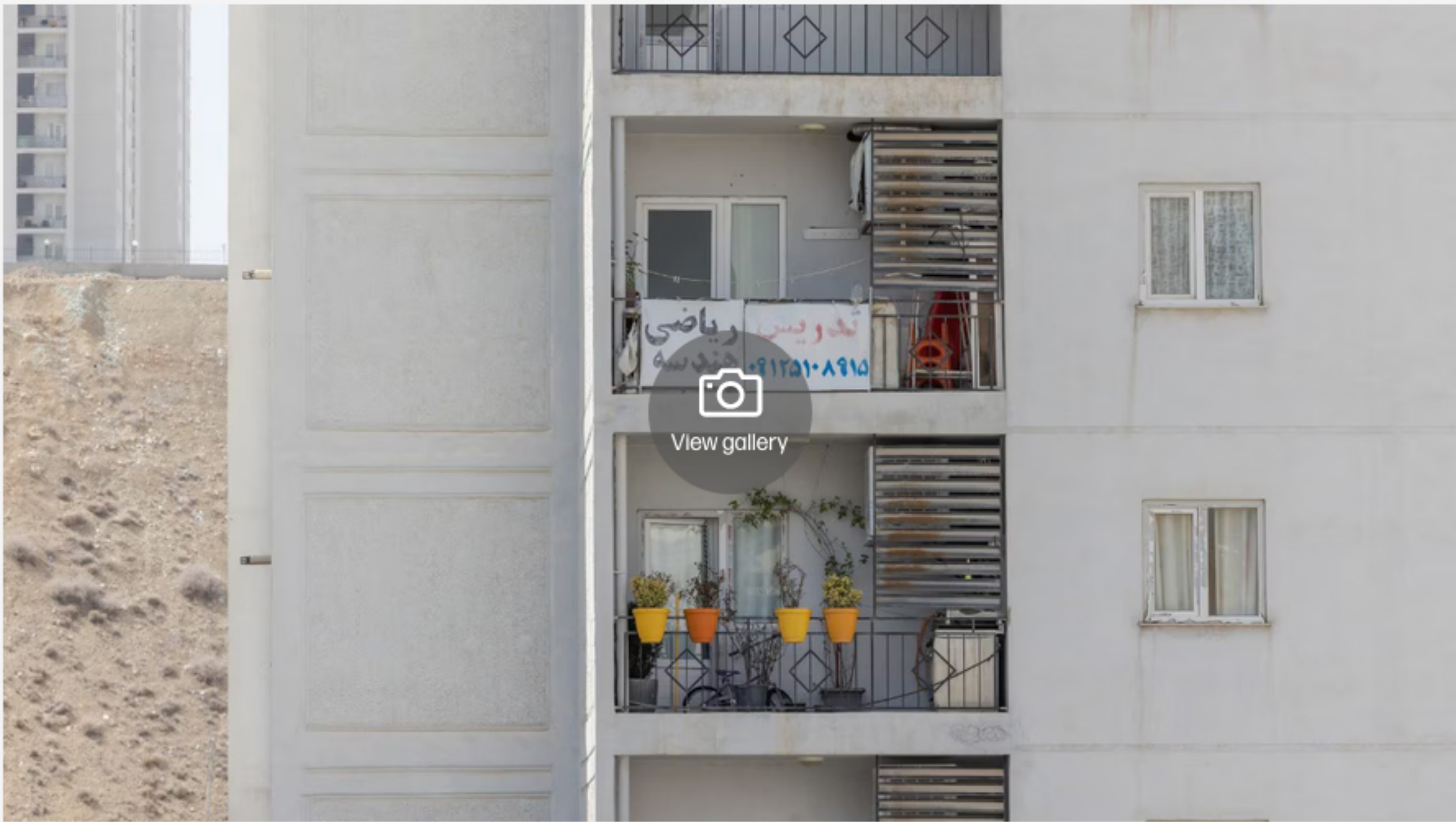


LFA Award returns, the International Architectural Photography Competition

Ahead of the new open call, the award dedicated to Luis Ferreira Alves looks back at the projects from its first edition and announces the international jury for the 2026 competition.

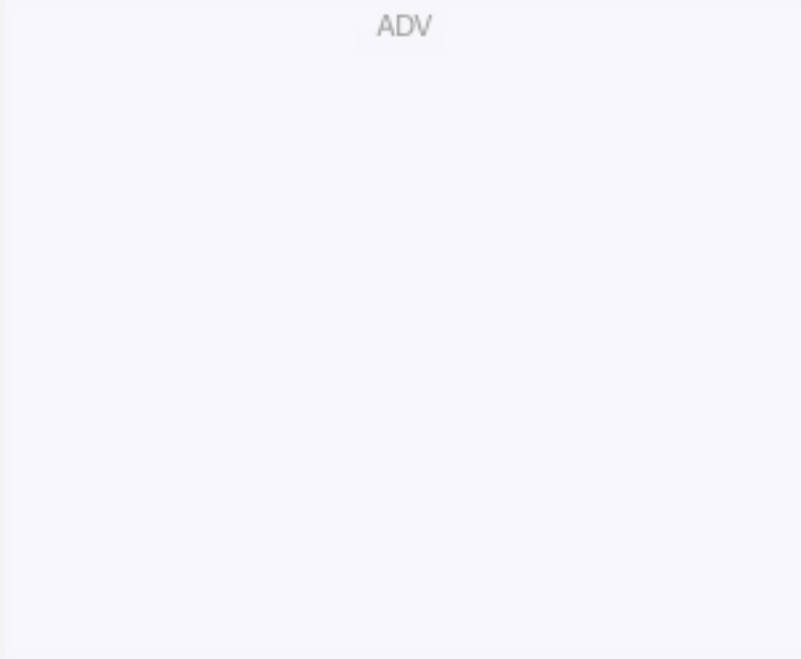


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This autumn will see the return of the international photography competition dedicated to architecture, born in tribute to the celebrated Portuguese photographer Luis Ferreira Alves. More than a simple competition, the prize stands as a cultural platform for visual research and international dialogue on the relationship between architecture, the city, territory and contemporary life, inviting photographers to move beyond depicting buildings as isolated objects and instead explore how architecture is inhabited, transformed, remembered and lived.

While waiting to discover the details, it is worth revisiting the results of the first edition, which gathered 1,495 entries from 99 countries, confirming the international relevance of the initiative. From this participation, the jury, made up of architect and Pritzker Prize winner Eduardo Souto de Moura, photographer H  l  ne Binet, and photographer, artist and researcher Paulo Catrica, selected a shortlist of ten photographic series distinguished by their conceptual strength, visual coherence and technical quality.

The first prize was awarded to Iranian photographer Maho for Frequent Whites, a rigorous visual investigation of the outskirts of Tehran, where identical white apartment blocks tell a human story of migration, memory and the search for belonging. Photographed across all four seasons, the architecture of Pardis becomes, in the jury's words, a silent narrative played out under the gaze of Mount Damavand, capable of conveying both technical precision and a genuine critical idea of landscape.

Second prize went to French photographer Cyrille Weiner for Oui avec plaisir, a poetic exploration of temporary theatre and performance spaces, while third prize was awarded to Spanish photographer Sergio Belinch  n for Provisional Atlas of Berlin, a visual investigation of a city marked by overlapping histories and the continuous reinvention of its spaces. The jury also awarded special mentions to Amelia Lancaster, for Abstractions: Studies of the National Theatre, and Sana Ahmadizadeh, for The Hidden Land, two works that introduced new geographies and perspectives into the competition, addressing the interpretation of brutalist architecture and the relationships between landscape, archaeology, memory and political history.

The selected and awarded projects were subsequently presented through a public exhibition and a bilingual publication, conceived not as a simple catalogue but as an autonomous space for visual culture, research and debate, bringing photography into dialogue with critical essays and reflections on architecture.

While the new open call is still to come, the second edition is preparing to carry this journey forward with a renewed international jury, made up of Italian photographer Paolo Rosselli, RIBA Photographs Curator Valeria Carullo, and Portuguese architect and academic Jo  o Pedro Ser  dio.

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