

VELUX Architecture Competition 2026/27

Competition

1. Awarding authority and objective of the VELUX Architecture Competition 2026/27

Roof window manufacturer VELUX (“VELUX” or “the awarding authority”) announces the **Architecture Competition Light.Space.Human** in the United Kingdom. Architects, interior designers, and planners are invited to present their ideas and design concepts to a distinguished jury, showcasing how thoughtful use of daylight and fresh air can enhance spatial quality and well-being.

From **1st September 2026** all building projects in which **light, space and humans** play a central role in the design can be submitted.

A **convincing daylight concept** is required, among other things, through the use of **VELUX daylighting solutions** such as roof windows, roof window combinations or flat-roof windows.

*in conjunction with lighting solutions in the facade and structural measures.



Kindergarten Horn, Lukas Imhof Architekten
Photo: Hannes Heinzer



Museum Bezau, Innauer Matt Architekten
Photo: Dominic Kummer

2. Competition procedure

The submission of completed projects will take place online from **1st September 2026 to 28th February 2027** at www.velux.co.uk/architecture-competition. Following a preliminary review for completeness and compliance with formal and content requirements, a pre-jury composed of representatives from VELUX, DETAIL and RIBA Journal will select up to 30 projects.

These submitted works will be presented to a qualified expert jury consisting of renowned architects and media representatives. The jury will nominate up to seven projects (shortlist) from which it will select three prize winners.

3. Eligibility

For the VELUX Architecture Competition 2026/27, completed buildings and construction projects located in **the United Kingdom** are eligible, provided they were completed **after 31st August 2023 and before 31st December 2026** and products from VELUX (roof windows, roof window combinations, or flat roof windows) are part of the daylight concept.

Architects, civil engineers and interior designers, who are authorised to use their respective professional titles are eligible to participate. In case of consortiums, at least one member must provide proof of eligibility. Participation is possible with a maximum of three projects. It is required that the participants are in possession of the unrestricted copyright from the submitted buildings and construction measures.

It is required that the participant clarifies with the builder/current owner that the project will be submitted and may be communicated worldwide as a reference for VELUX in the course of the competition. Jury members, their offices, partner offices and employees of VELUX, DETAIL and RIBA Journal are excluded from participation. Projects that have already been nominated in any of the previous awards (i.e. mentioned in the shortlist) are also excluded.

The application documents must be submitted on time and in full and must comply with the specified formal and content-related criteria in all respects.

4. Competition services

4.1. Language and submissions

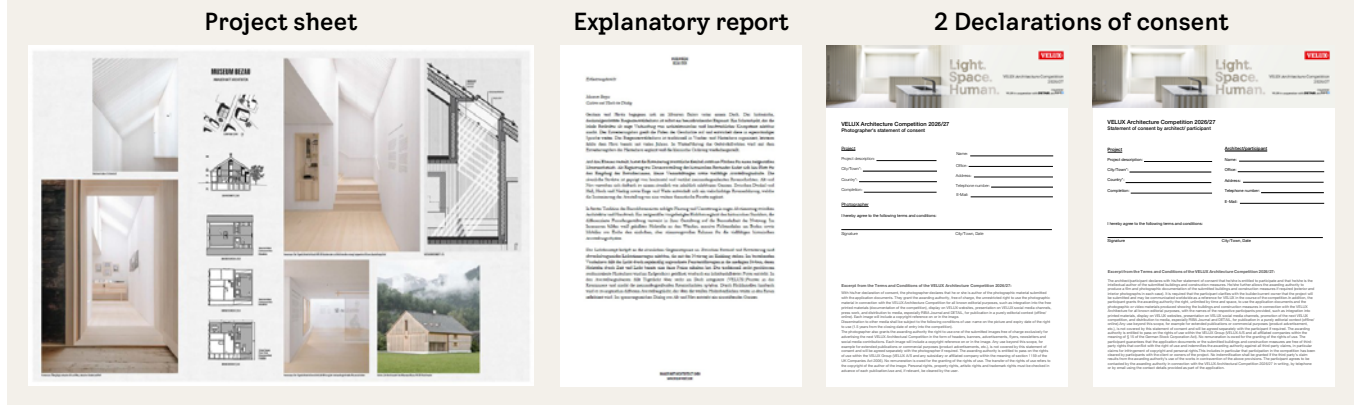
The language of the competition is English. Participation is exclusively possible online via www.velux.co.uk/architecture-competition. Once you register for the competition, you will receive the login credentials for the new submission tool. Once you submit a project, you can edit, add to, or delete it at any time during the submission period (see 4.2).

4.2. Documents to be submitted

The scope of services includes the **project sheet**, a separate **explanatory report**, and the **declarations of consent** from architects/participants and photographers (“application document”). All documents should include relevant information such as the project titles and the office name and should be saved as follows:

“Project-Title-Location-Office Name-File Name” (Project sheet; explanatory report, declaration of consent).
“Project-Title-Location-Office Name-File Name” (Project sheet; explanatory report, declaration of consent).
“Project-Title-Location-Office Name-File Name” (Project sheet; explanatory report, declaration of consent).

Here is an example from the submissions for the 2025 award:



4.2.1. Project sheet

The project sheet, freely designed by the participants, is a DIN A2-landscape format (300 dpi, file size max. 12 MB, .PDF). It should be a comprehensive presentation of the submitted projects, including at least one visual documentation of the installed VELUX product(s).

Plan drawings, sketches and drawings, professionally produced photos, and texts must provide a comprehensive insight into the daylight concept, design, function, chosen materials, and architectural quality of the project. Special focus must be placed on presenting and illustrating the daylight concept and the light atmosphere of the interior. Therefore, representative and professionally taken interior photographs are essential.

In addition, exterior views and concept sketches help make the project comprehensible in its entirety. (Construction site photos are not sufficient here).

The most important drawings such as floor plans, cross sections and site plans are also expected for understanding the project. Depending on the project submitted, the drawings may be presented at scales of 1:500 to 1:1. They should include measurements and be labelled. Good self-promotion is emphasised in terms of graphical representation.

4.2.2. Explanatory report

The separate explanatory report is voluntarily and limited to one DIN A4 sheet (max. 3 MB, PDF) per project.

The explanatory report can contain additional information required to understand the project.

In addition to explaining the design, there should also be a special focus on the **daylight concept**.

Criteria for they daylight concept:

Atmosphere and mood



Bi:St Single family house
Photo: Patricia Weisskirchner

Targeted positioning of light sources



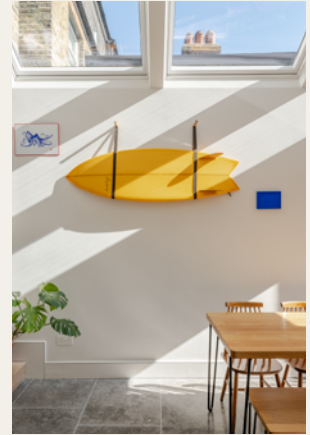
Weekend House
Photo: VELUX

Optimal lighting conditions in the room



Elkiær + Ebbeskov Arkitekter AP
Photo: Stammers Kontor

Dynamism and changeability of daylight



Sennen Studio
Photo: FRENCH+TYE

4.2.3. Declaration of consent: Author, owner, photographer

By participating in the VELUX Architecture Competition 2026/27, the architects/participants accept these tender documents as conditions of participation. Furthermore, declarations of consent from participants and photographers must be provided as a signed electronic document (PDF scan).

- The **architects/participants** declare with their consent that they are eligible to participate and are the intellectual authors of the submitted buildings and the construction projects.

In addition, the participant grants the awarding authority the right, unlimited by time and space, to use the application documents and the photographic or video materials produced showing the buildings and construction measures in connection with the VELUX Architecture Competition for all known editorial purposes, with the names of the respective participants provided. This includes, for example, integration in print materials, display at VELUX websites, use in VELUX social media channels, advertising for the next VELUX competition and dissemination to media (including Detail and RIBA Journal) for publication in an editorial context (offline/online).

Any use beyond this scope, for example for extended publications or commercial purposes (product advertisement, etc.), is not covered by this statement of consent and will be agreed separately with the participant if required.

The awarding authority is entitled to pass on the right of use within the VELUX Group (VELUX A/S and all affiliated companies). No remuneration is owed for the granting of the right of use.

By participating, it is assured that the application documents or the submitted buildings and construction measures are free of third-party rights that conflict with the right of use and indemnifies the awarding authority against all third-party claims, in particular claims for infringement of copyright and personal rights. This includes, in particular, that participation in the competition was coordinated by the participants with the client or owners of the project. No indemnification shall be granted if the third party's claim results from the awarding authority's use of the works in contravention of the above provisions.

The participant agrees to be contacted by the awarding authority in connection with the VELUX Architectural Competition 2026/27 in writing, by telephone or by email using the contact details provided as part of the application.

- With his/her declaration of consent, the **photographer** declares that he or she is author of the photographic material submitted with the application documents. They grant the awarding authority the unrestricted right, both temporally and spatially, to use the photographic material in connection with the VELUX Architectural Competition for all known editorial purposes, with the names of the respective participants provided. This includes, for example, integration in print materials, display at VELUX websites, use in VELUX social media channels, advertising for the next VELUX competition and dissemination to media (including DETAIL and RIBA Journal) for publication in an editorial context (offline/online). Any use beyond this scope, for example for extended publications or commercial purposes (product advertisement, etc.), is not covered by this statement of consent and will be agreed separately with the photographer if required.

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5. Jury and evaluation criteria

The evaluation of the works will be carried out by a 4-member independent jury consisting of the following persons:

- Chris Foges, RIBA (Chair)
- Jakob Schoof, Deputy Editor-in-Chief DETAIL, Munich
- Richard Williams, Senior Architectural Development Manager, VELUX
- Claudia Lynch, Director of Lynch Architects
- Nick Hayhurst, Co-founder of Hayhurst and Co.
- Mary Ann Steane, Associate Professor at the University of Cambridge



Chris Foges
RIBA



Jakob Schoof
DETAIL



Richard Williams
VELUX



Claudia Lynch
Director of
Lynch Architects



Nick Hayhurst
Co-founder of
Hayhurst and Co.



Mary Ann Steane
Associate Professor
at the University of
Cambridge

In addition, deputy jury members will be appointed. The jury will not meet in public. The jury will decide by a simple majority. The jury will justify its decision by a simple vote. The jury's decision is final and cannot be changed. Legal recourse is excluded.

6. Prizes and prize money

The winners will receive a total of £16,000 in prize money. In each category, one winner will receive £5,000 and two commended entries will receive £1,500 each. The jury reserves the right to award additional commendations in recognition of exceptional quality.

Category 1: Light.Space.Human

Category 2: Commercial and Public Buildings

The award-winning projects will also be featured in renowned trade and public media:

- Communication of the nominated works and award winners via partner webpages and media communication
- Documentation of the nominated works and winners in an online documentation
- Editorial mentions in the trade and general press (print and online)

7. Dates

Start of competition	1st September 2026
End of competition	28th February 2027
Jury meeting	March 2027
Award ceremony	April/May 2027
Online documentation	May/June 2027

8. Announcement and publication

The official announcement of the nominations (shortlist) will be made for all participants after the jury meeting in March of 2027 at www.velux.co.uk/architecture-competition, www.detail.de and www.ribaj.com.

The nominated participants will be notified by telephone and email immediately after the jury meeting.

The announcement of competition winners will be made to all nominees in April/ May 2027 at an award ceremony and officially from May 2027 at www.velux.co.uk/architecture-competition, www.detail.de and www.ribaj.com.

9. Documentation

The documentation of the nominated projects/winners will be in the form of online publication, which will be presented to a wide audience through various channels. Selected projects will be published across different media channels by VELUX, DETAIL and RIBA Journal. Additionally, the projects can also be disseminated via the trade and general press both in print and online.

10. Award ceremony

The type of award ceremony will be announced later.

11. Exclusion criteria

Works that contradict the conditions of the competition may be excluded.

The documents must be submitted on time and in full. They must comply with the competition condition in all respects, both formally and in terms of content. To assess the daylight quality in the interior and its underlying concept, significant and professionally produced interior photographs, as well as comprehensive documentation of the daylight concept, should be included in the submissions. We must expressly point out that no extensions to the deadline or late submissions are possible. Jury members, their offices and partner offices, as well as employees of VELUX, DETAIL and RIBA Journal, are excluded from participation in the VELUX Architecture Competition 2026/27.

12. Ownership of the application documents and copyright

The application documents become property of the awarding authority. The copyright remains with the participant.

13. Information und contact

The consent declarations and the link for project submissions can be found in the confirmation email sent to you after registration.

The works to be submitted must be uploaded by 28 February 2027 as PDF files.
Please direct any questions to: erika.frinculescu@velux.com

14. Data protection

The data protection regulation apply. These can be viewed at
<https://www.velux.co.uk/legal/privacy-policy>.

15. Further procedural conditions

The procedure will be conducted by the awarding authority in private.
Legal recourse is excluded.