboration with Triennale di Milano.

Institutions

Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica

Ministero della Cultura

Ministero dell'agricoltura, della sovranità alimentare e delle foreste

Universities offering Landscape Architecture programs

Politecnico di Milano

Università di Genova

Università degli Studi di Firenze

Università degli Studi di Pavia

Università degli Studi di Urbino

Professional Orders

Consiglio Nazionale degli Ingegneri

Ordine degli Architetti Pianificatori Paesaggisti Conservatori della Provincia di Milano

Consiglio Nazionale dei Dottori Agronomi e dei Dottori Forestali

Ordine dei Dottori Agronomi e dei Dottori Forestali di Milano

Collegio Nazionale degli Agrotecnici e degli Agrotecnici laureati

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Collegio degli Agrotecnici e Agrotecnici laureati di Milano Lodi Monza e Brianza
Collegio dei Geometri e dei Geometri Laureati
Collegio Geometri e Geometri Laureati della Provincia del Milano
Collegio Nazionale dei Periti Agrari e dei Periti Agrari Laureati
Collegio dei Periti Agrari e dei Periti Agrari Laureati della provincia di Milano

5. Competition Categories

The International Symposium and CITY'SCAPE AWARD wish to reward and publicize Landscape Architecture projects that combine landscape and architecture both through large-scale interventions, concerning entire pieces of cities and public spaces, and through smaller-scale and smaller-scale experiences in which vegetation is used as a building material, and not just ornamental, pursuing biodiversity and sustainability goals.

A - CATEGORY A - URBAN FORESTRY AND LANDSCAPE REHABILITATION OF URBAN SPACES.

Urban forests, according to FAO guidelines, can be defined as a network or system that includes forests, trees, parks and gardens. Urban forests are the "backbone" of green infrastructure, and provide an ecological-environmental link between urban and rural areas, significantly improving a city's environmental footprint.

This category includes landscape redevelopments of transitional and connecting urban spaces, and in general public spaces or desealing, depaving, with planting of new trees and applications of Nature-Based Solutions, and projects that promote the development of green-blue infrastructure.

B - CATEGORY B - DROSSCAPE: LANDSCAPE REDEVELOPMENT OF FORMER INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

The Drosscape category includes projects dedicated to the redevelopment of former industrial areas, disused infrastructure and "waste" landscapes, i.e., residual or abandoned spaces in need of a new role within the urban and territorial fabric. These areas, often characterized by environmental degradation and fragmentation, represent a challenge but also a unique opportunity for the transformation of the contemporary landscape in a sustainable way.

C - CATEGORY C - STREET LANDSCAPE & SLOW LANDSCAPE: SLOW MOBILITY, CYCLE TRACKS, TRAFFIC CALMING

The "Slow landscape" category includes projects for slow mobility, whether pedestrian, bicycle, or with any other mobility device, including hectometric mobility, aimed at increasing the perception, enjoyment, and endowment of the landscape. Also included in this category is the development of traffic-calming solutions, in which the street and its rethinking are an opportunity to create a landscape that restores, among tree-lined walks and shady rest areas, that "domestic" character in which nature, welcoming and cared for, accommodates the many functions that benefit the community. A peaceful coexistence between "weak" users (pedestrians and cyclists) and "strong" users (motor vehicles).

D - CATEGORY D - INTERVENTIONS ON PARKS AND GARDENS OF HISTORICAL, ARTISTIC OR LANDSCAPE INTEREST.

This category includes projects for the restoration and rehabilitation of parks and gardens of historical, artistic or landscape value, with the aim of preserving their identity and improving their usability. Interventions may involve the recovery of original elements, the reorganization of spaces

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while respecting historical stratifications, and the adoption of sustainable solutions for management and maintenance.

E - CATEGORY E - BRAND & LANDSCAPE: LANDSCAPE DESIGN FOR PLACES OF PRODUCTION FOR INDUSTRY, RETAIL AND BRAND IDENTITY

Interventions carried out in the context of industrial landscapes as enhancing the production content of brands that invest in the surrounding landscape by declining a system of communication of their values to the point of contributing in the perception of the landscape to that complex system of tangible and intangible assets that constitute brand equity and visual identity. Contributing simultaneously through these virtuous actions to the development of a sustainable urban or suburban landscape.

F - CATEGORY F - LANDSCAPING FOR WELLBEING AND HEALING: LANDSCAPING OF HOSPITALS, PLACES OF CARE and HEALING GARDENS.

This Category is dedicated to interventions in which nature is deeply integrated with architecture, creating a harmonious link with the surrounding context and transforming the space into an environment conducive to well-being and health. In these projects, the landscape is not just a scenic element, but a real therapeutic tool, capable of improving the quality of life. The category includes landscaping in healthcare facilities such as hospitals and nursing homes, as well as the creation of healing gardens and therapeutic gardens, among others. These projects celebrate the idea that the environment can positively influence human health, whether through strategies that promote greater access to nature or through interventions aimed at reducing the impact of air pollution.

G - CATEGORY G - CITY SPORT&PLAY: SPORTS AREAS, PLAY SPACES, PLAY AREAS and LEISURE IN THE LANDSCAPE.

The design of sports and play areas represents not only the creation of pleasant and innovative places that can create real interconnected infrastructures capable of promoting the growth of well-being, local identity and human relations, even among the youngest. The design of the space dedicated to play and sports and the rediscovery of parks understood as a public space for all ages, both in Italy and abroad, becomes an opportunity to imagine spaces for the promotion of inclusion, training and growth, producing a better quality of life for all, with particular attention to the development of a healthy and dynamic social fabric through sports and play activities.

H - CATEGORY H - URBAN FURNITURE: INNOVATIVE URBAN FURNITURE PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGIES.

The Urban furniture category focuses attention on the theme of city furniture, understood as a primary form of communication and democracy in the contemporary city. Increasingly, in fact, public space is thought of as an inhospitable transit place for stopping and meeting. Urban furniture plays a key role in creating welcoming, functional and aesthetically pleasing cities, and in addition to improving the aesthetic appearance of urban areas, it contributes to making public spaces more comfortable, accessible and safe for those who live in them. In addition to this, new forms of furniture are able to promote community socialization, attractiveness of cities and promotion of sustainable mobility.

I - CATEGORY I - TOURISM LANDSCAPE: THE LANDSCAPE DESIGN FOR TOURISM

"Putting into tourism" is a process that involves the urban and socio-economic spheres as a driving factor for the development of the territory, the attention to public spaces, and the enhancement of the identity of places from an experiential perspective. Tourist places and spaces are then the

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product of different instances, endogenous and exogenous and, before material, cultural. New places of being in which landscape design represents an important challenge by gathering in synthesis all the vocations of a territory or a place and which, not neglecting accuracy, design and technology, offers virtuous examples of landscape architecture.

L - CATEGORY L - ENERGY LANDSCAPE

The Energy Landscape category is dedicated to projects for the integration of energy production and landscape. This category promotes a vision in which it is necessary to adopt, for energy conservation, an urban scale where technological systems and natural processes are integrated, and a larger scale of land (agricultural, marine, mountain) where new solutions for the development of energy sources generate the possible landscapes of the future.

M - CATEGORY M - HI-TECH LANDSCAPE: HANGING GREEN, VEGETATED ROOFS AND GREEN WALLS

This category is dedicated to hanging green and Hi-Tech landscape, the evolution of the traditional conception of green spaces, in which innovative technologies are integrated. The technology known as "hanging green" refers to a continuous vegetated surface that has no physical, geometric and ecological continuity with the natural green ground in terms of location, layout or mode of construction. This category includes the realizations of green roofs, roof gardens, ground and overhead roofing, vegetated walls, and general greening of the building envelope.

N - CATEGORY N - LANDSCAPE IN LIGHT: THE DESIGN OF LIGHT IN LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT

The Landscape in Light category was created as a research tool, through collaboration with industry associations, for the selection of best practices for lighting design toward an increasingly shared environmental culture that creates new suggestions in the world of lighting design capable of restoring new nightscapes in continuity with the widespread idea of the principle of a generic responsibility of man towards nature.

O - CATEGORY O - LANDSCAPE GREEN COMPANY: PRODUCT, PROCESS, START-UP AND PATENT INNOVATION.

This category includes a wide range of initiatives, from green technologies and materials for landscape design, to innovative solutions for the sustainable management of natural resources, to the promotion of environmentally responsible business practices. Projects and start-ups participating in this category must present innovative solutions or services designed to improve the quality of urban or rural landscapes by promoting biodiversity, reducing the environmental impact of human activities, or contributing to the regeneration of degraded areas.

P - CATEGORY P - PHYGITAL LANDSCAPE: LANDSCAPE SOFTWARE.

This category recognizes innovative digital solutions and software that improve the understanding, design and enjoyment of the landscape. It includes modeling, simulation, augmented or virtual reality tools, interactive applications and digital platforms that foster an immersive and informed experience of natural and urban spaces.

Q - CATEGORY Q - LANDSCAPE DESIGN RESEARCH.

This category awards research that addresses the challenges of landscape design, contributing to the advancement of knowledge in the field. Included are studies on innovative methods, techniques and materials, as well as research that explores the intersections between landscape architecture and disciplines such as law, education, public health and urban policy. Projects will be

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evaluated on the clarity and relevance of the research question, the use of historical data and connection to current knowledge, the soundness of the method of inquiry, and the relevance of the findings to professional practice.

***For this category, you are required to submit an abstract of up to 3 folders outlining the aims, objectives and results of the research.**

R - CATEGORY R - LANDSCAPE PROMOTION AND ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVES.

This category rewards the best communication initiatives in the field of landscape architecture, enhancing projects that disseminate knowledge, techniques, technologies, history and theories of the discipline, making them accessible and usable for specific audiences. A variety of communication formats and media are eligible, including temporary or performative realizations, films, videos, podcasts, interpretive design projects, exhibition displays, ephemeral works, and public awareness campaigns. Projects will be evaluated on the effectiveness of the message, originality of the communication approach, and value to the target audience, rewarding initiatives that succeed in conveying the meaning and impact of landscape architecture with clarity and innovation.

S - CATEGORY S – FSB FORUM ITALY SPORT&PLAY

Category developed within the collaboration between CITY'SCAPE AWARD and FSB Forum Italy, dedicated to projects related to sport, play, and leisure, aimed at promoting innovative design solutions capable of integrating sports activities, public space, and architectural quality.

The category includes stadiums, sports arenas, indoor and outdoor facilities, playgrounds, leisure areas, and multifunctional complexes, with particular attention to environmental sustainability, technological innovation, accessibility, inclusion, and the quality of collective spaces.

The category promotes an interdisciplinary approach involving architecture, engineering, landscape design, and urban planning in the creation of new spaces dedicated to sport and contemporary social interaction.

The winning project will be presented within the framework of FSB Forum Italy (11/12 november 2026 – Fiera di Bergamo) as an international best practice focused on innovation in sport and leisure spaces.

6. Official language of the competition

The official languages of the competition are Italian and English. All entries must be written in only one of these two languages, under penalty of exclusion.

7. How to participate

Participation is open to:

- Architects, Planners, Landscapers, Conservators (with mandatory registration with the professional association)
- Engineers (with mandatory registration with the professional association)
- Agronomists and Foresters (with mandatory registration with the professional association)
- Agrotechnicians (with mandatory registration with the professional body)
- Lighting Designers (with mandatory registration with a professional association)
- Surveyors (with mandatory registration with the professional association)
- Land surveyors (with mandatory registration with the professional association)
- Associations and Foundations
- Businesses in the sector
- Municipalities, Public Administrations and Public Bodies
- Universities, Research Centers
- Doctoral students and Researchers

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ELIGIBLE WORKS

Works eligible for the 2026 edition of the Prize are works that at the close of the call for entries are:

- **Realized**
- **In progress (under construction as long as sufficiently developed).**

Projects that have already received awards or mentions elsewhere may also be submitted.

REGISTRATION

Submission and candidacy of works may be made by designers, clients, performers, public or public law bodies, foundations and cultural bodies, including with reference to the outcomes of selections, awards or architectural competitions. In order to participate in the competition, it is necessary to register at the following link <https://paysage.it/iscrizione-premio-cityscape26/> and to register by entering your own freely created password. At the conclusion of the registration, a communication will be sent by email for access to the upload of the project, which can be uploaded using the following templates: [DOWNLOAD THE TEMPLATES.](#)

The above constitutes the only and exhaustive cognitive material made available for the development of the project idea. Contestants are prohibited from questioning the members of the Jury, under penalty of exclusion from the competition.

PROJECTS UPLOAD

Participants, through the platform, should upload the completed templates, namely:

- **THE illustrative REPORT** of the project (mandatory) in .doc or .pdf format. The report must be prepared using the template, in which a text of maximum 2500 characters, including spaces, must be included (Font: Arial - Character: body 11 - Color: black). All fields present must be filled in and up to two A4 verticals may be submitted, included in one file.
- **MAXIMUM 3 BOARDS (1 mandatory, 2 optional)** illustrative of the project in A3 format, horizontal, pdf extension. The techniques of graphic representation and the number of boards to be submitted are left to the free choice of the participants (the boards may contain photographs, drawings and captions of the entrant's choice), but the pre-filled form downloadable from the website must be used, respecting its layout, and entering the required data.

UPLOADING PROCEDURE

When uploading, **the boards must be inserted into a single file, i.e., a single PDF** containing all of them. The report, however, must be uploaded separately.

MAXIMUM SIZE ALLOWED

All materials uploaded in total shall not exceed 25 MB.

LIMIT NUMBER OF PROJECTS

In case you want to submit more than one project, you will need to register for each one with a different e-mail address.

PROFESSIONAL SECTIONS

At the time of registration, the participant will have to select a section of membership, to be chosen from those indicated.

8. Causes of exclusion and incompatibility to participation

Failure to comply with the rules contained in this notice constitutes grounds for exclusion from participation. Entities participating in the procedure expressly exonerate the contracting station and its employees and collaborators from any liability related to any malfunction or defect related to the connectivity services necessary to reach, through the public telecommunications network, the telematic system for the acquisition of project proposals and related documentation. In view of the reasonable time frame made available for the activation of the registration procedure and the adoption of ordinarily suitable and sufficient technological measures, the bidding party declines or responsibility for any failure to access the telematic system and/or failure to activate the telematic procedure within the established time frame, arising from difficulties of a technical nature that have to occur to the contestants and/or the system and not dependent on the will of the bidding entity, such as, for example, but not limited to, difficulties in telematic connection to the system arising from the use by the contestants of unsuitable or inappropriately used computer systems, temporary congestion of the Internet network and/or the connection line to the contest telematic system, etc. The technical assistance made available can only operate if entries are still open. Requests for assistance that are received after the end time of registration cannot be handled. Participants are encouraged to anticipate as much as possible the activation of the procedure for transmission of entries, while still within the time window made available.

or clarifications regarding the technical-operational procedures for submitting bids on the system, please contact: comunicazione@paysage.it - 02 34 59 2780.

Participation is excluded:

- to organizers of the competition, the Organizing Secretariat, members of the Jury and anyone who participated in the drafting of this announcement;
- to related relatives up to the third degree (inclusive) of the members of the above categories, as well as their employees or collaborators.

9. Timeline

FEBRUARY 16, 2026 - Opening of registration and simultaneous submission of entries

MAY 29, 2026 - By noon - Closing of the site for submission of entries

JUNE 16, 2026 - Jury submission of evaluations

JUNE 18, 2026 - Jury meeting

SEPTEMBER 17/18 2026 - Symposium

SEPTEMBER 18 – Prize giving ceremony

Any changes in the schedule will be promptly communicated through the official competition website.

10. Prize giving

On September 18 at the Salone d'Onore of the Palazzo della Triennale di Milano, the winners and honorable mentions of the CITY'SCAPE AWARD will be announced, for which a dedicated press campaign will be reserved by PAYSAGE and the International Magazine dedicated to landscape architecture TOPSCAPE.

11. Jury

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The Jury, composed of reputable experts in the field, will be made public one month before the review of the projects.

12. Evaluation criteria

The selection of candidate projects will be made through the evaluation of the project proposal from the point of view of its compliance with the characters of the call, based on the following criteria:

- Originality, innovation and overall quality of the project proposal;
- Consistency of the project proposal with the program of the call and CITY'SCAPE. Landscape as a strategy. Landscape quality in climate change for urban and social resilience;
- Clarity of the proposal through the articulation of the presentation text and deliverables.

13. Technical and organizational secretariat

The technical and organizational secretariat functions will be carried out by a working committee established at PAYSAGE; any questions can be sent by e-mail to: comunicazione@paysage.it

14. Privacy

Pursuant to the Consolidated Privacy Act Legislative Decree No. 196/2003, with regard to the process established by this notice, we inform you that the National Council of Architects, Planners, Landscapers and Conservators and **PAYSAGE** are active parties in the collection of data. The requested data are collected for the purposes of the selection. The methods of processing are related to the indicated attestations and requirements established by law necessary for the participation in the selection by eligible individuals.

15. Authorization for publication of projects

By registering for the Prize, competitors give explicit consent to the National Council of Architects, Planners, Landscapers and Conservators and PAYSAGE to the disclosure of the projects as part of the International Symposium **CITY'SCAPE**, to be held at the Milan Triennale, and through the publication of the projects in the TOPSCAPE PAYSAGE magazine.

16. Copyrights and ownership of the projects

The materials submitted for the Prize will remain the intellectual property of the authors, who contextually with the registration and transmission of the entries authorize their use for dissemination purposes for printed or digital publications. The Prize will be awarded as part of the International Symposium CITY'SCAPE. Landscape project for life and climate to be held at the Milan Triennale. In addition, releases are requested for publication of the submitted projects in TOPSCAPE PAYSAGE magazines.

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