

DESIGN PLUS

by light+building

**DESIGN PLUS 2026
CALL FOR ENTRIES**

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**Sustainability &
Future Energy**

**Smart &
Connected Solutions**

**Lighting Design &
Atmosphere**

**Young
Innovators**

**User Experience &
Integration**

**Sustainable
Exhibition Stand**



messe frankfurt

ILLUMINATING IDEAS THE DESIGNPLUS AWARD AT LIGHT + BUILDING PUTS YOUR INNOVATION IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Sustainable transformation, intelligent networking, and dynamic lighting: Light + Building covers everything from pioneering building automation to designs that create atmosphere. This international industry gathering brings together experts from the fields of lighting, architecture, and technology.

Take the opportunity to present your pioneering ideas at the world's leading trade fair and submit them for the Designplus Award!

Categories:

- **SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE ENERGY +**
- **SMART & CONNECTED SOLUTIONS +**
- **LIGHTING DESIGN & ATMOSPHERE +**
- **USER EXPERIENCE & INTEGRATION +**
- **YOUNG INNOVATORS +**
- **SUSTAINABLE EXHIBITION STAND +**

From climate-friendly energy supply and digital networking to the atmospheric quality of light: Light + Building will once again offer a wealth of novelties from March 8 to 13, 2026. Given the extensive range of products on offer from more than 2,000 companies, it is simply impossible for visitors to discover every novelty as they walk through the halls. Quick orientation and diverse inspiration are needed – that's why Messe Frankfurt, in cooperation with Stylepark, platform and magazine for architecture and design, is offering all exhibitors the chance to take part in the Designplus Award competition. This year's programme includes digital info hubs at various locations around the exhibition grounds where award-winning products are presented alongside relevant information and stand references. There will also be an awards ceremony and extensive communication tailored to the international target group.

The Designplus Award jury consists of industry experts who are well versed in the top topics at Light + Building. They will evaluate which of the submitted solutions are essential for a sustainable future.

Showcase your expertise! Submissions are welcome from every product sector at Light + Building.

We look forward to your participation, an inspiring competition and an exciting exchange.

Wolfgang Marzin
Chairman of the Management Board
Messe Frankfurt GmbH

Franziska v. Schumann und Robert Volhard
Board of Directors and Publisher
Stylepark

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YOUR PLUS

Nominees and Winners – two paths to recognition:

During the jury meeting, the submitted products are divided into two categories: **Nominees and Winners.**

NOMINEES

The nominees will be presented immediately after the jury meeting on the Light + Building website as well as on Stylepark, platform and magazine for architecture and design. The products will receive a NOMINEES label for digital use and a sticker for their exhibition stand to communicate their outstanding performance on site. In addition, all nominees will be presented at info hubs at Light + Building 2026 as part of a special digital exhibition, giving them additional visibility and recognition among a broad international audience.

WINNERS

The winners will be highlighted and honoured with the prestigious Designplus Award trophy, which will be presented at a ceremony on the first day of the fair. The digital WINNER label is available for free use in all communication measures. In addition, the winners will receive a certificate and a sticker for their trade fair stand to present their award directly on site. The winners will also be presented in a special digital exhibition.

In addition, the winners will be prominently presented in an online gallery on the Light + Building website and widely publicised via the social media channels of Light + Building and Stylepark to maximise their visibility to a broad international audience.

YOUR PLUS

+

Digital Special Exhibition (for nominees and winners)

We create the necessary visibility for the winners and nominees: instead of a traditional special exhibition, their products will be presented during Light + Building 2026 in digital info hubs at several locations on the exhibition grounds. There, visitors will receive concise information about the award-winning solutions as well as specific references to the respective booths.

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Award ceremony

Invitation to the exclusive award ceremony for all winners on the first day of the fair.

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Award Trophy

All award winners will receive a Designplus Award trophy, which will be exclusively produced in a limited series.

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Certificate

As a token of recognition for the outstanding work, all winners will receive a certificate that can be displayed in the company or at the trade fair stand.

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Digital labels (for nominees and winners)

Use our digital labels to present your award in all communication media. These are available for your unrestricted use.

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Stickers (for nominees and winners)

Nominees and winners receive special stickers that allow them to make their award visible at their exhibition stand.

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Social Media

We create visibility for award winners on social media and communicate key milestones within the Designplus Award.

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Online gallery

The winners are presented in an online gallery with the jury statement.

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THE JURY 2026

+

Annika Egloff-Schoenen

Managing Director, Fachverlag Dr. H. Arnold GmbH

+

Ulrike Brandi

Managing Director, Ulrike Brandi Licht

+

Andreas Habermehl

Managing Director of Technology and Vocational Training, ZVEH – German Electrical and Information Technology Contractors' Association (Zentralverband der Deutschen Elektro- und Informationstechnischen Handwerke)

+

Prof. Amandus Samsøe Sattler

ensømbles studio architektur, President DGNB e.V.

+

Stylepark AG

PARTICIPANTS

The Designplus Award will be presented across all product areas at Light + Building 2026, focusing on the following key themes:

- Sustainable Transformation
- Smart Connectivity
- Living Light

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CATEGORIES + THE CRITERIA FOR THEIR EVALUATION

SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE ENERGY +

HOW CAN BUILDINGS AND NEIGHBORHOODS ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENERGY TRANSITION?

Sustainable innovations make our built environment fit for the future. We are looking for solutions that combine sustainability with technology – from energy-efficient systems, renewable heating solutions, and storage technologies to concepts for circular economy and resource conservation. Awards will be given for charging infrastructure for electric mobility, storage solutions, photovoltaic modules, heat pumps, smart energy management systems, and sustainable materials.

SMART & CONNECTED SOLUTIONS +

HOW WILL THE BUILDINGS OF THE FUTURE BECOME SMARTER, SAFER, AND MORE EFFICIENT?

The future of construction is digital and connected. The award recognizes products and systems that tap into new efficiency potential with IoT, AI, BIM, or intelligent networking. These include building management platforms, sensor technology, access and security systems, smart home technologies, digital twins, and integration software that simplify processes and increase security.

LIGHTING DESIGN & ATMOSPHERE +

HOW DOES LIGHT CHANGE THE EFFECT OF ROOMS AND CREATE ATMOSPHERE?

Light shapes rooms like no other design element. The focus is on products that set new standards with human-centric lighting, adaptive concepts, or innovative materials. Awards are given to luminaires and lighting systems as well as intelligent controls and lighting design tools. These are complemented by solutions for outdoor, retail, office, and street lighting as well as decorative design luminaires.

USER EXPERIENCE & INTEGRATION +

HOW CAN TECHNOLOGY BE MADE INTUITIVE, CONVENIENT, AND VISUALLY APPEALING?

Good design is evident when technology is intuitive to use, comfortable, and aesthetically integrated. The award recognizes products that support new working and living environments, combine sustainability with design, and put people at the center – such as well-thought-out operating and control elements, switch ranges, modular lighting systems, adaptive work lighting solutions, and integrative product designs.

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SPECIAL PRICES 2026

YOUNG INNOVATORS +

The **Young Innovators +** category honours young innovative companies and start-ups exhibiting at Light + Building 2026. This category is exclusively accessible to all participating startups and young innovators supported by the BMWK, as well as participants in the Young Design Area. The focus is on recognizing and promoting new ideas, technologies and business models developed by the youngest players in the industry.

SUSTAINABLE EXHIBITION STAND +

The **Sustainable Exhibition Stand +** category honours exhibitors who stand out for the design and implementation of a sustainable exhibition stand. The focus here is on the use of environmentally friendly materials, resource-saving construction methods and the integration of sustainable practices in the entire planning and implementation process and in the operation of the exhibition presence. The aim is to minimise the ecological footprint of the exhibition stands while at the same time offering an inspiring and attractive exhibition experience.

CRITERIA AND POSSIBILITIES

MATERIALS

- Low-pollutant or eco-labelled materials
- Materials made from recycled primary materials such as plastic, wood, aluminium, steel or concrete
- Recyclable plastics: Use of specific, clearly defined recyclable plastics such as PET or polypropylene that can be easily recycled
- Renewable raw materials: e.g. use of FSC-certified wood or bamboo from sustainable forestry
- Materials made from biogenic or other waste products (such as paper or scrap wood)
- PVC-free carpets: use of non-toxic materials for flooring and other applications
- Packaging and transport: Store and transport of materials in reusable containers rather than disposable film
- Use of rented materials to ensure recycling

MODULAR DESIGN

- Development of modular wall, floor and exhibition systems that can be reused and redesigned as needed for the exhibition.
- Non-destructive design, easy to assemble and disassemble connections
- Reduction of transport volume using modular systems
- Reduction of transport weight

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Use of LED lighting and other energy efficient technologies
- Minimizing energy consumption through intelligent control systems

TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

- Planning and executing transport processes with minimal CO2 emissions
- Working with regional exhibition stand builders to reduce transport distances
- Use of electric vehicles for material transport and stand construction
- Optimization of logistics through synergy effects, e.g. joint transport and set-up for several exhibitors

RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Reduce waste by reusing and recycling
- Reusability: Demonstrate the reusability of all materials used through appropriate certification and labelling
- Repairability: Consider repair options for booth components to extend their lifespan and reduce waste

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF MATERIALS

- Transparency on the country of origin (including supply chain proof) of materials used to understand the environmental and social impact of sourcing

LARGER SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

- Catering at the exhibition stand: ecological materials, vegetarian/vegan dishes
- Encourage the use of public transport to travel to and from the show by the team and invited visitors to reduce CO2 emissions
- Reduce team travel
- Optimise logistics transport around the show to further reduce the ecological footprint

SUBMISSION

Your participation for the Designplus Award starts when you complete the registration process at **award.designplus-stylepark.com** and submit at least one product. If the product is part of a collection, please indicate the name of each individual product.

Our registration and submission tool allows you to digitally submit product images, explanatory videos and product descriptions. Renderings are also accepted. The product must be completed no later than the award ceremony on **8 March 2026** to be displayed at the exhibition.

Register online at: **award.designplus-stylepark.com**

FEES

Registration fee – participation, publication and exhibition
€325 for each submitted product plus VAT.

Exception

Designplus Sustainable Exhibition Stand + and Young Innovators + are the new additional categories for which **no** costs will be charged.

DATES

19. JANUARY 2026	Deadline for submission of documents
4. FEBRUARY 2026	Jury session
18. FEBRUARY 2026	Announcement of nominees
8. MARCH 2026	Award ceremony
8.–13. MARCH 2026	Light + Building 2026 incl. digital special exhibition

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CONTACT

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