

PRESS

INFORMATION of January 30, 2026

Frankfurt / Main

DAM PREIS 2026

The 23 best buildings in\from Germany



Peter Grundmann Architekten: ZK/U Center for Art and Urbanistics, Berlin
Photo: Yizhi Wang

January 31 – May 10, 2026at Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM)
Schaumainkai 43, Frankfurt/Main**AWARD CEREMONY:**

Fri, January 30, 2026, 7 p.m.

PRESS CONFERENCE:

Fri, January 30, 2026, 11 a.m.

GUIDED TOURS:

On Saturdays and Sundays, 4 p.m.

OPENING HOURS:Tue, Thurs – Sun 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. \ Wed
11 a.m. – 7 p.m. \ Mon closed

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DAM PREIS 2026 **THE 23 BEST BUILDINGS IN\FROM GERMANY**

The DAM Preis 2025 goes to **Peter Grundmann Architekten for the ZK/U Center for Art and Urbanistics in Berlin:**

The jury was particularly impressed by the approach of transforming a former warehouse at a freight station into an inviting meeting place: Working closely with the non-profit association KUNSTrePUBLIK e. V., the team at Peter Grundmann Architekten used an above-average amount of manual labor and a modest (and adhered to!) budget to encase the former single-story hall in a lightweight steel and glass structure and add another floor. The rooms on all levels, including the vaulted cellar and roof terrace, can now be used flexibly. Architectural standards are being redefined or thrown overboard directly.

In 2026, the award will be bestowed by Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM) for the tenth time in close cooperation with JUNG as its partner – as part of a phased jury process.

THE LONGLIST

The museum nominated approximately 100 remarkable buildings or ensembles resulting from extensive research involving an advisory board of experts for the DAM Preis for Architecture in Germany. The board consisted of Ursula Baus, Christina Beaumont, c/o now, Lukas Fink, Florian Fischer, Florian Heilmeyer, Angelika Hinterbrandner, Christian Holl, David Kasparek, Katja Knaus, Moritz Kölling, Mario Krämer, Katharina Matzig, Eun-A Pauly, Elina Potratz, Jan O. Schulz, Something Fantastic, Heiner Stengel, Finn Warncke, Christian von Wissel and Uta Winterhager. Projects were also nominated by the chambers of architects of the states of Bavaria, Hesse, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saxony and Thuringia. In principle, there was no restriction as regards building typology, minimum size or construction sum for the nomination of the buildings. The buildings nominated for the DAM Preis 2026 had to have been completed between the end of 2023 and the spring of 2025.

Since 2017, the prize has also involved all buildings on the longlist being presented in geographical order annually in the **Architekturführer Deutschland**. The 2026 edition, published by DOM publishers, is already on sale. At the same time, you can also browse the longlist on the Internet at dam-preis.de. Over the years, a digital archive of remarkable buildings in Germany will be created.

THE SHORTLIST

A jury of experts chaired by architect Aline Hielscher selected **21 projects** from the longlist for the **shortlist for the DAM Preis 2026**. A selection of two buildings designed by German architects and erected outside the country and the renovation and expansion of the Gründervilla JUNG were also included for consideration out of competition.

A constant also in 2026 is the high proportion of residential buildings, often with the re-conception of conventional floor plans for changing lifestyles. A trend is continuing in cultural buildings: the priority is no longer to place spectacular solitary structures in (urban) spaces, but to create “third places” with an expanded range of offerings. In addition, the importance of two key themes is confirmed: the number of timber and timber hybrid buildings is increasing, as is the significance of continued construction in combination with renovations and conversions. The latter is also popular as a way of turning neglected town centers back into popular and lively meeting places.

THE FINALISTS

In the course of a special jury trip the jury inspected the five building ensembles chosen as the finalists:

ARETZ DÜRR ARCHITEKTUR – Wohnen F // 9, Modular densification, Cologne
ETAL. – Das robuste Haus – Multi-generational house Görzer128, Munich
HILD UND K ARCHITEKTEN – Overnight shelter with medical facilities, Munich
PETER GRUNDMANN ARCHITEKTEN – ZK/U Center for Art and Urbanistics, Berlin
PPAG ARCHITECTS – Dual-school Allee der Kosmonauten, Berlin

BUILDINGS OUTSIDE GERMANY

Not included in the shortlist for the DAM Preis, but for many years a firm part of this overview of contemporary German architecture, are buildings designed by German architectural practices located in other countries: This time they are located in Austria and South Korea. Peter Haimerl . Architektur and Studio Clemens Bauder have added an airy pavilion with a canopy-like roof to Linz Cathedral, which serves as a café and a barrier-free welcome gesture. In an up-and-coming district of Seoul, behet bondzio lin architekten have created W-Mission Headquarters, a striking location for a textile company combined with cafés, pop-up stores, offices, a community hall, and residential space.

DAM PREIS 2026 – PRIZE WINNER**PETER GRUNDMANN ARCHITEKTEN**

ZK/U Center for Art and Urbanistics

This unusual building unites creative will and ability, attitude and design. It was preceded by the founding of the association KUNSTrePUBLIK in 2012, which established a broad programme in a vacant freight station in Berlin-Moabit ranging from public viewings to repair workshops and neighbourhood markets to exhibitions, performances, and artist residencies. An extension became necessary. After the approval of six million euros in funding, the Berlin firm Peter Grundmann Architekten emerged successfully from a Europe-wide tender process in 2019.

Careful assembly

The building is finely and carefully assembled. Loads are visibly and legibly transferred to new columns. Old walls that are no longer load-bearing were allowed to remain standing. The existing structure overall remained unchanged. The most complex façade connections were not left to construction companies by the trained shipbuilder Peter Grundmann, but built by himself. Also to save costs – which amount to only around 2,000 euros per square meter.

Ephemeral spatial layer

The old storage hall on the ground floor was left standing as a shell and defines the event space. Below it is an atmospheric vaulted cellar with exhibition space and bar. The existing structure is enveloped by an ephemeral second spatial layer of glass and very little steel. This envelope serves as thermal protection and meets energy requirements even without insulation. On the entrance side it forms the foyer and windbreak. On the garden side it is six meters deep and accommodates a space with a bar. The new second floor rests on a prestressed slab. The recessed façades provide sun protection. Additionally, a wide access gallery was created that provides access to all rooms and thus enables great flexibility of use in the interior as well. Surrounding steel staircases lead upward and connect both levels to the large roof terrace. The ZK/U is embedded in a public park, which the association maintains.

Architecture redefined

The building is convincing architecturally and spatially as well as structurally and aesthetically. It demonstrates that honest, haptic construction and economical planning need not be contradictory – but rather complement each other to redefine great architecture.

(Original text: Peter Cachola Schmal)

Quotes from the jury

“Architects are not performers, according to Peter Grundmann. And yet, above all else, the ZK/U reveals how strongly the actions of individuals – extending far beyond what we traditionally understand as architectural work – can shape our cities. Between repurposing, continuing to build, and criticising the status quo of German building regulations, the centre is the result of a pleasantly subtle performative disobedience, despite everything.” (Teresa Fankhänel)

“Thanks to careful, energy-efficient renovation and expansion, the ZK/U has become a place for society and the community. With its contemporary architecture, which can be flexibly adapted to changing needs in the years to come, and its public green spaces, the project demonstrates how architecture can counteract inequality and serve the community in a meaningful way.” (Anna Moldenhauer)

‘This is a building that continues the history of a former freight station in a very special way. The delicate and confident use of steel and glass, and the resulting spaces, pay homage to the existing structure, complementing and respecting it. Here, architecture is both shell and space, and much more besides: it accompanies the programme of the users – the ZK/U itself. The building grows with its use, and vice versa, inside and out.’ (Aline Hielscher)

“Peter Grundmann and the ZK/U are a perfect match. The experimental architect and the avant-garde institution have joined forces to create a cultural hub on a piece of wasteland on the outskirts of Berlin’s city centre – a project that could only be realised in the German capital.” (Dijane Slavic, Uwe Bresan)

“Is that already illegal? Or is it simply a case of courage here, given the casual disregard for standards? At last, we are discussing the basics of modern construction!” (Oliver Elser)

“The project seeks an architectural indeterminacy that allows for constant dynamism and potential fallibility, balancing fixed planning and situational craftsmanship, and house and object. Floating in the middle of Moabit’s Stadtgarten, the architecture thus finds an exact counterpart to the use and work of the cultural centre as a lively, open, and contemporary place in Berlin.” (Martin Rein-Cano)

“Peter Grundmann refreshes and shows us once again the possibilities of architecture and architectural space to create sense and celebrate community. For little money, but with a great deal of courage, clarity, and optimism. Thank you very much for that.” (Peter Cachola Schmal)

“At first glance, it seems as though this building was constructed without any regard for the rules of design. However, as soon as you walk through its rooms, you realise that it is actually the result of a clear plan, which is precisely what makes it so convincing.” (Sven Fröhlich)

DAM PREIS 2026 – THE FINALISTS**ARETZ DÜRR ARCHITEKTUR**

Wohnen F // 9, Modular densification, Cologne

Modular densification

In the middle of Cologne's Südstadt, Aretz Dürr Architektur realized a modular residential building in a narrow courtyard that combines lightness with simplicity. Besides, the formerly completely sealed parking lot has now partially become a garden area.

Prefabrication saves construction time

The burdens of the construction process were significantly reduced: within just ten days, a mobile crane stacked 32 prefabricated timber modules on top of each other in the 25-meter-wide building gap. Stairwells and elevator shafts were pre-installed. Screed, heating, elevator, and the ventilated façade were added on site. The two-part building volume responds to the urban planning situation with two and three stories respectively.

Materials and façades

One- to three-room apartments were accommodated in the cross-laminated timber modules. Walls and ceilings feature exposed timber with white stain. In front of the south-facing, floor-to-ceiling glazed courtyard side stands a filigree steel construction with deep timber balconies and perforated metal parapets. The rear façade faces a parking lot and is characterized by sage-green through-coloured fiber cement panels and subdivided windows.

Slightly elevated

Instead of a conventional foundation slab, the new building stands on five strip foundations that also provide connections to infrastructure such as water, electricity, and district heating network. The elevation gives the building a slightly floating character. Due to parking space regulations, an underground parking system in the courtyard became necessary. This increased the base rent from 16 to 20 euros despite cost-saving construction and the low-tech approach. Nevertheless, an exemplary and convincing concept remains for combining inner-city densification with affordability. Aretz Dürr already have their sights set on a parking lot that could be built upon in a comparable way.

(Original text: Paul Andreas)

ETAL.

Das robuste Haus – Multi-generational house Görzer128, Munich

Vision and concept

The housing projects of the Mietshäuser Syndikat (Tenement Syndicate) usually arise in existing buildings. Buildings in need of renovation are purchased and refurbished, often with the participation of the residents, to secure self-managed housing at affordable rents. The multi-generational house Görzer 128 in Munich belongs to these projects, but is a new building. Parts of the later residents had participated in a concept allocation process and received the award for the plot from the city.

With the ecological house, the three architects from et al. realized their debut work and also moderated and advised throughout the entire process.

The robust house

To articulate the somewhat coarse building volume into smaller units, the stairwell core was rotated diagonally in the floor plan. The timber cladding of local spruce is overlapped by floor, and the building corners are emphasized by window bands and cantilevered trapezoidal metal sheets. The latter protect the green timber shutters and lend the house vitality.

Community and flexible spaces

On each floor, seven approximately equalsized rooms are arranged around a core with two bathrooms. Depending on living constellations, the rooms can be coupled differently with each other. This is made possible by planned wall openings that are legible through unplastered lintels and timber floor thresholds. Currently there are two couples, one family, and five individuals who share a total of 930 square meters which include a communal room on the ground floor as well as laundry room, hobby cellar, and workshop in the basement.

Cooperation and consensus

The house is the result of a four-year cooperative planning process that was so successful primarily because the building group and architects were willing to make above-average commitments. Decisions were negotiated and made by consensus. One resident's conclusion: 'We love this house.'

(Original text: Anna-Maria Mayerhofer))

HILD UND K ARCHITEKTEN

Overnight shelter with medical facilities, Munich

The facility

Since 2013, the City of Munich has provided overnight accommodation for homeless people. Until now, they were provisionally housed in twelve-bed rooms in the former Bayernkaserne (Bayern barracks). Due to the development of a new city district on the site, a relocation became necessary. In 2018, the city decided in favor of a year-round accommodation including a day centre, medical care, and counseling services. The 730 overnight places are primarily aimed at so-called non-eligible persons, EU citizens who are 'migrant workers' seeking employment.

The planning

Hild und K were commissioned with the feasibility study; the firm subsequently won the VgV procedure (Public Procurement Ordinance). Spatial flexibility was the measure for the planning, as the different user groups were to be accommodated safely, meaning separated from each other.

The rooms

The design of the four-bed rooms, washrooms, and communal spaces is limited to a few colours for doors and frames, the colours also serve orientation purposes. Linoleum is laid on the floor, the washrooms are robustly tiled.

The building and its aspiration

Three building fingers each extend from a central distribution courtyard to the west and east. Between them lie protected outdoor spaces that are robustly furnished and landscaped. Toward the street space, a concrete pergola encloses the three-story fingers and the four-story central building. Concrete sandwich elements form the base; prefabricated timber frame elements fill out the precast concrete skeleton structure. The vertical battens are in a warm rust red. A frieze beneath the greened photovoltaic roofs provides simple beauty. Fire barriers became a design element; round windows at the ends of the corridors allow lots of light to fall in and make the day centre and medical department legible from outside. Despite all requirements for functionality, safety, and hygiene, it was important to Hild und K to convey dignity and appreciation with the building.

(Original text: Katharina Matzig)

PPAG ARCHITECTS

Dual-school Allee der Kosmonauten, Berlin

Context and location

The AD Kosmos double school stands at the district boundary between Marzahn and Lichtenberg and is a prominent component of the Berliner Schulbauoffensive (School Construction Initiative), BSO. Since 2017, the BSO has been attempting to address the renovation backlog and rising pupil numbers. For the developer HOWOGE, one of the municipal housing companies, this school building is a premiere.

Compartment as stable learning unit

The five-story double school consists of an integrated secondary school and a gymnasium with a total of 1,600 pupils. The compartment school concept by PPAG architects creates spatial clusters for up to 100 learners who form stable communities across grade levels. Here no one disappears in long corridors or hermetic classrooms: four main group rooms, a team and quiet room, as well as sanitary facilities are arranged around a forum that serves simultaneously as circulation and meeting zone. The two triple sports halls stacked on top of each other form the core of the building. Two staircases designed like stepped pyramids can also be used for smaller events.

Material and spatial diversity

The solid construction consists of prefabricated and semi-prefabricated elements as well as cast-in-place concrete. The façade is a timber frame construction clad with profiled aluminum, giving the complex the appearance of a space station. Through projections and recesses, a multitude of open and semi-open intermediate spaces emerge for break and leisure activities. These include areas for playing basketball and bouldering as well as a school garden. Abundant light enters the generous spaces; they are equipped with light, simple furniture and linoleum flooring.

Multiple use

The AD Kosmos also opens itself to the neighbourhood: the multipurpose hall, the garden, the cafeterias, music rooms, workshops, sports halls, as well as the library are available outside of class hours.

(Original text: Christian Brensing)

LIST OF SHOWCASED PROJECTS**ARETZ DÜRR ARCHITEKTUR FINALIST**

Wohnen F // 9, Modular densification, Cologne

ARETZ DÜRR ARCHITEKTUR

Hall S // 46 – Graf-Zeppelin-Halle, Altenkirchen

BARARCHITEKTEN

Residential and studio building LW42, Berlin

BÜRO VOIGT

Theatre workshops and props Landestheater Eisenach

ECKER ARCHITEKTEN

Neckar lock Schwabenheim, Dossenheim-Schwabenheim

ETAL. FINALIST

Das robuste Haus – Multi-generational house Görzer128, Munich

FRIDA ARCHITEKTEN

Event building Forest Adventure Centre Leupoldishain, Königstein

GMP • ARCHITEKTEN VON GERKAN, MARG UND PARTNER

Hyparschale, Magdeburg

HILD UND K ARCHITEKTEN FINALIST

Overnight shelter with medical facilities, Munich

LRO LEDERER RAGNARSDÓTTIR OEI

Primary school on FRANKLIN, Mannheim

MAX HACKE & LEONHARD CLEMENS

Rear building prototype 6x9m, Berlin

MODERSOHN & FREIESLEBEN ARCHITEKTEN

Living in the park – assisted living for people with disabilities, Berlin

NBUNDM* ARCHITEKTEN

Augustin community center, Ingolstadt

PETER GRUNDMANN ARCHITEKTEN PRIZE WINNER

ZK/U Center for Art and Urbanistics, Berlin

PETER ZIRKEL ARCHITEKTEN MIT NAUMANN WASSERKAMPF ARCHITEKTEN
Museum Lützen 1632, Lützen

PPAG ARCHITECTS **FINALIST**
Dual-school Allee der Kosmonauten, Berlin

SAUERBRUCH HUTTON
Franklin Village, Mannheim

SCHLEICHER.RAGALLER ARCHITEKTEN
Company daycare center, Stuttgart-Weilimdorf

SCHLICHT LAMPRECHT KERN ARCHITEKTEN
Community center MittenIm, Niederwerrn

STUDIOMOLTER / STADT-BAU GMBH REGENSBURG
Residential high-rise building, Regensburg

WAECHTER + WAECHTER ARCHITEKTEN
Innovationsfabrik 2.0, Heilbronn

ABROAD

BEHET BONDZIO LIN ARCHITEKTEN
W-Mission Headquarters, Seongdong-gu, Seoul, South Korea

PETER HAIMERL . ARCHITEKTUR with **STUDIO CLEMENS BAUDER**
Domcenter Linz, Austria

JURY OF THE DAM PREIS 2026

Dr. Uwe Bresan (Architektur Media Management International JUNG – together with Dijane Slavic)
 Oliver Elser (Curator DAM)
 Teresa Fankhänel (Curator and publicist / acting professorship at KIT-Fakultät für Architektur Karlsruhe)
 Sven Fröhlich (Partner AFF Architekten, Prize winner DAM Preis 2025)
 Aline Hielscher (Aline Hielscher Architektur, Shortlist DAM Preis 2025, jury chair woman)
 Anna Moldenhauer (Editor-in-chief Stylepark magazine for architecture and design)
 Martin Rein-Cano (Partner TOPOTEK 1 Landschaftsarchitekten)
 Peter Cachola Schmal (Director DAM)
 Dijane Slavic (Architektur Media Management International JUNG – together with Dr. Uwe Bresan)
 Yorck Förster (Freelance curator DAM, Nomination Jury / Deputy)
 Christina Gräwe (Freelance Curator DAM, Nomination Jury / Deputy)

PUBLICATIONS

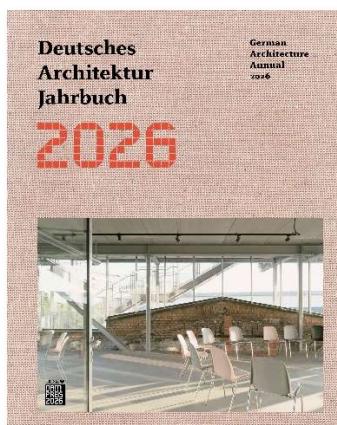


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DAM Preis 2026 – The 23 best buildings in/from Germany

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January 31 – May 10, 2026

An exhibition by Deutsches Architekturmuseums (DAM)

On behalf of the Dezernat für Kultur und Wissenschaft, Kulturamt of the City of Frankfurt/Main

Director of DAM Peter Cachola Schmal

Deputy Director of DAM Andrea Jürges

Curators Yorck Förster, Christina Gräwe

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Museum technician Giancarlo Rossano, Daniel Sarvari

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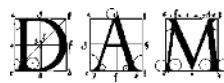
Since 2017, now in its tenth year, JUNG has been involved in the DAM Prize as a close cooperation partner of the Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM) in honouring outstanding buildings in Germany.

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**DAM
PREIS
2026**



DEUTSCHES
ARCHITEKTURMUSEUM

JUNG

DAM Preis 2026 – The 23 best buildings in\from Germany

Frankfurt/Main, 30.01.2026

COINCIDING PROGRAM

Guided tours

On Saturdays and Sundays, 4 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: DAM-PREIS.DE



Press images for announcements and reports during the exhibition period at www.dam-online.de/press

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