Publications
Awards

BAQ 2026
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DE ARQUITECTURA
DE QUITO

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CAE-P
COLEGIO DE
ARQUITECTOS
DEL ECUADOR
PICHINCHA

COMPETITION BRIEF:
Publications Award

1. BAKGROUND INFORMATION

The College of Architects of Ecuador – Pichincha Province (CAE-P), within the framework of the XXV Pan-American Architecture Biennale of Quito (BAQ XXV), invites participation in the Biennale Award for Playful-Educational Pavilion Design, the central axis of the curatorial project "DO NOT NOT TOUCH"

This is conceived as a platform for confronting contemporary architectural production. The three axes operate in a parallel and complementary way, fulfilling their particular objectives.

QUITO´S 2026 ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE : DO NOT NOT TOUCH

Twenty-five editions of the Quito's Architecture Biennale. Nearly half a century celebrating architecture while the world we inhabit fractures, accelerates, and forgets to feel. And here we are, once again, facing our works, our words, our doubts and our questions:

Who does architecture touch today?
At what point did we begin to admire images more than places, words more than spaces, form more than the emotion it provokes?
At what moment did we stop feeling pride in being architects because we stopped touching what made us become architects?

BAQ XXV is a shake-up of the present. It is a biennale that does not kneel before its history, but rather touches it with open hands, to feel what remains alive, to recognize what no longer vibrates, to have the certainty that architecture is not dispensable.

For decades, architecture has moved within this form of indifferent control, within these limits of display cases, regulations and discourses. And in this quest for control, we began to live behind an invisible sign:

DO NOT TOUCH.

A sign that repeats itself in museums, in classrooms, and in cities.
A sign that protects but at the same time isolates.
That claims to care but at the same time separates.
That seeks to preserve but at the same time destroys connections.
That distances us from risk, from error, and from experience.
We were forbidden to touch long ago, and we obeyed.

Thus, little by little, the profession became only image, discourse and abstraction.

Matter ceased to be touched.
Space stopped learning from the body that moves.
Places stopped inviting us to feel and to feel part of something.

DO NOT TOUCH was a warning that taught us to speak of life without living it, to theorize matter without touching it.

It turned us into spectators

of our own profession.
It accustomed us to looking at models, renderings and discourses as if they were sufficient to construct reality.
It domesticated us in the correctness of fear and robbed us of risk.

That is why this biennale inverts the slogan and declares, with responsibility and with rebellion:

DO NOT NOT TOUCH.

Touch with hands, with the senses, with the heart and with emotion.
Touch to feel what is human, what is fragile, what is alive.
Touch to learn again what distance made us forget.

This biennale raises its voice against that anesthesia.

Against architecture that no longer hurts, that no longer moves, that no longer risks.
Against academia that rewards obedience more than imagination.
Against criticism that confuses depth with jargon.
Against the profession that forgets that the architect's first tool was not the ruler, but the hand.

To touch, today, is an act that seems rebellious, when it was always part of our human and animal nature. It is to refuse to accept architecture without body, without soul, without heart.

In a world that tells us "do not touch," this biennale responds:

DO NOT NOT TOUCH.

Because touching is the verb of trust.

Trust that architecture can still provoke emotions, change perspective and transform life.
Trust that the profession remains necessary.

Because only when we touch again, with our hands, with our senses, with our hearts and with our emotions, will we feel pride, hope and faith in architecture again and remember the reason why we chose to be architects.

BIENNALE AWARD: TOUCHING TO TRANSFORM

The final "do not touch" is not in the city or in the classroom. It is within architecture itself.

In the fear of looking directly at what we have turned into routine.
In the habit of repeating words, styles and arguments until they are emptied of meaning.

For too long, architecture has protected itself behind its own language.

It has taken refuge in discourse, in posture, in the postcard.
It has confused thought with rhetoric, rigor with coldness, beauty with cosmetic patches.

We have become accustomed to rewarding what seems intelligent and interesting, without asking ourselves if it still touches something real or only serves for folklorism and the exotic gaze.

COMPETITION BRIEF:
Publications Award

The Biennale Award, the historic core of the biennale, assumes here an uncomfortable and necessary task: to break aesthetic indifference and touch the truth of the profession.

This biennale will not reward cliches disguised as concepts or rhetoric that spins in the void.

It will not celebrate architecture that is better contemplated on a screen than in the territory where it exists.
It will not reward perfect photographs that freeze an emotion that never occurred.
Nor works that confuse silence with emptiness, abstraction with disconnection, solemnity with meaning.

Architecture is an experience that is lived, touched and remembered. And this biennale does not seek arguments that shine, but works that are felt. Works that do not need theoretical defenses because their presence is enough.

To touch the discipline is to touch its wound. That wound left by the excess of words, the excess of ego, the excess of filters. Because every time architecture becomes image or slogan, it loses a layer of humanity.

BIENNALE AWARD AT THE XXV PAN-AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE OF QUITO BAQ2026

The XXV QUITO ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE – DO NOT NOT TOUCH understands the competition not as a runway or platform, but as an honest confrontation. The works that will be recognized will be those that provoke emotion, connection, permanence.

Those that do not need to shout to be heard.
Those that, in silence, touch what is most sensitive in us.

The Biennale Award will be, this time, an act of collective sincerity. Celebrating architecture does not mean rewarding its surface, but revealing its depth. Therefore, the essential criterion of this biennale will be its capacity to truly touch us.

This biennale does not fear discomfort. It wants the discipline to look at itself in the mirror without filters, without awards that anesthetize, without rhetoric that distracts.

Because what is at stake here is not the vanity of a guild, but the possibility that architecture will have a soul again. And there is only one way to achieve it: Do not not touch what hurts us.

Do not not touch what moves us.
Do not not touch what makes us believe again and feel proud of our profession.

COMPETITION BRIEF:
Publications Award

1. PUBLICATIONS AWARD

Open call for publications produced throughout the American continent during the years 2022-2026, prior to the BAQ2026 Biennale event. Publications, portals or blogs whose content addresses the themes of architecture, city and territory from the perspective of theory, history and/or criticism may participate.

In this edition, the Publications Award has the following participation categories:

1. Books
2. Magazines
3. Portals or Blogs

2. CATEGORIES

BOOKS
Printed and digital architecture books that meet the following requirements may participate:

- Must be produced, edited and printed or published in the American continent.
- Have at least 52 pages.
- Be developed by a publisher or backed by a publishing imprint in the American continent.
- Have verifiable distribution.
- Possess ISBN (International Standard Book Number).

MAGAZINES
Printed and digital architecture journals that meet the following requirements may participate:

- Be produced, edited and printed or published in the American continent.
- Have a minimum of 5 consecutive years of publication and 15 printed or digital issues published.
- Be developed by a publisher or backed by a publishing imprint in the American continent.
- Have verifiable distribution channels.
- Possess ISSN (International Standard Serial Number).

3. ENTRY CONDITIONS

- Publications edited and printed or published in the American continent.
- Publications edited and printed or published during the period from 2022 to 2026.
- Publications that have NOT received recognition (been awarded or selected) in previous editions of BAQ.

4. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- Only payment validates the registration process.
- All submission elements must be complete and comply with each of the required formats.

5. REGISTRATION PROCESS

1. The project must be registered on the BAQ2026 registration platform:

https://concurso.baqcae.ec/product/inscripcion-a-concurso-paraprofesionales/

2. Complete the fields with the basic project information:
to the email to upload the information.

- Award
- Category
- Project Name
- Country
- City
- Contact data of the person who is submitting the project.

3. Complete billing information.

4. Payment can be made up to 6 days after completing the registration.

5. Once payment is made and approved, a username and password will be sent to the registered email address.

6. At the following link:
https://proyectos.baq-cae.ec/login

Enter the username and password sent to the email to upload the information.

7. In the Author, Studio and/or Developer and collaborators field, information must be accurate. (The information provided on the platform will be what BAQ uses afterward to recognize credits).

- This information will be used as follows: in the case of finalists and winners, the information of Author(s) and Collaborator(s) will be placed on the Pan-American Architecture platform (www.arquitecturapanamericana.com) and in the BAQ2026 Competition Winners Book.
- In the case of participants, the information of Author(s) and Collaborator(s) will be placed on the Pan-American Architecture platform, while in the participants' catalogs of the BAQ2026 Competition Winners Book, the information of Author(s) will be placed.
- For social media dissemination segments, the information of Author(s) will be used in both cases.

8. All fields must be completed with the minimum required information.

9. Save the uploaded information.

NOTE: Any changes to the submission elements can be made until the date and time stipulated for the competition closing.

6. RESTRICTIONS

The following persons are not eligible to participate:

- Members of the BAQ 2026 team.
- Members of the Biennale Award 2026 Jury.
- Members of the Biennale Award 2026 Jury Secretariat.
- Members of the Biennale Award 2026 Logistics Secretariat.
- Those serving as President and Vice President of CAE-P.

7. SUBMISSION REMARKS

BAQ is not responsible for inaccuracies or errors in the data with which registration is made, and the same work cannot be registered by more than one participant.

In case of conflict between authors and/or developers:

1. The BAQ organization will not participate in the resolution.

2. If no agreement is reached between the parties, registrations will be nullified at any stage of the process, losing the right to refund of the registration fee.

If the BAQ team detects any type of omission of authorship information in projects involving a conflict of interest in any winning, finalist or participant project, BAQ will proceed to remove the award and the project from its participant database, at any time the case arises, losing the right to refund of the registration fee.

In case of any conflict between Authors, designers and/or developers of any nature and at any stage of the process, even after the BAQ has concluded, the organization will not participate in the resolution.

8. ITEMS TO BE DELIVERED

BOARD

- Digital file, 1 A2 board (42 x 59.4 cm), horizontal orientation, PDF format.
- Download the board template from the BAQ website, which cannot be modified.
- Place the flag of the country of origin of the publication in the indicated space.
- Maximum file size: 100 MB.
- The board may contain relevant graphic and text material that complements the information requested here.

The content and graphic quality of the board are the participant's responsibility. The Biennale Commission recommends saving the document in high quality print.

Participating projects that do not comply with the established format will be automatically disqualified.

Participants are requested to follow the board content instructions, as the Biennale may choose the arrangement and total or partial use of them for the exhibition.

SYNOPSIS

- Synopsis of the book or specialized publication, in a maximum of 500 words.

COVER IMAGE

- Image of the book or publication cover.
- Format: JPEG, A4 vertical, 300 dpi resolution.
- Maximum size: 6 MB.

IMAGES

- Maximum 5 photographs of the publication(s) illustrating the design, size, paper and overall aesthetics of the publication.
- In the case of printed publications, include photographs demonstrating their printing.
- Format: JPEG, 300 dpi resolution.
- Maximum size: 6 MB each.

DIGITAL VERSION

- PDF of the publication for exclusive use by the jury.
- Format: readable, not editable.
- Maximum file size: 100 MB.

PHYSICAL COPIES

In the case of categories involving printed products, the following is requested:

- One (1) original copy of the publication.
- In case of journals, one (1) original copy of each of the last three volumes, supplements or fascicles published. That is, 3 copies in total.

The publications will be integrated into the Library of the Museum Archive of Architecture of Ecuador:

(https://www.cae.org.ec/museo-archivo-de-arquitectura-del-ecuador-mae)

They will not be a requirement for participation; however, it is in the organization's interest to promote your work by enriching the Museum (MAE) library.

Shipping must be done at no cost to recipient, that is, BAQ will not cover courier costs.

Shipping Address:
Colegio de Arquitectos del Ecuador - Pichincha. BAQ Núñez de Vela N35-204 e Ignacio San María 170515 Quito, Ecuador

9. USE OF INFORMATION

All requested material (including images, drawings, boards, statement, etc.) submitted by participants will become part of the BAQ archive.

No monetary value will be recognized for patrimonial and reproduction rights of photographs by including them in exhibitions and/or publications.

This documentation will be sent to the jury team as judging material.

In addition, it will become part of the Competition exhibition within the framework of Biennale Week.

The exhibition of participants and winners will be carried out with total or partial material sent, according to the curatorship and museography designed by the commission of the XXV Quito Architecture Biennale, BAQ2026.

All participating projects and publications will be exhibited.

Once the Biennale is concluded, the information will become part of the digital repository Pan - American Architecture Archive and also the BAQ2026 Winners Book.

The information will be preserved by BAQ as a record of participation in the competition for this edition.

10. SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process will be divided into two stages:

Stage 1: The best works and publications will be selected as finalists in each category and will proceed to the second judging stage.

Stage 2: Winners of each category will be chosen from the previous group of finalists.

11. AWARDS

Finalists: will be recognized as the selection of the best publications of the American continent and will receive:

- Finalist diploma

- Publication in the BAQ 2026 Book.
- Publication as finalist in the BAQ Archive:

www.arquitecturapanamericana.com

- Dissemination as finalists at national and international level.

Winners: the award for winning projects will consist of:

- Recognition statuette
- Winner diploma
- Publication in the BAQ 2026 Book
- Publication as winners in the BAQ Archive:

www.arquitecturapanamericana.com

- Dissemination as winners at national and international level

12. JURY

The College of Architects of Ecuador – Pichincha Province reserves the exclusive right to select the jury members.

This selection will be made in consideration of their experience and recognition in the field of Architecture in general and, in particular, in relation to the various categories.

The jury's decisions are final and binding.

All available awards for each category must be awarded, unless in exceptional cases, which the jury must mandatorily justify.

13. JUDGING PROCESS

The jury team will carry out the respective curation of participating publications, based on the principles of good editorial practice, where the integrity of the publication in composition, research, critical proposal, contribution and finally its influence over time is evident.

BAQ will not provide an evaluation rubric; however, emphasis is placed on the recognition of publications on architecture with virtuous, contributory and innovative content.

14. ENTRY FEES

Prices include local taxes:

- **Launch (40% discount)**
International: USD 56
Regular: USD 42
CAE-P Members in good standing -25%: USD 31.50

- **Early Registration (20% discount)**
International: 74.67
Regular: USD 56
CAE-P Members in good standing -25%: USD 42

- **Until Registration Closing**
International: USD 93.33
Regular: USD 70
CAE-P Members in good standing -25%: USD 52.50

15. IMPORTANT DATES

- **Launch:** January 22 to February 27, 2026.
- **Early Registration:** February 28 to April 30, 2026.
- **Registration Closing:** May 1 to October 30, 2026.

- **Information Submission Deadline:** October 30 until 11:59 PM (GMT-5).
- **Presentation of Finalist Projects and Publications:** November 2026.
- **Announcement of Winning Projects and Publications:** November 2026.

NOTE: The parties are bound by the conditions stipulated in this instrument, except in cases of force majeure or fortuitous event. Circumstances of force majeure or fortuitous event, in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Code, constitute those unforeseen events that cannot be resisted.