

DECODE

COMPETITION  
DOCUMENTATION  
2025

ISSUER:  
DECODE FOUNDATION FOR  
CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE AND ART

„The title of the competition: DECODE means that it is possible to grasp the stories hidden in the work we have created together with our clients and partners. So the task is to find and interpret these stories and create new ones: everyone has their own!” – Péter Bordás, BORD

## I. ABOUT THE DECODE FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE AND ART

The DECODE Foundation for Contemporary Architecture and Art was established in 2019 by BORD Architectural Studio with the aim of promoting contemporary architecture and art. It organizes programs that highlight the significance of thoughtful creation and value generation, resulting in spaces with distinctive atmospheres, characterful buildings, and inspiring, engaging artistic works. Its mission is to make contemporary works more accessible and understandable to the public.

The Foundation also seeks to foster communication across different artistic disciplines, explore new intersections, and support existing collaborations. Special emphasis is placed on educating younger generations in architecture and the arts.

Since 2019, the DECODE Foundation has managed the DECODE competition, convened a professional jury to evaluate submissions, and organized the DECODE exhibition showcasing the best works, with the awards presented at a formal opening ceremony.

### ABOUT THE FOUNDER: BORD ARCHITECTURAL STUDIO

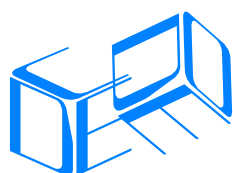
BORD Architectural Studio was founded in 2006 under the direction of architect Péter Bordás. Today, the studio operates offices in Budapest and Debrecen, has expanded to Zurich, and also established in-house HVAC engineering and landscape design studios.

The studio's recent internationally recognized projects include the Sauska Tokaj Winery, seamlessly integrated into the landscape, and the geometric massing of the BudaPrés Cider House in Etyek. In Debrecen, BORD has shaped the city with landmark developments such as the Nagyerdei Stadium and the surrounding Nagyerdei Park rehabilitation, the Aquaticum Waterpark with its three-dimensional water experience, the Forest Offices—Eastern Hungary's most modern office building—the University Innovation Centre, the International School of Debrecen, as well as the Mercure and Hilton Garden Inn hotels next to the Great Reformed Church.

BORD's mission is to imbue each project with a strong, unique character. Every design is built around a central story that informs and guides the architectural concept, ensuring each building has its own distinctive personality. Further details on the studio's projects can be found on their website.

More information:

<https://bordstudio.hu/en/>, [www.facebook.com/BordStudio](https://www.facebook.com/BordStudio), Instagram: @bordstudio.



## II. PURPOSE OF THE DECODE AWARD

With the DECODE Award, the Foundation aims to provide a platform for the intersection of architecture, design, and visual arts, fostering new connections and stronger collaboration between disciplines. The Award highlights works driven by philosophical and conceptual ideas rather than simply the final architectural or artistic product.

A professional jury composed of leading figures in architecture and the arts selects the works to be exhibited and awarded.

The total prize pool for the DECODE competition, across the two categories (Architecture and Visual and Applied Arts), is HUF 2,600,000.

Award ceremony: November 19, 2025

Location: Apollo Gallery, Corvin Palace, 1 Blaha Lujza Square, 1085 Budapest, Hungary

## III. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications for the DECODE Award are open to all Hungarian and international candidates aged 18–35 with a university degree or affiliation to an arts institution (students, scholarship holders, interns, or graduates) in architecture or visual/applied arts (including designers, fine artists, industrial artists, new media/video artists, or photographers).

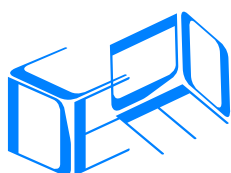
Team applications are accepted and encouraged, especially interdisciplinary teams combining the two categories. Each team may submit in only one category of their choice.

Participation requires prior registration at [decode@bordstudio.hu](mailto:decode@bordstudio.hu) with the subject “registration” by **October 17, 2025, 12:00 PM**. Submitted applications are due by **October 20, 2025, 12:00 PM**, after receiving confirmation of registration.

Registration emails must include:

- Name of applicant(s)
- Date of birth
- Short professional CV including studies (max. 1,000 characters)
- Selected category (Architecture or Visual and Applied Arts)

Questions regarding the competition topic must be submitted in a separate email to [decode@bordstudio.hu](mailto:decode@bordstudio.hu) with the subject “question” by **October 10, 2025**.



## IV. COMPETITION THEME AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

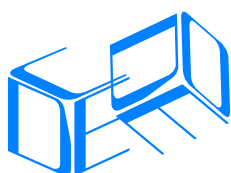
Applicants are asked to present an original work guided by a strong conceptual vision. The DECODE Award emphasizes the ideas and thought processes behind the creation of the work.

How is a work created? In architecture, the challenge often arises from the site, its history and values, function, and other requirements. Inspiration leads to the concept, which informs the entire creative process and culminates in a distinctive, atmospheric work.

**The main focus of submissions is not the finished artwork, building, or plan, but the concept and the story behind its creation.**

A detailed presentation of the award-winning projects of 2024 can be found [HERE](#), and the earlier short film about the award can be viewed [HERE](#). In addition, the shortlisted creators and their works are presented on the [DECODE YouTube](#) channel, while further information is available on the [DECODE Instagram](#) page.

Applicants may compete in two categories:  
Architecture or Visual and Applied Arts.



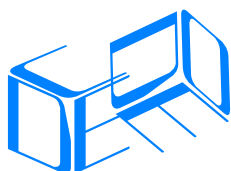


## ARCHITECTURE

In the category of Architecture, applicants are invited to present a concept that has resulted in either a realized or unrealized architectural work. The task is to create a presentation that highlights the strong ideas behind the project, the background story reflecting on the site or its function. The aim is to make this “story” widely understandable — something that can be experienced as if walking through the building itself.

## SUBMISSIONS MUST INCLUDE:

- The presentation should provide a detailed introduction of the concept, the supporting story behind it, and the resulting realized or unrealized design. Submissions must be provided as **a single media file (maximum 3 minutes, minimum 30 seconds) in HD resolution (1280×720)**, in formats such as mp4, avi, or wmv (for example, exported from PowerPoint, PDF, Prezi, or recorded via screen capture). The media file may include slideshows, animations, films, plans, images, stop-motion, hand-drawn or digital illustrations, captions, and other visual material. The best submissions will be presented as part of the DECODE exhibition. Therefore, the presentation must include everything necessary for understanding the project.
- If the presentation contains sound or narration, subtitles must be provided.
- If the presentation includes music, the applicant must ensure its usability and shareability (e.g., royalty-free or with proper credit to the creators).
- If the presentation contains written text, it must not exceed 250 words, and text timing should consider readability. The text may be in Hungarian or English.
- The presentation may be complemented by a physical model, which awardees will have the opportunity to exhibit (considering the exhibition space and its limitations). Decisions regarding installation and/or storage will be made in consultation with the applicant.
- A short written statement related to the work must also be submitted for the jury, summarizing the concept and the project background. Maximum length: 2,500 characters. Language: Hungarian or English. Format: .docx or .pdf.



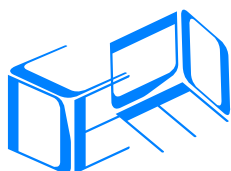


### VISUAL AND APPLIED ARTS

Applicants are tasked with creating an original work or a site-specific intervention, inspired by the spirit of a chosen place (real, fictional, abstract, or metaphorical) and centered on its story. The work can be at the level of a conceptual design or a completed artistic creation.

### SUBMISSIONS MUST INCLUDE:

- The presentation should provide a detailed introduction of the concept, the supporting story behind it, and the resulting realized or unrealized design. Submissions must be provided as **a single media file (maximum 3 minutes, minimum 30 seconds) in HD resolution (1280×720)**, in formats such as mp4, avi, or wmv (for example, exported from PowerPoint, PDF, Prezi, or recorded via screen capture). The media file may include slideshows, animations, films, plans, images, stop-motion, hand-drawn or digital illustrations, captions, and other visual material. The best submissions will be presented as part of the DECODE exhibition. Therefore, the presentation must include everything necessary for understanding the project.
- If the presentation contains sound or narration, subtitles must be provided.
- If the presentation includes music, the applicant must ensure its usability and shareability (e.g., royalty-free or with proper credit to the creators).
- If the presentation contains written text, it must not exceed 250 words, and text timing should consider readability. The text may be in Hungarian or English.
- The presentation may be complemented by a physical model, which awardees will have the opportunity to exhibit (considering the exhibition space and its limitations). Decisions regarding installation and/or storage will be made in consultation with the applicant.
- A short written statement related to the work must also be submitted for the jury, summarizing the concept and the project background. Maximum length: 2,500 characters. Language: Hungarian or English. Format: .docx or .pdf.



### V. EVALUATION AND AWARDS

The independent jury will create a shortlist of valid online submissions received by October 20, 2025. The jury also functions as curator, selecting works for exhibition. The shortlist will be announced on November 11, 2025.

In the second stage, the jury will select the winners from the shortlist in both categories, awarding a maximum of three prizes per category and one Spotlight Award.

#### EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- Uniqueness and coherence of the concept/story with the submitted work
- Visual presentation quality

#### PRIZES PER CATEGORY:

One First Prize: HUF 1,000,000

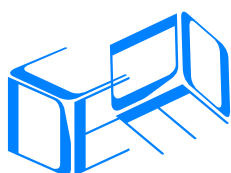
Two "Promising Project" prizes: HUF 150,000 each

The first prize winners will also receive Fruzsina Zalavári's hand-polished DECODE glass award.

#### CATEGORY-INDEPENDENT AWARD:

One "Spotlight" sponsorship award for works that contribute to and promote society

The results will be announced at the DECODE Award Ceremony on November 19, 2025, at Apollo Gallery, Corvin Palace, Budapest. Attendance will comply with current public health regulations; the organizers reserve the right to limit attendees or move the event entirely online if necessary.



## VI. SCHEDULE AND DEADLINES

**September 8, 2025**  
Competition launch

**October 10, 2025, 12:00 PM**  
Deadline for questions (written only)  
decode@bordstudio.hu

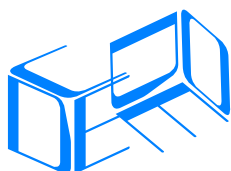
**October 17, 2025, 12:00 PM**  
Online registration deadline  
decode@bordstudio.hu

**October 20, 2025, 12:00 PM**  
Submission deadline

**November 11, 2025**  
Shortlist announcement

**November 19, 2025**  
Award ceremony and results announcement  
(Apollo Gallery, Budapest)

**November 20, 2025**  
Return of exhibited works





## VII. DECODE AWARD JURY

**Péter Bordás**, Ybl Prize-awarded architect, founder and owner of BORD Architectural Studio, founder of DECODE Foundation, Chair of the Jury

**Dr. Anthony Gall, PhD**, Ybl and Pro Architectura Prize-awarded architect, Professor and Dean at Óbuda University, Faculty of Architecture

**Nóra Demeter**, Ybl Prize-awarded architect and interior designer, founder and director of Demeter Design Studio

**János Golda**, Ybl, Pro Architectura and Prima Prize-awarded architect, full member of the Hungarian Academy of Arts

**Borbála Kálmán**, art historian, curator at Ludwig Museum – Contemporary Museum of Arts

**Dr. Krisztián Kukla**, artistic director of art quarter Budapest (aqb)

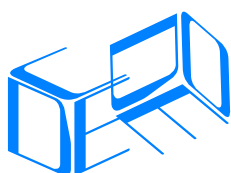
**Ildikó Pém**, founder and owner of BORD Architectural Studio; board member of DECODE Foundation

**Erika Schneider**, communication advisor

**Levente Szabó DLA**, Ybl, Pro Architectura, and Prima Prize-awarded architect, Head of Public Building Design Department at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics

## VIII. COMPETITION RULES

- The competition is open and non-confidential
- Participants accept the jury's decision and waive legal recourse
- Participants must adhere to the competition rules
- Submissions must be in English or Hungarian
- Participants declare they hold full copyright of their submissions
- Submitted works remain the property of the participants
- Participants agree that their works may be photographed and published by DECODE in print and online media without additional compensation



### IX. DATA PROTECTION

By registering, participants consent to the collection and use of their data exclusively for competition-related communication. Personal data will be handled securely and confidentially in compliance with GDPR 679/2016. Participants also agree that their submitted presentation may be freely used in DECODE communication materials, including images and videos on social media, websites, and other platforms. Registration constitutes acceptance of all competition terms and conditions.

[www.decode-foundation.hu/en](http://www.decode-foundation.hu/en)

[www.facebook.com/decodefoundation](https://www.facebook.com/decodefoundation)

[www.instagram.com/decodefoundation](https://www.instagram.com/decodefoundation)

[decode@bordstudio.hu](mailto:decode@bordstudio.hu)

