



OPEN CALL FAV 2027

« *SHARED HAPPINESS* »

For the 21st edition of the Festival des Architectures Vives, the Champ Libre association is launching a call for applications to design and create 10 installations as part of the festival in Montpellier, France.

The Festival takes place in the heart of Montpellier, within the historic Ecusson district, and more specifically in the courtyards of private mansions (hôtels particuliers). This unique setting offers visitors a journey through the city, inviting them to discover architecture from a new perspective.

The FAV has two main objectives:

- To open to the public remarkable heritage sites that are usually closed or inaccessible.
- To reveal the intimate relationship between ephemeral contemporary architecture, artistic installation, and heritage.

FESTIVAL

The Festival des Architectures Vives seeks to respond to the evolving practice of architecture, which, embracing all the fields connected to its culture, is increasingly asserting itself through its built and spatial interventions. Ephemeral and inherently evolving, Architectures Vives are site-specific interventions, conceived for a particular place and designed to exist within a limited timeframe.

Like a form of augmented reality, they are added to a space, transforming it or revealing it, bringing to light what had been forgotten, overlooked, or, on the contrary, had become too familiar. Respectful of the places in which they are embedded, they create an environment where past, present, and future can meet, leaving room for each individual's imagination. Throughout the festival, they invite us to reconsider our everyday surroundings and offer the public a sensory and unexpected experience. As true catalysts for perception, they encourage us to rediscover the pleasure of a place and of the city, to engage the senses and the tactile, and to place people at the heart of architecture.

For its 21st edition in Montpellier, the Festival will take over sites that embody the city's historical identity, particularly its numerous courtyards, or private mansions. Today, Montpellier is home to more than seventy of these historic residences, many of which contain private inner courtyards that are usually inaccessible to the public. Once serving as semi-public and semi-private spaces, these courtyards fulfilled a variety of functions, including representation, reception, and circulation. Today, often reduced to little more than transitional spaces, they have gradually lost their original purpose and their place in the collective imagination.

FAV, A UNIFYING CULTURAL EVENT

The FAV attracts an ever-growing number of visitors each year. From 3,500 visitors in 2006, the festival welcomed more than 13,000 people in both 2023 and 2024. In 2025, the FAV surpassed the 16,000-visitor mark for the first time. The 2026 edition confirmed this exceptional momentum, attracting nearly 18,000 visitors and setting a new attendance record, further demonstrating the public's growing interest in the festival.





AN INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

Since its inception, the Festival has embraced an international approach. Nearly half of the invited architects come from abroad, bringing with them a diversity of cultures, practices, and visions of architecture. This openness is central to the Festival's identity, which aims to be a forum for exchange, research, and experimentation on a European and global scale.

The Festival has welcomed academics and institutions from numerous countries, thus strengthening its reach. These include the Elisava School of Architecture in Barcelona, Tohoku University in Japan, Syracuse University in the United States, Aalto University in Finland, Laval University in Quebec City, Harvard Graduate School of Design, the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC), and many others. The FAV also participates in the European ReCITYing program.

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PROGRAM *reCITYing*



2025 : *Portrait of a planet* (UNIGE)



2025 : *Food-waste futures* (IAAC)

ReCITYing, a project co-founded by the European Union's Europe Programme, aims to create a networking and exchange platform for best practices in the temporary reuse of urban spaces. Targeting young creatives, professionals in architecture, design, and the arts, as well as local policymakers and social enterprises, this project promotes the regeneration of disused urban spaces and buildings into artistic laboratories and cultural incubators.

The project fosters practical knowledge and professional skills in reuse architecture in four partner cities and four host cities (Genoa-Lublin, Barcelona-Umeå, Hanover-Tallinn, and Maribor-Timisoara). It combines the expertise of several institutions: the University of Genoa (UNIGE) (inclusive co-design), the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC) (digital fabrication), the University of Hanover (LUH) (urban resilience strategies), the Maribor Art Gallery (UGM) (visual arts and artistic events), and the FAV.

At the 2025 edition of the festival, UNIGE and the IAAC presented works exploring the relationship between architecture and scenography, and between architecture and Land Art. **At the 2027 edition, partners LUH and UGM will highlight the interactions between architecture and music, and between architecture and visual arts.**



KEY FIGURES

20 YEARS OF FAV

With a track record of 20 editions in Montpellier, the FAV has already opened the doors to 32 private mansion courtyards.

This story has also unfolded along the coast, with three editions held in La Grande Motte.

94%

of visitors expressed satisfaction with the documentation provided and the artworks presented*

**survey conducted with the CCI in 2023*

460 MEDIATORS*

97%

of visitors were satisfied with the welcome and information provided by the mediators*

**since 2006*

**survey conducted with the CCI in 2023*

AN ACCESSIBLE HERITAGE

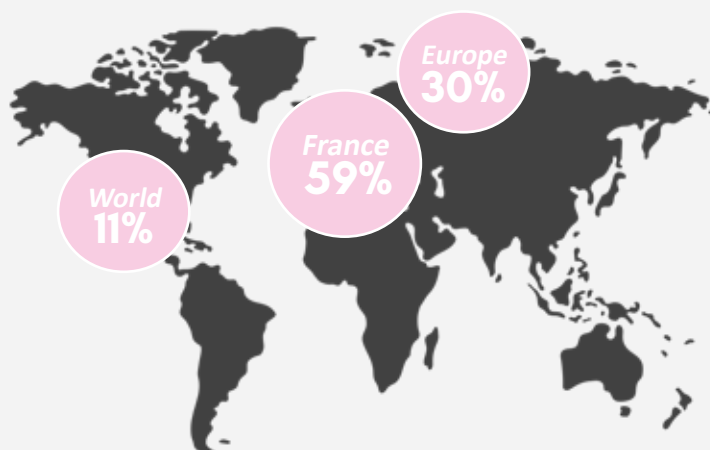
30

courtyards of private mansions exceptionally opened to the public by the FAV since 2006, namely:

OVER 40%

of Montpellier's private mansions have been made accessible over the course of the various editions.

26 NATIONALITIES



For 2026 edition

THE THEME

« SHARED HAPPINESS »

In 2027, the Festival des Architectures Vives will present its 21st edition, a particularly significant year that will also mark the 50th anniversary of the 1977 Architecture Act, which affirmed that “architecture is an expression of culture” and that the quality of our living environment is a matter of public interest.

This anniversary offers an opportunity to reaffirm the principles that have guided the FAV since its creation: architecture shapes our shared living environment, but it must also be experienced and explored. This is precisely what the festival proposes each year by bringing heritage and contemporary creation into dialogue. For the duration of the festival, ephemeral installations transform our perception of historic places, offering everyone the opportunity to experience architecture in a sensitive and accessible way. They invite visitors to discover these places differently, to experience them, to share them, and to encounter one another. Because architecture shapes our uses, our relationships and our everyday experiences, it plays a fundamental role in the way we live together.

It is in this spirit that we have chosen “Shared Happiness” as the theme for this 21st edition, inviting us to reflect on what architecture can offer in terms of spaces for encounter, connection and sharing.

To explore this theme, we have chosen **Chris Younès**, whose career and work are deeply rooted in the ability to create connections: between architecture and philosophy, between disciplines and fields of knowledge, and, more broadly, between people, places and their living environments.

Her text, « *The City as a Common Body: Towards a Joyful Architecture of Sharing* », opens up the field of reflection proposed to architects for the 2027 edition.



The City as a Common Body: Towards a Joyful Architecture of Sharing

Within every human community, our relationship to ourselves and to others unfolds through a subtle balance between domesticity and public space, between microcosm and macrocosm, between permanence and impermanence, between the ordinary and the extraordinary. While happiness is often reduced to an individual pursuit, it cannot endure without places of conviviality where we can come together to restore and renew ourselves. These shared living spaces are not mere backdrops; they actively contribute to giving form and substance to our multiple life trajectories. We know this from experience: smells, materials, and soundscapes and visual atmospheres cling to us, from our earliest childhood to our final breath. Through the wonder, surprise and familiarity that are continually renewed within them, these places become reservoirs of joy—or, conversely, may weigh upon individual and collective consciousness.

Buildings, urban environments and landscapes are not static objects. They are rhythmic events, experienced at every moment by those who move through and inhabit them. A city that stimulates the senses, nourishes reverie and encourages shared practices gives rise to a “common body”—at once real, imaginary and symbolic. This body is woven through a multiplicity of connections: streets, squares, pavements, footbridges, bridges, courtyards, stairways, parks, gardens and riverbanks. Everything that connects and welcomes contributes to making the city hospitable, opening up possibilities that are at once deeply breathable and compelling.

From an ecological perspective grounded in the ethic of care, such a relational architecture can respond to the challenges of our time, whether climatic or political. Beyond providing shelter, it must be attentive and caring, recognising nature as an essential partner. A happy city is one that restores biodiversity, makes careful use of what already exists, repairs and rehabilitates, and creates flexible spaces capable of supporting each person’s vulnerabilities and freedoms, while fostering the joy of being in communication and in resonance with others. In contrast to closed and hostile spaces, is it not the hope of an enchantment—and a re-enchantment—of habitability that is at stake? Is this re-enchantment not inseparable from an openness to atmospheres and forms of reciprocity capable of transforming the city into an ecosystem where urban life and solidarity come together to create a happiness that is truly shared?



Chris Younès
Patron of the FAV 2027

Biography

Chris Younès is a philosopher, holds a PhD and a habilitation to conduct research in philosophy. She has taught at several schools of architecture in France, including ENSA Clermont-Ferrand and ENSA Paris-La Villette, and currently teaches at the École Spéciale d'Architecture in Paris. Her research focuses on the relationships between philosophy, architecture and urbanism. Her publications and research develop a synergistic dialogue between architecture and philosophy around the question

of inhabiting places, at the intersection of nature and artefact, heritage and creation. Her work explores the ways in which we inhabit our living environments and the conditions required for a more sensitive, welcoming and coexistence-oriented environment.

She is the founder of GERPHAU (Philosophy, Architecture, Urban Studies) and of the PhilAU thematic scientific network of the French Ministry of Culture, as well as co-founder of ARENA (Architectural Research European Network). A member of several architectural competition juries, author of numerous books and a speaker at international conferences, she has for many years contributed to dialogue between researchers, architects and local stakeholders. Nominated for the « Grand Prix de l'urbanisme » in 2025, she continues to develop her thinking on the ways in which we inhabit and transform territories.

Through her research, publications and teaching, she has made a major contribution to broadening architectural thinking to encompass the philosophical, sensory and existential dimensions of inhabiting.

« *SHARED HAPPINESS* »

An Invitation to Experiment with Shared Happiness

For this 21st edition, we invite teams to explore what “Shared Happiness” can generate when it takes shape in space. How can architecture create the conditions for encounter, spark curiosity, inspire wonder, invite us to pause, to look differently, to experience and create together?

Within the courtyards of Montpellier’s private mansions, each intervention will be called upon to invent its own relationship with the place, its history and those who move through it. The aim is not to illustrate happiness, but to create situations that allow it to be experienced—through a gesture, a material, light, movement, use, interaction or an unexpected experience.

The proposed architectures may be generous, playful, contemplative, surprising or participatory. They may reveal what is already there or, conversely, temporarily shift our perception of it. What they will all share is the ambition to make architecture an experience to be lived and shared.

Because this is also what the FAV is about: for a few days, heritage and contemporary creation come together to transform places and open up new collective experiences. And while these living architectures are ephemeral, the experiences they create can remain long after they have disappeared.

Together, let us make the Festival des Architectures Vives a place where architecture brings people together and where joy can be shared. It is up to each team to invent, within a courtyard and for a limited time, its own way of giving form to “Shared Happiness”.



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

Recognising that, in order to evolve within a world of finite resources, it is essential to rethink not only our practices but also our modes of production, the Festival des Architectures Vives and its participating teams are committed to an environmental approach that addresses issues of resource use, material reuse, and waste recovery throughout both the creation of the installations and the organisation of the event.

The FAV's environmental commitment aims to limit the use of resources, promote natural materials, and encourage the reuse, recycling, repurposing, or donation of materials used in each installation. The installations must therefore be conceived with this environmental approach in mind from the outset, throughout their production, and beyond the festival itself.

The installations may be kept by their authors and subsequently exhibited, adapted, or modified for use in a different context after the festival.

Each selected team will therefore be required to sign an Environmental Charter established by the Festival.

LE FAV IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MAS RÉEMPLOI



Since 2024, Mas Réemploi—a Montpellier-based material reuse platform—has partnered with the FAV.

Participating teams have access to an online catalog of materials that they can incorporate into their designs.



At the end of the festival, some of the materials used are collected for reuse or recovery.



Each year, the FAV and Mas Réemploi present the Environmental Award, recognizing the project that has most effectively incorporated the principles of reuse and eco-design.

FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Following the 2026 festival, a collection drive was carried out for the 13 temporary installations on display. Thanks to the reuse of materials from the installations, the 2026 edition thus enabled nearly:

**12,275 KG CO₂E
SAVED**

This represents:

- 3.7 tonnes of materials incorporated into reuse
- 6 round-trip flights between Paris and New York

APPLY FOR FAV 2027

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Profiles: The call for entries is open to young professionals (architects, landscape architects, urban planners, etc.). The team (whether individual or multidisciplinary) must include at least one qualified architect (holding a DPLG, DE, or HMONP degree, or a foreign equivalent).

Status: The festival is reserved exclusively for professionals. Students are not eligible.

Number of projects: Only one entry per candidate/team.

PREPARATION OF THE APPLICATION PACKAGE

The submission must be provided as a single PDF file (maximum 10 MB) named according to the following format:
FAV2027_PROJECT NAME_REFERENT NAME

The submission must include the following documents:

- **Application form (provided in the appendix), duly completed and signed.**
- **CV for each team member (max. 1 A4 page per member).**
- **Portfolio / Visual references of past projects, competitions, or installations.**
- **Statement of intent (approx. 1 page) explaining the conceptual approach in relation to the «Shared Happiness» theme.**
- **An image (3D perspective) of the proposed project in relation to the theme.**

Note: Submissions must feature an original creation. All external sources and references must be explicitly cited.

SCHEDULE AND SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Submission deadline: Monday, December 7, 2026, at 11:59 PM (French time).

Submission method: Upload the PDF file via the online form available:

- On our website: www.festivaldesarchitecturesvives.com
- Via the link in the Instagram bio: @festivaldesarchitecturesvives
- Below

Announcement of results: Late December / Early January

The submission link:

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/QEE9JVXF8GKXBF4T9](https://forms.gle/QEE9JVXF8GKXBF4T9)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SELECTED TEAMS

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

- Site visit in Montpellier : February 2027 (organized tour of the courtyards)
- Setup: June 9–14, 2027
- FAV 2027: June 15–20, 2027
- Dismantling: June 21, 2027

COMMITMENTS & LOGISTICS

On-site autonomy: The team is entirely responsible for assembly and dismantling. At least one team member must be present during these phases.

Project monitoring: Interim deliverables will be required to verify technical and regulatory progress.

Site constraints: The installations are deployed in inhabited heritage sites. They must ensure public safety while preserving the integrity of the built environment and the comfort of residents.

GRANTS & PARTNERSHIPS

Grant: A lump sum of €1,500.00 (inclusive of tax) will be awarded to each selected team to cover costs such as production, transport, equipment, etc. This amount is paid out following the festival.

Sponsorship / Partnerships: Teams are encouraged to seek additional partners or sponsors. Their logos or names may be included in the festival's official communication materials (signage, publications, website). Sponsorship is only available from French companies.

FAV x V2COM Partnership: As part of our partnership with the V2COM press wire, the team winning both the Jury Prize and the Public Prize will receive a gift certificate for the distribution of a press kit on V2COM.

CONTACTS & FAQ

For any questions regarding the call for applications:

- Email: communication@festivaldesarchitecturesvives.com
- Website: www.festivaldesarchitecturesvives.com
- Social media: Instagram @festivaldesarchitecturesvives | Facebook: Festival des Architectures Vives

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Is it mandatory to be an architect to participate?

At least one team member must hold an architecture degree (DPLG, DE, HMONP, or a foreign equivalent). Collaborations with other disciplines (landscape architects, designers, urban planners, cabinet makers) are encouraged.

Can students apply?

No, the festival is reserved for qualified professionals.

What should the statement of intent include?

It should be approximately one A4 page long and summarize your concept and your approach to the theme. It should outline the main features of the project you wish to develop.

Must the project be adapted to a specific courtyard at the application stage?

No. Projects are selected independently of any specific courtyard. The proposal should be designed to be adaptable to various types of courtyards.

After selection, the organizers assign each team the location best suited to their project, taking into account the architectural and technical characteristics of each site. Selected teams will then receive all necessary information (measurements, technical constraints, exposure, etc.) to adapt their project to the assigned location.

Photos of the courtyards are available on the festival website during the call for applications.

Finally, to preserve the heritage, it is strictly forbidden to drill into, nail, or glue anything to the walls and floors of the private mansions.

Does the specified grant of €1,500 (incl. tax) cover architects' fees and project construction costs?

The €1,500 (incl. tax) covers the total cost (transport, materials, etc.). However, you are free to find your own sponsors; all our communication channels are open to you.

Is there an application fee?

No. Applying to the FAV is entirely free.

Can foreign teams participate?

Yes. The call for applications is open to both French and international teams.



FICHE CANDIDATURE APPLICATION FORM

FESTIVAL DES ARCHITECTURES VIVES 2027

MONTPELLIER

1. Coordonnées de l'équipe candidate *Contact details of the applicant team :*

L'INTERLOCUTEUR DE RÉFÉRENCE POUR L'ORGANISATION / REPRÉSENTANT

PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE ORGANIZATION / REPRESENTATIVE

** mentions obligatoires - mandatory information*

NOM - NAME* :

PRÉNOM - FIRST NAME* :

ACTIVITÉ / DIPLÔME - ACTIVITY / QUALIFICATION* :

ADRESSE / PAYS - ADDRESS / COUNTRY* :

EMAIL* :

TEL PORT - PHONE* :

AUTRES MEMBRES DE L'ÉQUIPE

OTHER TEAM MEMBERS

** mentions obligatoires - mandatory information*

NOM - NAME* :

PRÉNOM - FIRST NAME* :

ACTIVITÉ / DIPLÔME - ACTIVITY / QUALIFICATION* :

ADRESSE / PAYS - ADDRESS / COUNTRY* :

EMAIL* :

TEL PORT - PHONE* :

NOM - NAME* :

PRÉNOM - FIRST NAME* :

ACTIVITÉ / DIPLÔME - ACTIVITY / QUALIFICATION* :

ADRESSE / PAYS - ADDRESS / COUNTRY* :

EMAIL* :

TEL PORT - PHONE* :

NOM - NAME* :	NOM - NAME* :
PRÉNOM - FIRST NAME* :	PRÉNOM - FIRST NAME* :
ACTIVITÉ / DIPLÔME - ACTIVITY / QUALIFICATION* :	ACTIVITÉ / DIPLÔME - ACTIVITY / QUALIFICATION* :
ADRESSE / PAYS - ADDRESS / COUNTRY* :	ADRESSE / PAYS - ADDRESS / COUNTRY* :
EMAIL* :	EMAIL* :
TEL PORT - PHONE* :	TEL PORT - PHONE* :

2. Avez-vous déjà candidaté au FAV Montpellier? Have you ever applied to FAV Montpellier?

OUI-YES / NON-NO

Si oui, année de candidature *If yes, year of application :*

À renvoyer dûment complétée, datée, signée et accompagnée des éléments du dossier constituant un seul fichier PDF de 10 Mo maximum, **au plus tard le : Lundi 7 décembre 2026 à 23h59**, heure française. (GMT+1 / date d'émission faisant foi) sur le formulaire en ligne : **<https://forms.gle/f4q8vnWZrgVRADoz6>**

*To be returned duly completed, dated, and signed, along with the application documents combined into a single PDF file (maximum 10 MB), no later than **Monday, December 7, 2026, at 11:59 PM (French time/GMT+1; submission timestamp applies)**, via the online form: **<https://forms.gle/f4q8vnWZrgVRADoz6>***

Fait à Done at , le on

Signature du représentant *Representative's signature:*