

1. Application period

Applications can be submitted until 14 December 2025, 23:59 (CEWT).

2. Who can apply?

All faculties and departments for architecture at German and European colleges and universities, as well as non-profit organisations active in the sector.

3. What funding is available and from when does it start?

For the DesignBuild disciplines PROJECT and REFLECT, a total of 120,000 euros in funding is available in 2026.

Submitted projects should start from February 2026 or be ongoing during this period. The call for proposals will also be open from February 2026

4. How and when will the winners be selected and the applicants be notified of the selection process?

The jury's decision will be made in January 2026. The applicants will then be notified.

The basic criteria for project evaluation are:

- Originality of the project
- Architectural quality
- Social and community relevance
- Intercultural exchange and internationality
- Cooperation and interdisciplinarity
- Impact of the project and its impact on the public
- Does the project think outside the box?

5. What should be included in the application?

- A project description including background, objectives, methodology, implementation, actors, other (maximum two A4 pages of text)
- A financing overview

The entire application (including images) should not exceed six to seven pages!

6. Are there any suggestions from previous funding programmes?

You can also find specific cross-project ideas and learnings on the DesignBuild approach in our free publication series DesignBuild REFLECT (<https://sto-stiftung.de/en/funded-projects/competitions-and-tenders/designbuild/designbuild-reflect>).

For more information on projects that the Sto Foundation has supported in the past, please visit our website: <https://sto-stiftung.de/en/funded-projects/competitions-and-tenders/designbuild/designbuild-project>.

7. How can I apply?

Through the online application tool at <https://sto-stiftung.de/en/funded-projects/competitions-and-tenders/designbuild>

Please note, once an application is sent and submitted to the Foundation, it can no longer be altered.

Practical information

In order to complete the online application successfully, please note the following points:

- All sections must be completed.
- Fields marked with a asterisk are mandatory and must be completed.
- **Important: Once you have submitted your application, you will not be able to make any changes.**

8. Are repeated applications allowed?

- Suitable applications are: Applications from institutions or departments in the field of architecture, regardless of whether they have already received funding at an earlier stage.
- Not permitted: multiple or repetitive applications for one and the same project proposal.
- Follow-up funding for further in-depth research on the topic in another volume or for further follow-up research on a project is in principle possible but must be applied for separately.

9. Public Relations:

The Sto Foundation pursues an active public relations policy. It reports regularly on the projects it supports. The proactive involvement of the sponsored organisations and projects is expressly desired and is an important part of the cooperation with the Sto Foundation. To this end, the Foundation's communications department contacts the project managers and requests material. A project report, including image material, must be submitted to the Sto Foundation by the project's end date at the

latest. Universities and colleges are responsible for ensuring compliance with image rights (including obtaining declarations of consent from those pictured).