



European Steel Design Awards 2026 nominees

Steel is recognized for its high potential in terms of strength, durability, design flexibility, adaptability, recyclability and reusability. Today's steel structures allow the best adaptation to modern life and renovation of historical elements of our built environment, being in cities or countryside. Steel is also the perfect material for reaching a circular economy while leaving the necessary room for creativity in design.

The European Steel Design Awards are given by the European Convention for Constructional Steelwork (ECCS) to encourage the creative and outstanding use of steel in architecture. The awards are dedicated to the owners, the architects, the engineers, the general contractors and the steelwork contractors.

ECCS is the European Federation of National Associations of Steelwork Contractors, the unique platform gathering all the actors of the sector: steel producers, contractors, researchers and academics. ECCS is a federation of 16 National Associations of steelwork contractors (see also www.steelconstruct.com).

The Professional Jury met online on 7 July 2026:

Annamarie HAGOORT, The Netherlands, Chairwoman of the Promotional Management Board of ECCS;

Indrani DUTT, Germany, Vice-Chairwoman of the Promotional Management Board of ECCS;

Prof. **Magdalena KOZIEŃ-WOŹNIAK**, DSc, PhD, Eng., Arch., Poland, Kraków University of Technology, Faculty of ArchitectureAssoc.

Prof. **Wioleta BARCEWICZ**, PhD, Eng., Poland, Warsaw University of Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering.

The European Steel Design Awards 2026 nominees have been selected out of 17 projects submitted in total by the ECCS member associations. The overall winner ESDA 2026 Laureate will be announced at the ESDA Ceremony to be held on 16 September 2026 in Krakow, in the frame of EUROSTEEL 2026, the 11th Scientific Conference on Steel and Composite Structures (<https://eurosteel2026.org/>).

The European Steel Design Awards 2026 and nominees for the ESDA 2026 Laureate are (by country alphabetical order):

Austria: SAP Garden - "Munich's New Arena in the Olympic Park"

Located in the heart of Munich's Olympic Park, the SAP Garden is a new multifunctional sports arena and home to EHC Red Bull Munich and FC Bayern Basketball. It was conceived as an integral part of Munich's Olympic Park, following the original vision of a landscape-shaped architecture rather than a standalone building. Its asymmetrical form blends naturally into the park's topography, creating a seamless transition between architecture and landscape while establishing new public spaces for recreation and outdoor activities. The SAP Garden combines a multifunctional arena with three underground training ice rinks, creating a highly complex structural system that integrates architecture, landscape, and engineering. The training halls are covered by long-span steel trusses supporting a landscaped roof with up to five meters of soil cover, forming an artificial hill that extends the Olympic Park. Optimized steel truss layouts, high-strength S460 steel, and a reduced number of primary members significantly improved structural efficiency and constructability. The arena roof spans up to 87 meters and consists of a spatial steel truss system with longitudinal trusses providing redundancy, stiffness, and deformation control. The double-curved roof geometry creates shell-like structural behavior while allowing large column-free spaces for sports and events. Particular engineering challenges included accommodating significant deformations caused by the roof loads and integrating the distinctive facade fins through adjustable and sliding connections. Advanced bearing systems and detailed construction-stage analyses ensured long-term performance, efficient erection, and seamless interaction between the steel structure, facade, and landscape elements.

Project Owner: Red Bull Stadion München GmbH

Structural engineering firm: diebauplaner salzer&partner zt gmbh

Architectural firm: ARGE 3XN / CL MAP

Steelwork fabricator: Unger Stahlbau Ges.m.b.H.



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Czech Republic: Smetana Hall – Rectantable Removable Roof above the Courtyard of the Litomyšl Castle

The "SmetaNOVÝ sál", a new removable multipurpose venue located in the courtyard of the Litomyšl Castle, protects the stage and audience from inclement weather, while carrying stage technology, scenic lighting, and acoustic systems. The 31x29m steel lattice structure, positioned 18.5m above ground on two columns supporting a fixed roof section and a rectantable upper section operating on six rails. The assembly process involves erecting the columns, followed by lifting the pre-assembled roof sections using motor hoists. The structure of the roof can be installed within two weeks and is fully demountable and is present on site only during the cultural season.

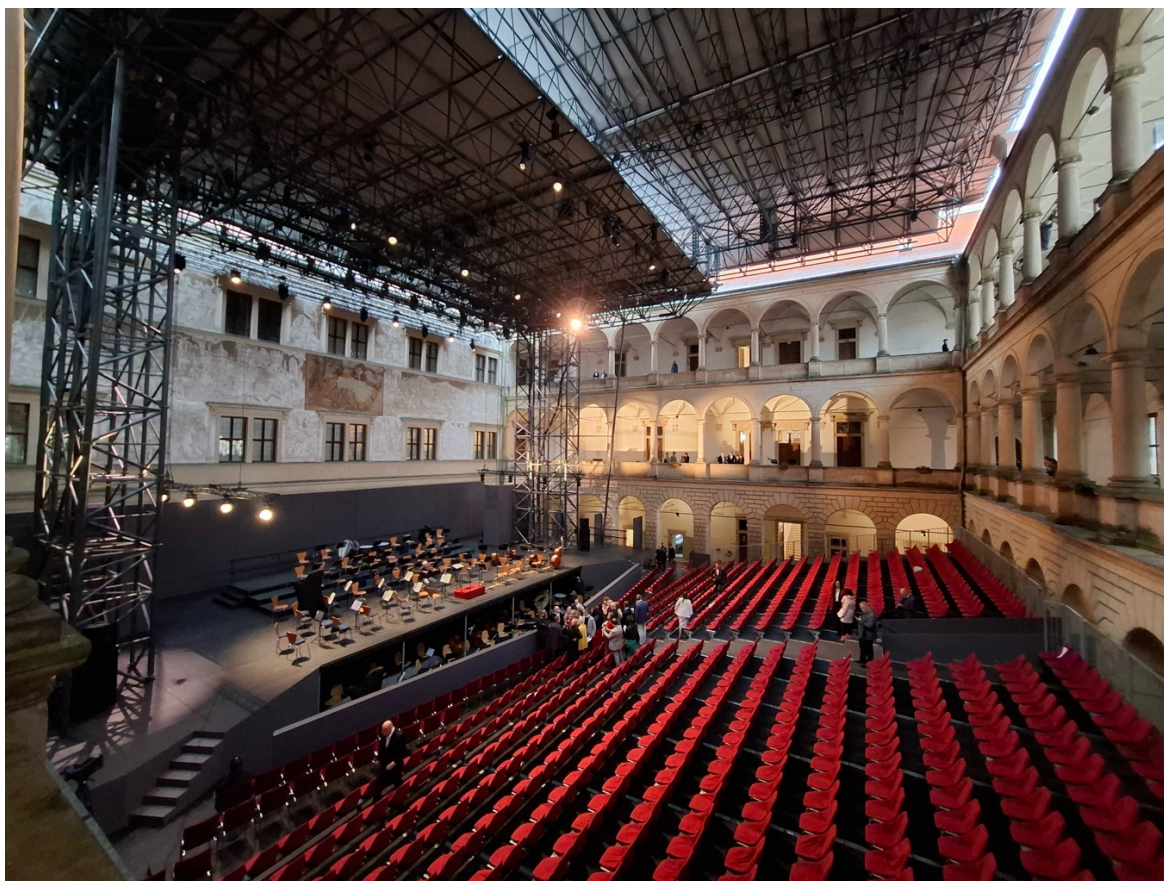
Project Owner: Smetanova Litomyšl o.p.s.

Structural engineering firm: EXCON, a.s.

Architectural firm: AP atelier

General Contractor: EXCON, a.s. and GRADIOR TECH, a.s

Steelwork fabricator: EXCON, a.s.



© EXCON, a.s.

Denmark: The Atrium Staircase

The Staircase in The Stamp is a 28-metre-high sculptural steel staircase connecting eight floors in a central Copenhagen office. Formed as a sequence of quarter-circle flights, it creates a flowing geometry that contrasts with the more orthogonal structure of the surrounding building. Its curved shape gives the staircase a sculptural quality and allows it to be observed as a central architectural element rather than simply a means of practicality. The open steel construction gives the structure a light appearance despite its large scale. The staircase has a strong sculptural presence, which is only possible because of careful structural engineering. Structural reinforcements have been integrated into the inner side of the stair flights to control deformation and vibrations without compromising the overall architectural concept. This balance between structural engineering and architectural lightness is central to the design of the staircase. The structure is mounted directly onto the existing concrete structure through precise connections, hidden supports, and advanced vibration control in the form of integrated magnetic tuned mass dampers ensures a comfortable natural frequency. The staircase could only be realized in steel, as no other material would have been able to achieve the same combination of long and curved spans with slender proportions. In this way, the structural concept and the architectural expression are inseparable, with steel acting as the key element that makes the entire staircase possible.

Project Owner: Danica Ejendomme P/S

Structural engineering firm: Artelia Danmark A/S

Architectural firm: Cobe

General Contractor: Scan-Trapper A/S

Steelwork fabricator: Scan-Trapper A/S



© Artelia Danmark A/S

Finland: Pohjoisesplanadi 37

In the heart of Helsinki, nestled within the Gaselli block, a historic building over 180 years old has been given a new lease on life thanks to a technically and architecturally exceptional glass roof solution. The former parking lot has been transformed into a sculptural courtyard—Jardin—that combines architectural lightness with structural precision. The glass roof brings light, warmth, and life to the heart of the historic stone structure and opens the space to city residents year-round. The structure resembles natural forms, evoking an impression of biomimetic design. The overall design is innovative and meets sustainability requirements, as the use of steel and structural optimization have been taken to the highest level. The design process also involved developing various solutions for the precise implementation of the structure. 3D files were created for all rods and mounting brackets, which were then used to generate CAM files for the laser cutter. The design and machining of the components for the aluminum glass support system installed on top of the steel frame were also modeled using software.

Project Owner : Keva

Structural engineering firm: Ramboll Finland Oy

Architectural firm: JKMM Architects

General Contractor: Rakennustoimisto O. Hämäläinen

Steelwork fabricator: Teräselementti Oy



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Germany: Sprung über Emscher - Silver Arrow

With the “Leap Across the Emscher,” an extraordinary engineering structure has been created at the junction of the Emscher River and the Rhine-Herne Canal near Castrop-Rauxel—one that goes far beyond its function as a pedestrian and bicycle bridge. The 411.5-meter-long steel bridge is the design and spatial highlight of the generational Emscher conversion project and symbolizes the structural transformation of the Ruhr region—from an industrial wastewater channel to an ecological, cultural, and experiential landscape. The bridge connects urban spaces with the scenic Emscher Valley and links key regional routes such as the Emscher Cycle Path. With its elegant, curved lines, it spans both the Emscher River and the Rhine-Herne Canal, creating a unique experiential space with a pleasant atmosphere, viewing points, and a landmark that defines the area’s identity.

Project Owner: Emschergenossenschaft / Lippeverband
Structural engineering firm: Schüssler-Plan

Architectural firm: DKFS
General Contractor: Emschergenossenschaft / Lippeverband
Steelwork fabricator: INGE DKFS / Schüssler-Plan



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Norway: Drammen City Bridge

Two clients, two design teams, two contractors, one monolithic bridge. A landmark multimodal crossing in Drammen, Norway. This elegant steel-concrete composite bridge spans both river and railway. The system resolves complex constraints, such as poor ground conditions, ice loads and tight geometry, through deep piled foundations, seamless design coordination and advanced parametric modelling. It reconnects the historic districts of Strømsø and Bragernes, while integrating the railway station and river crossing into a single coherent intervention. The architectural concept is defined by a clear duality: from a distance, the bridge presents a strong and recognisable silhouette, appearing to cross the river in three light, elegant spans; at the human scale, it becomes a generous urban boulevard dedicated exclusively to public transport, cyclists and pedestrians. The bridge integrates two distinct structural systems into a continuous solution. Over the railway, a reinforced concrete slab spans multiple short spans, while over the river it transitions into a steel-concrete composite structure with spans of 46, 86 and 42 metres. The composite system consists of longitudinal steel box girders connected to the concrete deck through shear connectors and supported by inclined steel arches, forming the primary load-bearing system. Steel sections were optimised in geometry and thickness to satisfy global stiffness, local stability and fabrication constraints.

Project Owners:

- Drammen kommune
- Bane NOR

Structural engineering firm: Degree of Freedom for Drammen kommune

Architectural firm: SAAHA

General Contractor:

- PNC Norge (Porr), for Drammen kommune
- NCC, for Bane NOR

Steelwork fabricator:

- PROMOSTAL Sp. z o.o. Sp. k.
- PORR Stahl- und Systembau GmbH & Co. KG.



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Portugal: Marseille Provence Airport (France)

The Coeur d'Aéroport (heart in French) is the new jewel of Marseille Provence Airport (AMP), representing the largest restructuring in the airport's history. Inaugurated in 2024 and designed by Foster + Partners, this 22,000 m² glazed hall, constructed with 70% recycled steel, stands 22 meters high and features an innovative inverted beam roof with a 33-meter span and 24-meter cantilever to the airside zone. Sustainability is a major issue of the project, which achieved a 15% reduction in its carbon footprint through careful material selection and the extensive reuse of existing structures. The high-performance glass facades ensure maximum transparency and visual connection to the landscape while utilizing solar protective layers to maintain thermal efficiency. The building features a mixed structural system, combining a steel superstructure with a reinforced concrete infrastructure. The 3700-ton roof grid is supported by 24 main reinforced concrete columns and 2 steel cores. A key innovation was the use of structural steel formwork for these columns, which acted as a support during the assembly phase, allowing the roof and skylights to be installed before the columns were concreted, thus eliminating the need for conventional temporary props, although the resistant rebar was incorporated on the metallic box section (formwork) during the fabrication in factory. The roof operates as a steel single block of 118 x 92m without expansion joints, using peripheral wind-bracing beams to mobilize column stiffness and limit horizontal displacement.

Project Owner: Marseille-Provence Airport (AMP)

Structural engineering firm: WSP

Architectural firm: Foster + Partners / Rougerie Tangram

General Contractor: CorraMore Construction Ltd

Steelwork fabricator:

- GTM SUD
- Travaux du MIDI
- Martifer Constructions SAS



© Marseille Provence Airport

Sweden: The Sheaf

The Sheaf is the result of an architectural competition tasked with creating a 12-m-high observation tower that not only provides a magnificent view of the nature reserve but also creates a spatial experience at ground level and serves as a welcoming symbol for the city of Varberg. The Sheaf is an example of skilful interweaving of architecture and structural engineering, resulting in a sustainable architecture with a strong character, where two materials, wood and steel has been used in the most rational way. The conceptual design of the structure gives a robust and redundant structural system that can be verified by a simplified hand calculation. The structure can be represented as a cantilever fixed at the foundation, where vertical loads are directly transferred directly to the foundation through compressive forces in the timber laths, and the horizontal wind load is carried by tensile and compressive forces in the timber laths. The global stability of the structure is achieved by a diagrid structure that forms a stable triangular pattern defined by the steel rings and the timber laths. As part of a sustainable approach the steel rings were produced near the building site with only a short transport distance of 20 km. The timber laths, which help to mitigate the environmental impact, were also sourced locally. The amount of steel rings and their thickness were optimized in order to reduce the CO2e impact. The timber laths were delivered in their final lengths to the site, eliminating waste.

Project Owner: Municipality of Varberg

Structural engineering firm: Ramboll Sweden

Architectural firm: White Arkitekter

General Contractor: MTA Bygg och Anläggning

Steelwork fabricator: Kungssmide A



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Turkey: IGA VIP Terminal

The IGA VIP Terminal, inspired by Istanbul's endemic "nazende" flower, combines organic form with functional elegance. Housing international and domestic VIP areas, suites, spa, and lounges across four floors, the design emphasizes daylight, transparency, and landscape integration. Sustainable features, local materials, and fluid interiors create a memorable, culturally rooted airport experience.

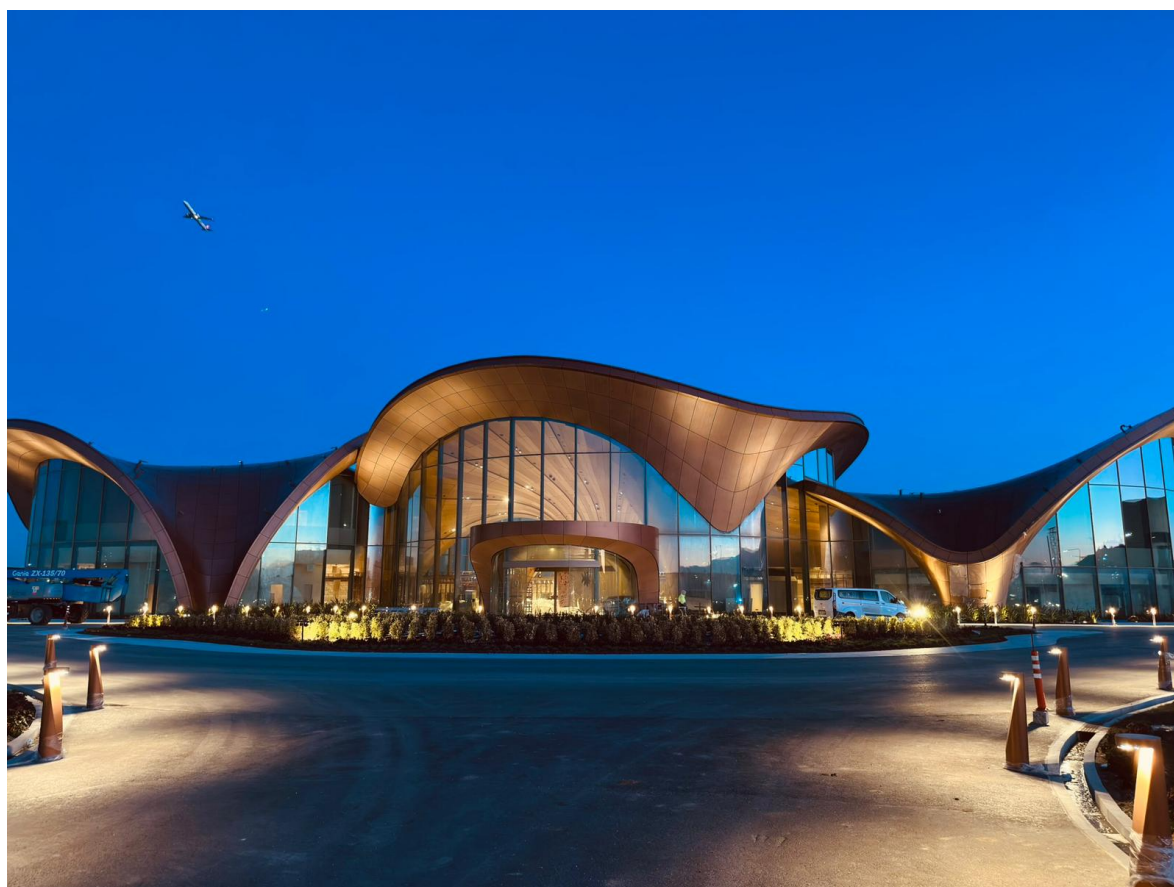
Project Owner: IGA Airport Management

Structural engineering firm: Mista Muhendislik

Architectural firm: Tabanlıoğlu Mimarlık Ve Danışmanlık Ltd.ŞTİ

General Contractor: IGA Airport Management

Steelwork fabricator: Temsan Yapı Ve Makina Endüstri A.Ş.



© Temsan Yapı Ve Makina Endüstri A.Ş.

UK: Skelton Grange Energy from Waste Facility

Skelton Grange is a major Energy-from-Waste facility in Leeds, capable of processing 410,000 tonnes of nonrecyclable waste annually and generating electricity for over 100,000 homes. The project forms the 14th EfW facility delivered in the UK by Kanadevia Inova (formerly Hitachi Zosen Inova) and represents the regeneration of a decommissioned power station site into a modern, critical energy infrastructure asset. Billington Structures delivered 3,000 tonnes of structural steelwork across the full site, including the tipping hall, waste bunker, boiler building, turbine hall, flue gas treatment structure, administration building and workshop. The structural steel solution enabled large column-free spans across key operational zones, supported continuous 24-hour crane operations, and accommodated the complex integration of heavy process equipment within an aggressive 41-week programme. Innovative modular construction techniques, fatigue-resistant connection design and advanced digital coordination using Tekla Structures ensured the steelwork was delivered safely, efficiently and to exacting standards - making a significant contribution to the UK's sustainable energy and waste management infrastructure.

Project Owner: enfinium Skelton Grange Limited

Structural engineering firm: Doran Consulting

Architectural firm: Weedon Architects Limited

General Contractor: Kanadevia Inova (formerly Hitachi Zosen Inova)

Steelwork fabricator: Billington Structures Ltd



© Billington Structures Ltd , © Weedon Architects



Awards Ceremony

The National nominees will be awarded during the ESDA 2026 Ceremony which will take place on 16 September 2026 in Krakow, in the frame of EUROSTEEL 2026, the 11th Scientific Conference on Steel and Composite Structures (<https://eurosteel2026.org/>).

The Laureate and Special Awards were selected among these nominees and will be announced during the ceremony.

A second press release for the overall winners (Laureate and Special Awards) will be published after the ceremony. The winning projects will be published on the ECCS website: www.steelconstruct.com. They will also be published in the ECCS *Steel Construction* Journal.

The material may be used for press-information and publications referring to ECCS European Steel Awards 2026. Copyrights of photos must be mentioned, however. Please always include also the ESDA-2026 logo. Any form of advertising is excluded.

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