



LUIS FERREIRA ALVES PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

**Luis Ferreira Alves International
Photography Competition**
A Contemporary Look at
Architecture

Competition Overview

The “Luis Ferreira Alves International Photography Competition | A Contemporary Look at Architecture” is a biennial programme. It aims to honour the person and the work of this outstanding photographer, who bridged the gap between analogue and digital photography and whose work is recognised both nationally and internationally.

Luis Ferreira Alves’ photographic work demonstrates a remarkable ability to create a unique perspective, both “objective” and “subjective”, on the work of various renowned Portuguese architects, including Álvaro Siza Vieira and Eduardo Souto de Moura. His images convey an intimate understanding of these architects—both Pritzker Prize winners—and the architectural spaces they designed. While it is true that Luis Ferreira Alves offers us visually striking documents of architectural spaces and forms, his perspective, shaped by centuries of visual culture since the Renaissance, goes beyond mere representation. His work reveals a deep understanding and appreciation of architecture due to his close relationship with the practice and discipline itself.

The Prize is based on the “Luis Ferreira Alves International Photography Competition | A Contemporary Look at Architecture,” which, through a protocol, includes the heirs of Luis Ferreira Alves and the promoters of the competition, namely Porto City Council (CMP) and Cityscopio-Cultural Association (CCA). The competition also has other important institutional partners, distributed between the organising committee - as the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto (FAUP) - and the group of strategic and sponsoring entities, as Casa da Arquitetura (CA) and the Northern Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDRN), the Marques da Silva Foundation Institute (FIMS) and the Order of Architects (OA); groups of great relevance, such as the CIN brand in the coatings market, widely recognised internationally and one of the largest companies in Europe and the world in the sector. Other notable partners include BPI, a financial institution focused on banking services in Portugal and controlled by CaixaBank Group, an economic leader in Spain, and Canon, one of the largest camera manufacturers in the world. We also have the Metro do Porto support in communicating and publicising the Competition - a light rail network essential to the city’s public transport system.

The main objectives of this international competition are:

To promote, through the lens of photography, a deep understanding of the practice and discipline of architecture, both in Portugal and worldwide, within broader sociocultural, artistic, technical, political, and historical systems.

To communicate the significant and unique relationship a photographer can establish with an architect and their work. We believe that this nuanced understanding is an essential lesson from Luis Ferreira Alves' architectural photography and something that this competition seeks to foster and strengthen, especially when architecture is increasingly consumed through images.

Context

The "Luis Ferreira Alves International Photography Competition | A Contemporary Look at Architecture" draws inspiration from Luis Ferreira Alves' artistic vision and life experiences, rooted in two key pillars: his deep appreciation for architecture and his enduring connection to the city of Porto. For this reason, the promoters of the competition are Porto City Council - which awarded him the Gold Medal of Cultural Merit, recognising him as a meritorious citizen of the city and the Cultural Association Cityscopio (publisher of the book Luis Ferreira Alves - Fotografias em obras de Eduardo Souto de Moura, 2016), as well as strategic partner Casa da Arquitectura - as the space that houses a large part of his archive and, among others, the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto, which is part of the organising committee due to its strong connection to Luis Ferreira Alves' work as an architectural photographer.

As a pioneer of architectural photography in Portugal, Luis Ferreira Alves contributed to the dissemination of the work of many architects on an international scale.

This competition aims to serve as a pedagogical programme that recognises and highlights emerging talents, both in the field of architectural photography and in architecture itself. This recognition will be achieved through the awarding of Prizes, the exhibition of the short lists and winning works, and their publication in a catalogue.

Additionally, the competition will allow other entities to promote debates and round tables on the theme, open to the academic community and cultural institutions interested in studying and disseminating photography and architecture.

The programme will be organised in its 1st and 2nd Editions, according to the following schedule:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 7 January 2025 | Announcement and opening of the “1 st Luis Ferreira Alves International Photography Competition A Contemporary Look at Architecture” |
| 25 April 2025 | Deadline for submission of works to the competition |
| May 2025 | Shortlist announcement of 2025 |
| June 2025 | Announcement of the 2025 winners / press release |
| September 2025 | Awards ceremony for 2025 Exhibition of the 2025 shortlist and winning projects, and presentation of a catalogue with the selected works |
| 25 April 2026 | Announcement and opening of the “2 nd Luis Ferreira Alves International Photography Competition A Contemporary Look at Architecture” |
| 31 October 2026 | Deadline for submission of works to the competition |
| 25 April 2027 | Announcement of the 2026 winners Awards ceremony for the 2026 competition Inauguration of the exhibition of the 2026 shortlist and winning projects, and presentation of a catalogue with the selected works |
| 25 April 2028 | Announcement and opening of the “3 rd Luis Ferreira Alves International Photography Competition A Contemporary Look at Architecture” |
| 31 October 2028 | Deadline for submission of works to the competition |

The exhibition will showcase the selected works and may also be accompanied by drawings and other documents related to conceiving and constructing the photographic project, encouraging reflection on the practice and discipline of photography and its relationship with the world of architecture, which characterised Luis Ferreira Alves’ work.

Prizes and Honourable Mentions will also be awarded at the exhibition’s opening. The 1st Prize entries will receive a cash Prize, the 2nd Prize will also receive a smaller cash Prize, and the 3rd Prize will receive photographic equipment, all of which (including the Honourable Mentions, if any) will be published in a catalogue, which will be presented on that date.

Photographic Project Submission

The "Luis Ferreira Alves International Photography Competition | A Contemporary Look at Architecture" was designed to encourage the creation of a photographic series capable of communicating the essence of a work or set of architectural works, while allowing for imagination and a personal approach, by the principles outlined in the Competition Regulations.

Competition Regulations

Chapter I – Objectives

a) General Objective

The 'Luis Ferreira Alves International Photography Competition | A Contemporary Look at Architecture' aims to inspire the creation of a photographic series of 5 to 7 images, accompanied by a descriptive text of no more than 2,000 characters, that effectively conveys an architectural work or ensemble, promoting architecture through photography.

b) Specific Objectives

Quality of the Photographic Series - To encourage the production of photographic series made up of 5 to 7 images that present:

- A coherent and poetic visual narrative;
- High technical and artistic quality;
- Originality and the ability to explore the essence of the architectural work.

Visual and Conceptual Exploration - Promoting the creation of series that:

- Relate the photographs to each other, in order or with a cumulative effect;
- Emphasise fundamental concepts of the work and the architect;
- Capture unique moments and points of view, increasing understanding and interpretation of the architectural space.

Phenomenological Perspective - Encourage the production of photographic series that:

- Portray different perspectives and phenomenological experiences of architectural space;
- Communicate the values and programme underpinning the work;
- Offer a rich and dynamic architectural promenade.

Humanisation and Transformation of Space - Encourage the capture of:

- The multidimensional and changing richness of architectural space as a living organism;
- The presence of the human scale and the humanist values that structure the work.

Chapter II – Themes and Participants

- a) All photography projects must relate to the theme and objectives proposed when the competition is announced;
- b) The competition includes a single general category—Architecture—which encompasses any photography format, without limitations regarding colour, whether analogue or digital, as long as the images are submitted in digital format;
- c) This competition is open to the general public;
- d) Participation in this competition can be individual or collective, provided that the group presents itself as a single competing unit;
- e) Each participant may submit only one project;
- f) Participants must guarantee in writing that the images submitted have not won prizes in other competitions;

Chapter III – Submission of Proposals

- a) Photographic projects must be submitted to <https://site.picter.com/luis-ferreira-alves-photoaward-2025> by April 25th 2025 (deadline: 11:59 p.m. Portugal Time - Greenwich Mean Time), following the instructions on the platform, which will request the following information

(To be completed on <https://site.picter.com/luis-ferreira-alves-photoaward-2025>):

Profile

- First name, last name (recommended)
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Nationality
- Postal address (recommended)
- Telephone number
- Biography (max. 1500 characters) (recommended)
- Email

Project

- Project title (recommended)
- Year of creation
- Place of creation
- Project description - descriptive text of no more than 2000 characters (recommended)
- The submitted project must consist of a series of 5 to 7 photographs

Images

- Title of each image
- Year of creation
- Place of creation
- The images must not contain any form of digital signature or watermark

b) The entrant must ensure that the photographs submitted to the competition are of sufficient quality to be printed for the Jury meeting, exhibition and catalogue if the entrant is a finalist or winner. This means that finalists and/or winners will subsequently be asked to send files for printing and colour proofs;

c) The works will be evaluated as a whole (as a photographic series), and it is a prerequisite that the photographs possess undeniable technical quality.

Chapter IV – Jury

a) The Jury will consist of 3 individuals with recognised expertise, prestige, credibility, and international experience:

- A national figure linked to the world of architecture with national and international merit and recognition by peers: in the 1st contest, it will be architect Eduardo Souto de Moura.
- A national figure linked to the world of architectural photography with unquestionable national and international merit and recognition by peers: in the 1st contest, it will be photographer Paulo Catrica.
- A foreign figure linked to the world of architectural photography with unquestionable international merit and recognition by peers: in the 1st contest, it will be photographer H el ene Binet.

b) The Advisory Board and Organising will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Jury of the International Competition is composed of individuals of recognised competence;
- Defining the list of proposed names for the Jury;
- Identifying the theme of each competition.

c) The Jury’s evaluation process will be done in three phases conducted via the platform <https://site.picter.com/luis-ferreira-alves-photoaward-2025> and all phases will have as base the following five evaluation criteria:

- Quality and poetic content of the narrative;
- Technical quality of the photographs;
- Artistic and visual quality of the photographs;
- Originality;
- The series’ ability to present the architectural work distinctively, using a visual narrative that explores the concepts behind the work and the architect, where the images relate to each other either through sequence or cumulative effect.

In the first phase, the organisation will pre-select the photographic projects, ensuring that all entries meet sufficient photographic and artistic documentary quality.

In the second phase, the Jury will rank the submissions to create a shortlist of 10 projects.

In the third phase, there will be a more detailed assessment of the 10 finalists, who will be contacted to send the photo files in print-quality TIFF format. Based on the hard copies of the shortlisted entries, the jury's assessment at this stage will be carried out in person by all members. The result of this assessment will also be recorded on the platform.

d) From the 10 best photographic series selected by the Jury, the top 3 will be chosen for the 1st, 2nd, and/or 3rd Prizes. Depending on the winners' profiles, the Jury may assign the Prizes as a "beginning of career" award (for a young photographer) or a "discovery" award (for an unknown talent). There is no obligation to award a "beginning of career" or "discovery" prize;

e) Once proposals have been accepted for evaluation and classified as finalists, they are considered to be of sufficient quality to be awarded all the Prizes, including 1st Prize. However, the Jury reserves the right not to award the 1st Prize if it considers, in a reasoned manner, that no work has met the required criteria of excellence. In this event, the decision must be justified in the minutes and taken unanimously or by qualified majority;

f) The Jury reserves the right to select fewer than 10 projects for the finalist list if the lack of quality of the works justifies it;

g) There will be no appeal against the Jury's decisions, and they are responsible for handling any cases not covered by these regulations;

h) Jury members and organisers cannot participate in the competition.

Chapter V – Prizes

a) The top three projects will receive a monetary award and professional photography equipment, as follows:

1st Prize – €10.000 sponsored by CIN

2nd Prize – €4.000 Supported by Fundação 'la Caixa' in collaboration with BPI

3rd Prize – voucher for photographic equipment worth €1.500 sponsored by Canon.

b) All Prize winners will receive the book "Luis Ferreira Alves in the Works of Eduardo Souto de Moura";

c) All Prize winners will receive a certificate;

d) The winners will be entitled to 3 (three) copies of the exhibition catalogue;

e) The authors of Prize-winning and other submitted projects will be notified of the competition results via Email;

f) The authors of the selected projects must submit the photographic files in TIFF format (adobe RGB 1998, 8 a 16 bits, 300dpi), along with colour proofs, within 20 days after the announcement of the results. This deadline is essential to ensure the project's publication and printing for the exhibition. Failure to comply with this point will invalidate its eligibility and publication, except in justified situations accepted by the organisation.

Chapter VI – General Provisions

- a) Only works that comply with these regulations will be admitted to the competition;
- b) Submission of projects to the competition implies that participants acknowledge and agree to be bound by these regulations;
- c) Failure to comply with any of the points in the regulations will result in disqualification from the competition;
- d) Any matters not covered by these regulations will be resolved by deliberation of the competition Jury;
- e) The Prize organisers and Cityscopio - Cultural Association / scopio® reserve the right to publish and disseminate the images submitted to the competition in accordance with Portuguese law n. 2/99 of January 13th;
- f) The Prize organisers and Cityscopio - Cultural Association / scopio® will safeguard the copyright of the projects submitted to the competition. No payment will be due for using the images in any publications or promotional events related to this photography competition;
- g) The photographs printed for the exhibition, once the exhibition and any subsequent tours are over, will be incorporated into the Luis Ferreira Alves Photography Award archive.
- h) The photographs of the 1st Prize winner will become the property of the Prize sponsor – CIN, while maintaining the moral rights of the author.

Chapter VII – Promoting Entities, Organisation, and Technical Commission

- a) Promoting organisations: Porto City Council (CMP) + Cityscopio-Cultural Association (CCA).
- b) Advisory Board: Advisory Board: one representative from each Promoting Entity + Architect Eduardo Souto Moura + Family Representative + one Representative from the Architecture, Art and Image Research Group of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto - Centre for Architecture and Urbanism Studies / (FAUP - CEAU/AAI).
- c) Organising commission: one representative from each Promoting Entity + one representative from the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto (FAUP), appointed by the Board.
- d) Cityscopio - Cultural Association (CCA): responsible for the operationalisation and management of the Luis Ferreira Alves Photography Award.
- e) The jury comprises three people with recognised competence, prestige, credibility, and international experience.

f) Sponsoring Entities:

- In the Awards: CIN, Fundação 'la Caixa' in collaboration with BPI, Canon
- In Communication: Metro do Porto
- Organisation: CCDRN

g) Strategic Partners

- Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Norte (CCDRN)
- Casa da Arquitetura (CA)

h) Institutional Partners

- Ordem dos Arquitetos (OA)
- Fundação Marques da Silva (FIMS)

Chapter VIII – Contacts and Registration

a) Registration and submission of content for the competition will be carried out through the platform <https://site.picter.com/luis-ferreira-alves-photoaward-2025>

b) For other contacts and information, please use the following addresses:

- Email: info@luisferreiraalvesphotoaward.com
- Website: luisferreiraalvesphotoaward.com
- Instagram: [@lfaphotoaward](https://www.instagram.com/lfaphotoaward)
- Postal address CTT: PO BOX 001601, 4108-007 Porto, Portugal