

COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE THESIS AWARDS 2026 – ZONE 3

Date-wise Report of the Jury Proceedings

Venue: ICFAI School of Architecture, IFHE, Hyderabad

Dates: 11th – 13th August 2026

Hosted by: ICFAI School of Architecture, IFHE Hyderabad

11th August 2026

Inauguration & Open House Exhibition

The COA Thesis Awards 2026 – Zone 3 commenced on 11th August 2026 at the ICFAI School of Architecture, IFHE Hyderabad, with the formal inauguration of the three-day programme.

The inaugural session was graced by the presence of distinguished dignitaries from the ICFAI Society, IFHE, industry, and the architectural fraternity. The occasion marked the beginning of the Zone 3 Jury proceedings and provided an opportunity to formally welcome the participating institutions, candidates, jury members, and guests.

The inauguration was followed by an Open House Exhibition showcasing the works submitted under the following categories:

- Architectural Excellence and Academic Thesis (AEAT) – Category A
- Architectural Excellence and Academic Thesis (AEAT) – Category B
- Documentation of Architectural Heritage (DAH)

The thesis and heritage documentation sheets were displayed at the ICFAI School of Architecture, allowing faculty members, students, architects, academicians, and visitors to view and engage with the submitted works.

The exhibition presented a diverse range of architectural ideas, design approaches, research methodologies, contextual responses, and heritage documentation works, reflecting the creativity and academic efforts of the participating candidates.

The first day thus set the stage for the evaluation process and created an engaging platform for interaction with the exhibited works.







12th August 2026

Closed-Door Jury – AEAT Category A & Category B

The second day of the programme, 12th August 2026, was dedicated to the Closed-Door Jury for the Architectural Excellence and Academic Thesis (AEAT) Awards.

The proceedings commenced with the arrival of the esteemed jury members and the traditional lighting of the lamp, marking the formal beginning of the jury evaluation.

The jury undertook a detailed and comprehensive assessment of the submitted entries under:

- AEAT – Category A
- AEAT – Category B

The entries were evaluated through a focused academic and professional review, considering aspects such as the strength of the architectural idea, conceptual clarity, design development, contextual response, research and analysis, innovation, and overall quality of presentation.

The closed-door format provided the jury with a focused environment for detailed review, discussion, comparison, and deliberation on the submitted works.

Following the evaluation and deliberations, the jury shortlisted candidates from the AEAT categories who would proceed to the Open Jury on 13th August 2026.

The second day therefore served as a crucial stage in the Zone 3 evaluation process, narrowing the entries to the shortlisted candidates who would present their work before the jury on the following day.

13th August 2026

Open Jury, Final Selection & Felicitation

The third and concluding day of the COA Thesis Awards 2026 – Zone 3 commenced with the Open Jury for the shortlisted AEAT candidates.

The candidates shortlisted during the Closed-Door Jury on 12th August were given the opportunity to present their thesis works before the distinguished jury panel.

The Open Jury provided an engaging platform for the candidates to articulate their design concepts, research processes, contextual understanding, and architectural propositions. The presentations were followed by discussions and critical interaction with the jury, enabling a meaningful exchange of ideas between the candidates and experienced professionals and academicians.

Following the presentations, the jury undertook its final deliberations and evaluation of the shortlisted AEAT entries.

Selection for the National Level

A significant outcome of the Zone 3 Jury was the selection of two outstanding finalists who will advance to the National Level of the COA Thesis Awards 2026.

The selection recognised the exceptional quality, originality, architectural thinking, and overall merit demonstrated by the finalists and marked an important milestone in their academic and professional journey.

Felicitation Ceremony

The concluding session also included the felicitation of the participating and selected candidates.

The DAH participants were felicitated in recognition of their contribution and participation in the Documentation of Architectural Heritage category. The AEAT participants were also felicitated for their participation and efforts in presenting their architectural thesis works as part of the Zone 3 Awards.

The felicitation served as an occasion to acknowledge the dedication, creativity, research, and academic efforts of all the participating candidates.

The event concluded on a celebratory note, bringing together the candidates, jury members, dignitaries, faculty members, and members of the architectural community.





Overall Outcome

The three-day COA Thesis Awards 2026 – Zone 3 Jury successfully brought together architectural thesis works and heritage documentation projects on a common platform at the ICFAI School of Architecture, IFHE Hyderabad.

The programme progressed through three distinct stages:

11th August – Inauguration and Open House Exhibition of AEAT Category A, AEAT Category B and DAH entries.

12th August – Closed-Door Jury and evaluation of AEAT Category A and Category B entries, followed by shortlisting of candidates.

13th August – Open Jury of the shortlisted AEAT candidates, final deliberations, selection of two finalists for the National Level, and felicitation of DAH and AEAT participants.

The event provided a valuable platform for recognising architectural excellence, academic rigour, creative thinking, research, and emerging talent, while fostering meaningful interaction between students, academicians, practicing professionals, and representatives of the Council of Architecture.

The successful conduct of the Zone 3 Jury at the ICFAI School of Architecture reflects the institution's commitment to supporting architectural education, professional engagement, and platforms that celebrate and encourage the next generation of architects.

