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International architectural photography competition named after Luís Ferreira Alves

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Perpetuating Luís Ferreira Alves's legacy, applications for the first edition of the Luís Ferreira Alves International Photography Competition | A Contemporary Look at Architecture are open until 25 April. The biennial initiative seeks to honour the legacy of a nationally and internationally renowned photographer whose work has bridged the gap between analogue and digital, offering a unique perspective on the work of several renowned Portuguese architects.

The competition is designed for university students, researchers and professionals, in architecture, photography and related areas, and allows individual or group applications. Participants are invited to submit an original photographic series of five to seven images that cohesively portray an architectural work or set of works, accompanied by a descriptive text of no more than two thousand characters.

The aim is to promote a deep understanding of the practice and discipline of architecture both in Portugal and worldwide, as well as to communicate the significant and unique relationship that a photographer can establish with an architect and their work.

The winner of the Luís Ferreira Alves International Photography Competition will be awarded a ten thousand euros prize, while second place will receive four thousand euros. The third best will be entitled to a 1,500 euros voucher for photographic equipment.

The winners will also receive copies of the work 'Luis Ferreira Alves in the Works of Eduardo Souto de Moura' and will have the opportunity to see their work presented in an exhibition and published in an exclusive catalogue. The selected works will become part of the Luís Ferreira Alves Photography Prize collection, contributing to a continuously growing collection that celebrates architectural photography.

The jury for the competition is made up of architect Eduardo Souto de Moura, photographers Hélène Binet and Paulo Catrica. Two additional members will also be appointed: a personality linked to curatorship, art or editorial direction, and a representative appointed by the Ministry of Culture.

The winners will be announced during the month of June, while the awards ceremony and the exhibition of the winning projects is scheduled for September.

City Council unanimous in its support for the competition

Launched by the photographer's heirs, the Luís Ferreira Alves International Photography Competition | A Contemporary Look at Architecture is promoted, among others, by the Municipality of Porto, which includes the City Council's unanimous vote to award support amounting to 50,000 euros, 'to be allocated exclusively to part of the expenses and costs relating to the logistics of holding the competition'.

The municipality is joined by Cityscopio - Associação Cultural, which is managing and operationalising the competition, Casa da Arquitetura, and the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto (FAUP). The initiative also has the Northern Regional Coordination and Development Commission as a strategic partner responsible for its organisation, and the Portuguese Bar Association and the Marques da Silva Foundation Institute as institutional partners.

The Luis Ferreira Alves International Photography Competition is sponsored by CIN, BPI and Canon, and, in the area of communication by Metro do Porto.

The advisory board is made up of a representative of each promoting organisation, architect Eduardo Souto de Moura, a representative of Luís Ferreira Alves' family, and a representative of FAUP's Architecture, Art and Image Research Group (Centre for Studies in Architecture and Urbanism – CEAU/AAI). The Organising Committee is made up of a member from each promoting organisation and a representative from FAUP, appointed by the faculty's Board.

Full details of the application process can be found [on the initiative's website](#).

Luís Ferreira Alves was the first photographer to be honoured as an Honorary Member of the Order of Architects. In July 2015, he was awarded the Gold Medal of Cultural Merit by the Porto City Council, which invited him to record the renovation of Mercado do Bolhão.

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