

Offer of Award

WOLFSBURG AWARD for urban vision 2026

A competition of ideas

held by the City of Wolfsburg for innovative student projects on the theme
"Wolfsburg: City Space History"

Contact

City of Wolfsburg – Forum Architektur
Keyword: "WOLFSBURG AWARD"
Porschestraße 51 • D-38440 Wolfsburg
Germany
Tel.: 0049 - (0)5361/28-2814
www.wolfsburg.de
wolfsburgaward@stadt.wolfsburg.de

Background and Objectives

Parallel to the construction of today's Volkswagen plant, Wolfsburg was founded in 1938 with the aim of creating a model national-socialist city between Heimatstil and garden city. However, the city's main period of development fell in the decades of post-war modernism. The city's growth paralleled the German economic miracle and the development of the Volkswagen plant from an automobile production facility to a global corporation with currently around 675,000 employees at over 100 production sites worldwide.

To this day, as one of the few newly founded cities of the 20th century Wolfsburg plays a special role among the major German cities, and not just because of the special interplay between the city and the plant. Urban planning is uniquely linked to the political, social and economic developments and upheavals of the last eight decades in Germany. As a newly planned and built city, Wolfsburg reflects the urban planning models of the 20th century almost unaltered in large areas. These include the models of the garden city in the 1930s, the model of the structured and broken-up urban landscape in the post-war era and finally the ideals of the "Athens Charter", which determined the development of the first satellite towns from 1960 onwards. The idea of the car-friendly city was also realized here in its purest form. Key architectural figures for the overall development of Germany, such as Friedrich Wilhelm Kraemer, Dieter Oesterlen and Paul Baumgarten, shaped the urban structure. There are also outstanding individual architectures by Alvar Aalto, Hans Scharoun and Zaha Hadid.

It is not only since the climate crisis and the question of resources that the principles of the modern city and of further construction have been increasingly called into question. Wolfsburg is facing new challenges, such as the question of changing mobility or the future interplay between the factory and the city. Around fifty years after the high point of post-war modernism, the question of adapting to the requirements of a modern society arises for many urban and residential districts. In view of climate change, open spaces are taking on new and important functions.

The WOLFSBURG AWARD aims to contribute to further strengthening Wolfsburg's architectural dynamics as a model city. How can the city continue to develop without losing sight of its history? What opportunities lie in the special historical and urban development?

Competition Sponsor

The competition is sponsored by the
City of Wolfsburg, Building department,
P.O. Box 100944 • D-38409 Wolfsburg
Germany

It is supervised by the Forum Architektur and the building culture working group.

Competition Management and preliminary Examination

City of Wolfsburg, Forum Architektur
P.O. Box 100944 • D-38409 Wolfsburg
Germany
wolfsburgaward@stadt.wolfsburg.de
Tel. 0049 - (0)5361/28-2814
Fax. 0049 - (0)5361/28-1644

Type of Competition

This is an open student ideas competition. The competition entries are submitted anonymously. Participation is open to students from European universities. The prize is awarded every two years. The organizer reserves the right to restrict the range of topics or temporarily suspend the competition. Guidelines for the competition procedure have been drawn up in consultation with the Architectural Advisory Board of the City of Wolfsburg.

Competition Task

The potential entries are **not** limited by topic. Their range is defined by the fields of urban and landscape planning, structural engineering, building in existing structures, building history and monument preservation, civil engineering/structural design and the thematic complex 'City Space History'. We are looking for contributions to the further development of the architectural and urban planning qualities of the city of Wolfsburg, works that deal with its special history of development and new models of thinking. Emphasis is placed on an innovative or experimental approach that promises new impulses. The limits of technology and thinking can be explored. Work with interdisciplinary results and orientation is viewed particularly positively.

Jury

The jury consists of the architectural advisory board of the City of Wolfsburg and one or more alternating guest jurors. The city's architectural advisory board currently consists of the following persons:

Hans-Georg Bachmann, vice chairman of the planning and building committee

Wolfsburg

Professor (Prof.) Doctor (Dr.) Antje Backhaus, landscape architecture

Berlin

Kai-Uwe Hirschheide, first city councillor city planning director

Wolfsburg

Prof. Andrea Klinge, architecture

Berlin

Kai Kronschnabel, chairman of the planning and building committee

Wolfsburg

Oliver Bormann, urban development

Berlin

Maria Pfitzner, Building in existing structures / historic preservation

Hannover

Terms of Participation

The competition is aimed at students of the following disciplines

- Urban design and urban planning
- architecture, interior architecture
- landscape architecture and landscape planning
- Monument preservation/building heritage
- Fine arts

who are enrolled at a European university, college or university of applied sciences at the time the work is completed. Proof of enrollment must be provided with an appropriate certification from the faculty. Submissions from related degree programs are also possible. In this case, a written application for admission to the competition must be submitted in good time before submitting the competition entry. Applications should be sent to:

City of Wolfsburg, Forum Architektur

P.O. Box 100944

D-38409 Wolfsburg

Germany

wolfsburgaward@stadt.wolfsburg.de

The decision on admission is made by the building cultur working group. The participants may be individuals or working groups. Only works that are not older than 24 months can be submitted (the date of completion, i.e. submission to the university, is decisive). Each participant or group may only submit one entry. Multiple submissions by individuals or working groups or even individual members of working groups will lead to the exclusion of all participants. In the case of working groups, every member must be entitled to participate. A breach of the conditions of participation may also lead to subsequent exclusion from the procedure. The repeated submission of the same work is excluded. No works are allowed to be submitted that were created at the faculties or the departments of an university teacher involved in the jury.

By participating, the participants declare that they agree that the submitted work

- will become the property of the sponsor and
- may be publicly exhibited and discussed without further remuneration and
- may be reproduced and stored for documentation and archiving purposes and
- may be published in whole or in part by the awarding authority and also via third parties, naming the authors and
- if possible, the designs can be made accessible to the respective division of the building department.

The copyright, in particular the protection against copying and the right of publication, remains with the author. Participants are obliged to maintain the public anonymity of their work until the award ceremony.

Registration

To participate, a registration using the registration form at www.wolfsburg.de/wolfsburgaward is necessary. Seminars and other courses are registered by the supervising lecturer/university employee. Students who participate independently of a university/teaching event (e.g. as part of a final thesis) can register as individuals.

Items to be delivered

Required are plans/drawings/graphic representations that do not exceed a maximum of two DIN A1 sheets or one DIN A0 sheet. Textual explanations are to be placed on the plans/drawings/graphical representations. The plans/drawings/graphic representations must be submitted in three data formats: as a printable PDF in original size, as a printable Tiff in original size and as a printable JPG in A4 format. The competition languages are English or German.

Graphic contributions and textual explanations that go beyond the required will be excluded from the consideration by the Jury. Supplementary models may be submitted, but cannot replace the mandatory submission (plans/drawings/graphic representations in the size of 2 DIN A1/1 DIN A0). Models cannot be returned, but can be collected from the awarding authority by prior arrangement. Uncollected models will be disposed of at the end of the year.

Proof of enrollment must be provided with an appropriate certification from the faculty.

Submission of the Competition Entries

The submission is carried out digitally. The works will be uploaded via a link provided by the awarding authority 3 weeks before the deadline. The access data will be sent to the e-mail address provided by the participant during registration. The latest submission deadline for the competition entries is Sunday, **August 16th, 2026, 23:59 h.** Works whose upload process has not been completed by this date will not be considered in the procedure. Access to the digital upload folder will expire at the end of the submission deadline. The authors themselves are responsible for ensuring that the competition supervisor receives the entries on time. Models can be submitted in person on August 14th, 2026 between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm at (individual appointments for model submission outside this time frame can be arranged at: wolfsburgaward@stadt.wolfsburg.de):

City of Wolfsburg, Forum Architektur
Porschestraße 51 (Alvar Aalto Cultural Center)
D-38440 Wolfsburg, Germany
1st Floor, studio

Submission, Data, Formats and naming

The submitted work can carry no indication of the identity of the authors(s). The competition entry (including models) must be identified in all parts by a self-selected, identical code number consisting of six Arabic numerals. It must be placed in the top right-hand corner of the plans/drawings at a height of 1 cm and a length of 4 cm.

The files to be submitted are to be named as follows with the six-digit code number (XXXXXX is to be replaced by the self-selected code number):

1. printable PDF in original page size: **XXXXXX-original-plan.pdf**

If two DIN A 1 plans are submitted, both plans must be combined in a two-page PDF.

2. Printable tiff in original page size: **XXXXXX-original-plan.tiff**

When submitting two DIN A 1 plans: **XXXXXX-original-plan-p01.tiff** and **XXXXXX-original-plan-p02.tiff**

Resolution 300 dpi

Color profile: CMYK

3. printable JPG, page size DIN A4 format: **XXXXXX-plan-A4.jpg**

When submitting two DIN A 1 plans: **XXXXXX-plan-A4-p01.jpg** and **XXXXXX-plan-A4-p02.jpg**

Resolution 300 dpi

Color profile: CMYK

4. certificate of enrollment: **XXXXXX-enrollment.pdf**

For group works, all enrollment certificates must be combined in one PDF.

The online form "author's declaration" must be filled out and sent off. It will be made available at www.wolfsburg.de/wolfsburgaward and sent along with the access information to the submission upload folder to the e-mail address specified in the registration.

By submitting the work, the participants confirm

- that they are entitled to participate in accordance with the provisions of the competition,
- that the work was produced by them independently and without unauthorized assistance and is their sole intellectual property
- that the submission of the work is made with the knowledge of the named person responsible for the chair.

Incorrectly named, incomplete or duplicate submissions may be excluded from the procedure.

Procedure and Monetary Award

The independent jury appointed by the awarding authority will select a maximum of ten nominees from the entries received by the deadline from eligible authors. One entry will be awarded the "WOLFSBURG AWARD" by the jury. Recognition prizes will also be awarded.

The prize money for the recognitions will be distributed as determined by the jury. The WOLFBURG AWARD is endowed with a total of 5,000 euros. The following distribution is planned:

Wolfsburg Award: 2,500 euros

Honorable mentions: a total of 2,500 euros

The award and the recognitions consist of a certificate and a monetary award. The nominated competition entries will be published in a documentation and shown in an exhibition in Wolfsburg. All award winners and nominees will be honored in an award ceremony. If, in the opinion of the jury, there are no submissions that are suitable for the prize or as recognition, the awarding of the prize or recognition can be exceptionally suspended or unanimously awarded differently by the jury. After the award ceremony, all the participants and the participating universities will receive the jury minutes to inform them about the outcome.

Deadlines and Dates

Publication: December 2025

Submission deadline: August 16th 2026 (personal submission of models: August 14th 2026 / individual appointment via wolfsburgaward@stadt.wolfsburg.de)

Jury meeting: September 2026

Announcement of the winners/award ceremony: November 2026

SUBMISSION INFORMATION SHEET - The most important information summarized

Participants are obliged to maintain the public anonymity of their work until the award ceremony.

1. Items to be delivered up to and including August 16th 2026, 23:59 h.

- A maximum of 2 design plans DIN A1 or 1 design plan DIN A0
- All Information, including detailed presentation and textual explanations (short and concise, competition languages are German and English) must be included on the plans; additional plans and texts will be excluded.
- The work submitted must not contain any reference to the author
- Each sheet must be marked in the top right-hand corner with a six-digit code number (max. 1 cm high and 4 cm long) of the participant's choice. Models must also be marked with this code number.
- Submission is carried out digitally. The works have to be uploaded via a link provided 3 weeks before the submission deadline. The access data will be sent to the e-mail address provided during registration.
- Submission of models is possible, personal delivery on August 14th, 9:00 to 15:00 h. at:
City of Wolfsburg, Forum Architektur,
Porschestraße 51 (Alvar-Aalto-Cultural-Center, 1st floor, studio)
D-38440 Wolfsburg, Germany
- Arrangement of individual appointments for the delivery of models: wolfsburgaward@stadt.wolfsburg.de
- Models must be collected after the end of the exhibition or will otherwise be disposed at the end of the year.

2. Data formats and naming

The following documents must be uploaded to the digital submission folder and named as follows with the six-digit code number (XXXXXX is to be replaced by the self-selected code number):

1. printable PDF in original page size: **XXXXXX-original-plan.pdf**
If two DIN A 1 plans are submitted, both plans must be combined in a two-page PDF.
2. Printable tiff in original page size: **XXXXXX-original-plan.tiff**
When submitting two DIN A 1 plans: **XXXXXX-original-plan-p01.tiff** and **XXXXXX-original-plan-p02.tiff**
Resolution 300 dpi, Color profile: CMYK
3. printable JPG, page size DIN A4 format: **XXXXXX-plan-A4.jpg**
When submitting two DIN A 1 plans: **XXXXXX-plan-A4-p01.jpg** and **XXXXXX-plan-A4-p02.jpg**
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4. certificate of enrollment: **XXXXXX-enrollment.pdf**
For group works, all enrollment certificates must be combined in one PDF.

Incorrectly named, incomplete or duplicate entries may be excluded.

3. Author's Declaration

The online form "author's declaration" must be filled out and sent off. It will be made available at www.wolfsburg.de/wolfsburgaward and sent along with the access information to the submission upload folder to the e-mail address specified in the registration.