



European Steel Design Awards 2026 – ESDA 2026

The overall winner **ESDA 2026 Laureate** and **Special Awards** were announced and celebrated in the frame of the EUROSTEEL 2026 conference (<https://eurosteel2026.org/>) on 16 September 2026, in Cracow.

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.

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, Assoc. Faculty of Architecture.

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.

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.

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.

ESDA 2026 LAUREATE

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



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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

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.

The Jury is delighted to honour the Skelton Grange Energy from Waste Facility with the European Steel Design Award ESDA 2026 - LAUREATE PRIZE. This project sets new standards for the use of structural steel in complex industrial infrastructure while redefining expectations of industrial architecture. Built on the site of a former power station, the facility transforms a brownfield location into a vital piece of sustainable energy infrastructure. Comprising 3,000 tonnes of structural steel across seven highly complex buildings, the project demanded exceptional engineering expertise,



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digital coordination and construction excellence. Key achievements include a 50-metre crane-support mega-truss, fatigue-resistant structures designed for continuous operation, and elegant perforated arch girders spanning the full width of the waste bunker. Advanced digital modelling and innovative modular construction techniques enabled the project to be delivered safely and efficiently within an ambitious 41-week programme.

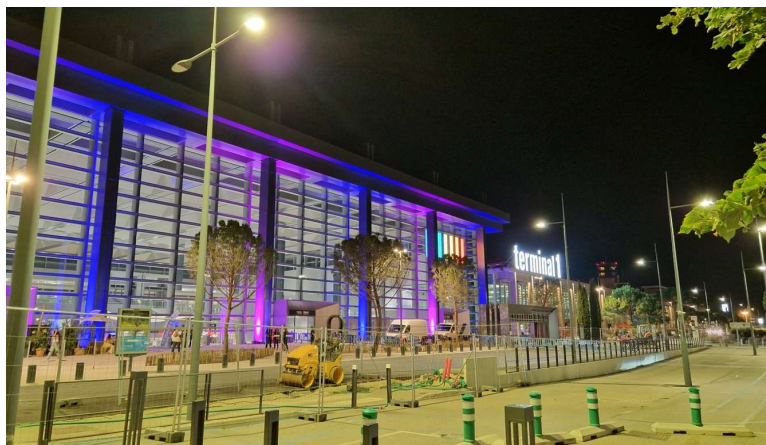
What particularly impressed the Jury was the project's architectural quality. Industrial facilities are rarely celebrated for their visual appeal, yet Skelton Grange demonstrates that function and architectural expression can coexist. Its distinctive double-curved roof form reduces the visual scale of the building and creates a memorable landmark, while the steel structure itself contributes to a coherent and refined architectural identity.

Beyond its engineering and architectural excellence, the facility delivers substantial environmental benefits, diverting 410000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste from landfill each year and generating electricity for more than 100000 homes. It stands as a powerful example of how engineering innovation, sustainability and design quality can be successfully united in a single project.

ESDA26 Special Award - Sustainability

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



© Marseille Provence Airport

Project Owner:

Marseille-Provence Airport (AMP)

Structural Engineering Firm:

WSP

Architectural Firm

Foster + Partners / Rougerie Tangram

General Contractor:

- GTM SUD
- Travaux du MIDI
- Martifer Constructions SAS

Steelwork Fabricator:

Martifer Metallic Constructions

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.

The Jury is proud to present the Special Award for Sustainability to the *Coeur d'Aéroport* at Marseille Provence Airport, a project that demonstrates how structural steel can drive environmental responsibility, architectural quality, and operational excellence in major infrastructure developments.

Sustainability in this building is embedded throughout both the architectural and structural design, achieving a 15% reduction in carbon footprint through the extensive reuse of existing structures



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and the incorporation of 70% recycled steel in the new building. A grid of 60 skylights provides abundant natural daylight and enables natural ventilation, significantly reducing cooling demands, while high-performance glazed façades with solar protection improve thermal efficiency. These passive environmental strategies are seamlessly integrated into a striking architectural composition that reconnects the airport with its surroundings.

The Jury was also impressed by the innovative structural solutions that reduced construction impacts, minimized material consumption, and improved construction efficiency, while allowing airport operations to continue uninterrupted throughout the construction period. These solutions demonstrate that the rehabilitation of complex infrastructure can be both ecologically responsible and operationally effective.

ESDA26 Special Award – Modular Residential Structure

Turkey – Türkiye İş Bankası Malatya

Modular Residential Housing Project

The Malatya Social Housing project, commissioned by Türkiye İş Bankası following the Kahramanmaraş earthquake, sets a benchmark for rapid, resilient housing. Delivered in 180 days using off-site modular construction, with four apartments installed per floor in a single day, it comprises 4 blocks and 320 modules. As Türkiye's first five-storey modular steel housing project, enabled by a BIM-integrated digital twin, it marks a milestone in industrialized construction. Positioning itself as a strong solution to Türkiye's ~1M annual safe housing demand.

Project Owner:

Türkiye İş Bankası (İş Bank)

Structural Engineering Firm:

Meinhardt Türkiye

Architectural Firm:

TEĞET Architecture

General Contractor:

CONSERA (Design & Build)

Steelwork Fabricator:

AKKON, CONSERA

The Malatya Social Housing project in Turkey was awarded a **SPECIAL AWARD** –

affordable modular housing, as a strong solution to safe housing demand in Turkey, commissioned following the Kahramanmaraş earthquake. The off-site modular construction was delivered in 180 days and consists of 320 units across four blocks, including a basketball court and a children's playground. The structural system is based on a hybrid modular approach combining volumetric steel



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modules with a central core and four concentrically braced frames at the building corners, ensuring seismic resistance and torsional stability. Compared to reinforced concrete, the structure is lighter, enhancing performance and construction speed. The jury recognized the high quality of the design and commission of a sustainable facility that simultaneously meets the requirements for construction in earthquake-prone areas. The project demonstrates that the use of a modular system with a steel supporting structure can be an effective solution, resulting in an affordable, functional, coherent residential structure and can be also a good solution for other forms of temporary housing.



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The European Steel Design Awards 2026 Finalists were (by country alphabetical order):

AUSTRIA

- SAP Garden - Munich's New Arena in the Olympic

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Horácká multifunkční aréna Jihlava
- Sky Walk Heart of Píseň
- Smetana Hall – Rectangular Removable Roof above the Courtyard of the Litomyšl Castle

DENMARK

- The Atrium Staircase

FINLAND

- Pohjoisesplanadi 37

GERMANY

- New Build Pts Station Sky Line Rail Terminal 1 Frankfurt Airport
- Sprung über Emscher - Silver Arrow

NORWAY

- Brakerøya footbridge and railway station
- Drammen City Bridge

PORTUGAL

- Marseille Provence Airport

SWEDEN

- The Sheaf

TURKEY

- Acıbadem Kent Hospital
- IGA VIP Terminal
- Türkiye İş Bankası Malatya Modular Residential Housing Project

UK

- All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC)
- Skelton Grange

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