2026
XXXIX EDICIÓN
PREMIOS
MACAEL

AEMA
EMPRESAS MÁRMOL ANDALUCÍA

From architecture to social commitment: Macael Awards 2026 announce this year's recipients

- ***This edition, to be held on Friday, November 13, comes ahead of a particularly significant year in 2027: the 40th edition of the awards and AEMA's 50th anniversary.***
- ***The awards recognise projects, professionals and institutions that demonstrate the potential of natural stone and innovative surfaces, as well as their contribution to architecture, design and society.***

Macael, October 15, 2026. – The Andalusian Marble Industry Association (AEMA) has announced the recipients of the 39th edition of the Macael Awards, which will be presented on Friday, November 13. The event will once again bring together architecture, design and construction professionals, institutional representatives and companies from the natural stone and innovative surfaces industry in Macael, in the province of Almería.

This year's selection highlights the diversity of applications, construction solutions and collaborations emerging from an industry whose activity extends beyond the extraction and processing of materials. From architectural projects requiring highly specialised technical expertise to initiatives strengthening the links between the sector and society, the awards showcase different ways of understanding the value of natural stone and the role of the companies that work with it.

The Macael Awards are also approaching a particularly significant moment in their history. The 2026 gala will set the stage for two events taking place in 2027: the 40th edition of the awards and AEMA's 50th anniversary. These two milestones are closely linked to the evolution of the Marble Region, whose industrial and business transformation has enabled its materials, expertise and architectural and design solutions to become part of projects around the world.

Throughout their history, the awards have also served as a meeting point between the industry and the professionals who specify materials, their applications and their potential in contemporary architecture. This relationship is essential to creating new opportunities for collaboration, addressing market challenges and introducing architects, designers and developers to the production and technological capabilities of Macael's companies.

In the days leading up to the gala, two major initiatives will take place: the "Programme to Promote the Natural Stone and Innovative Surfaces Industry",

aimed at future architects from the Andalusian universities of Seville, Granada and Málaga, organised and funded by the Regional Ministry of Universities, Industry, Energy and Innovation of the Andalusian Government; and the International Stone Meeting, organised by Andalucía TRADE. Participants in both programmes will also attend the awards ceremony.

As in previous years, the ceremony will be attended by representatives of the business community, professionals involved in the award-winning projects and public officials, with the support of the sponsoring companies that help organise the awards. In the words of Jesús Posadas, President of AEMA: “Their commitment goes far beyond making this gala possible. They are essential partners of our industry, accompanying us year after year and, in many cases, playing a part in the day-to-day operations and growth of our companies. We therefore wish to acknowledge their support and thank them for continuing to be part of the history of the Macael Awards, especially as we approach their 40th anniversary.”

The recipients of the 39th edition of the Macael Awards are as follows:

MACAEL AWARDS 2026 · 39TH EDITION

At an extraordinary meeting held on October 1, 2026, the Association’s Board of Directors, having reviewed and discussed the merits of the nominations submitted by member companies in the various categories of the 39th edition of the Macael Awards, unanimously agreed to present the following awards:

COMMUNICATION AWARD
PARQUE MINERO | MACAEL, ALMERÍA

The Jury presents the Communication Award to the Macael Mining Park, an initiative that turns the origins of Blanco Macael marble into an educational experience, introducing visitors to the history, culture and production of this natural stone. Through the restoration of the former Macael Viejo quarry, its traditional farmhouses, trails and archaeological remains, the project tells the story of more than two thousand years of activity associated with marble. Walkways and viewing platforms allow visitors to explore the traces of different extraction methods, while an immersive room uses audiovisual content to enhance their understanding. The park thus provides a new space for promoting the Macael brand, contributing to its tourism, cultural and heritage profile from the very territory in which it originated.

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SUSTAINABILITY AWARD
APONIENTE RESTAURANT | EL PUERTO DE SANTA MARÍA, CÁDIZ

The Jury presents the Sustainability Award to Aponiente, chef Ángel León's three-Michelin-starred restaurant, internationally recognised as the World's Most Sustainable Restaurant and the only establishment in Andalusia to hold this distinction. Designed by architect Basilio Iglesias Lobatón, it brings together gastronomy, architecture and environmental regeneration in the salt marshes of the Bay of Cádiz, where it has helped restore more than 20 hectares of degraded ecosystems. Its latest extension incorporates platforms over the tidal channel, with island kitchens and tables made from Dekton REM, selected for its durability and resistance to moisture, salinity and outdoor exposure. The project thus combines restoration of the landscape, responsible use of resources and the selection of durable materials within a single sustainability strategy.

INTERNATIONAL NORTH AMERICA AWARD
PATEL PROJECT | FLORIDA, USA

The Jury presents the International North America Award to Patel Project, a private residential project in Florida developed in collaboration with Stone Tile Group, distinguished by its comprehensive use of natural stone in the main residence, private gym and entrance pavilion. Absolute Black granite, Silver Pearl granite and Blanco Thassos marble define the project through contrasts in colour, texture and finish, adapted to the requirements of each architectural element. Solid blocks and slabs of varying thicknesses were used, totalling 80 m^3 of block stone and 1,900 m^2 of slabs. The stonework was planned from the earliest stages, including technical advice, digital scanning of the structure, preparation of detailed stone layout drawings, coordination of anchoring systems and precision fabrication of each element, ensuring continuity and an accurate fit on site.

INTERNATIONAL LATIN AMERICA AWARD
NOVUS FUNDIDORA | MONTERREY, MEXICO

The Jury presents the International Latin America Award to Novus Fundidora, a mixed-use high-rise residential development designed by Vidal Arquitectos, which reinterprets Monterrey's industrial identity through contemporary architecture in which materiality, functionality and longevity form part of a single strategy. The project incorporates 17,000 m^2 of Dekton Umber in a ventilated façade, creating a continuous envelope in warm, understated tones that responds to the character of its surroundings. The material's reduced thickness, combined with its strength, stability and durability, enables a large-scale intervention with construction precision and lower maintenance requirements. The use of large-format surfaces visually reduces joints and lends continuity to the façade, preserving its appearance and performance over time.

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INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE EAST AWARD
MOMENT | BAT YAM, ISRAEL

The Jury presents the International Middle East Award to Moment, a mixed-use urban regeneration project comprising four 36-storey towers with 714 homes, alongside offices, retail spaces, nurseries and public amenities. Designed by the Giora Gur architecture studio, the project incorporates 83,000 m² of Dekton in different colours and thicknesses across façades, flooring, interior cladding and worktops. The façades posed particular challenges due to the height of the buildings, their proximity to the sea and the size of the panels. These were addressed through a combination of ventilated façade systems: exposed clip fixings for 8 mm panels, concealed Keil anchors for 12 mm panels, and 8 mm Dekton integrated into curtain walling. The solution combines technical precision, durability and aesthetic consistency in a large-scale urban development.

NATIONAL AWARD
RENOVATION OF THE HISTORIC PASEO GENERAL MUÑOZ-COBO
ARJONA, JAÉN

The Jury presents the National Award to the renovation of Paseo General Muñoz-Cobo, known as Paseo Viejo, designed by Mensulae | Arquitectura & Patrimonio and commissioned by Arjona Town Council.

The intervention restores this historic space, one of the town's main gathering places, preserving its traditional layout and heritage features while incorporating criteria for accessibility, durability and construction quality. Natural stone plays a central role in both construction and composition, combining more than 2,600 m² of 4 cm-thick Sierra Elvira grey marble and Alborán cream marble paving. The colour and geometric arrangement of the two materials organises the space and reinforces its urban identity, incorporating the town's coat of arms and motto into the paving itself using waterjet and CNC machining.

INSTITUTION AWARD
ALMERÍA CITY COUNCIL

The Jury presents the Institution Award to Almería City Council, whose transformation of Paseo de Almería represents a large-scale commitment to locally sourced natural stone. The "Ciudad de Plazas" project renews 26,089 m² of the city's main thoroughfare, using travertine from a local quarry as the unifying element across pavements, squares, prominent entrances, fountains and gathering spaces. More than 23,000 m² of natural stone, worked in different formats, tones and finishes, replaces much of the asphalt and creates a continuous urban landscape. Its origin in Macael's Marble Region, together with its durability and versatility, also contributes to a more accessible, permeable and sustainable city model, turning the Paseo into an urban showcase for the contemporary possibilities of natural stone.

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DESIGN AWARD
AZHADI WINERY | KELOWNA, CANADA

The Jury presents the Design Award to Azhadi Winery, distinguished by architecture with a strong identity, defined by a recognisable silhouette and carefully considered continuity between exterior and interior. Across its approximately 2,322 m², Dekton plays an essential role in establishing the project's material language. The façade incorporates 762 m² in Argentium and Helena, while 1,096 m² of interior flooring uses Albarium and Zenith. This combination brings aesthetic coherence to different applications and strengthens the visual relationship between spaces. Silestone surfaces at the reception counter complete a design in which material, geometry and design form part of a single architectural expression.

EXCELLENCE AWARD
THE LIBRARY PROJECT | FLORIDA, USA

The Jury presents the Excellence Award to this private library, made entirely from Belim limestone, which required a design originally conceived in timber joinery to be reinterpreted so that it could be technically realised in dimension stone. The project called for the development of bespoke profiles, thicknesses, joints and assembly systems, as well as a demountable modular system for 13 bookcases, one integrated into a spiral staircase, and four curved modules on the upper floor. Each shelf incorporates a recess machined at 20 degrees for concealed LED lighting and internal wiring channels, coordinated piece by piece. All modules were preassembled before installation to verify tolerances, connections and the assembly sequence. Approximately 35 m³ of blocks of this limestone were used in total.

SOCIAL COMMITMENT AWARD
"REY ALFONSO XIII" II BRIGADE OF THE SPANISH LEGION

The Jury presents the Social Commitment Award to the "Rey Alfonso XIII" II Brigade of the Spanish Legion, represented by the "Don Juan de Austria" 3rd Tercio and its "La Desértica" Sports Club, for its close ties with the Marble Region and its contribution to promoting Macael's natural stone. Since the first edition of La Desértica, its trophies have been made from Macael natural stone, bringing this material to thousands of participants from Spain and abroad and associating it with values such as effort and perseverance. These ties are further reflected in the Cristo de la Buena Muerte in Olula del Río, made from Blanco Macael marble and inaugurated by the Spanish Legion, a symbol of its longstanding relationship with the region.