



Barcelona
2026
Capital Mundial
de l'Arquitectura

World
Congress
of Architects.
Barcelona.
UIA 2026.



Diputació
Barcelona



Ajuntament de
Barcelona

IN BARCELONA OVA

URBAN INNOVATION CHALLENGE
'MINERAL. Architectures of the urban mining'

Background

1 *Barcelona's commitment to circularity and decarbonization*

2 *Barcelona's commitment to Innovation*

3 *Barcelona World Capital of Architecture 2026*

4 *UIA Congress 2026 hosted by Barcelona*



Credit: Helene Binet

Context



Every year, thousands of square metres of streets and squares are regenerated in Barcelona, and other cities.



These works generate millions of tones of Construction and Demolition Waste (CDW)

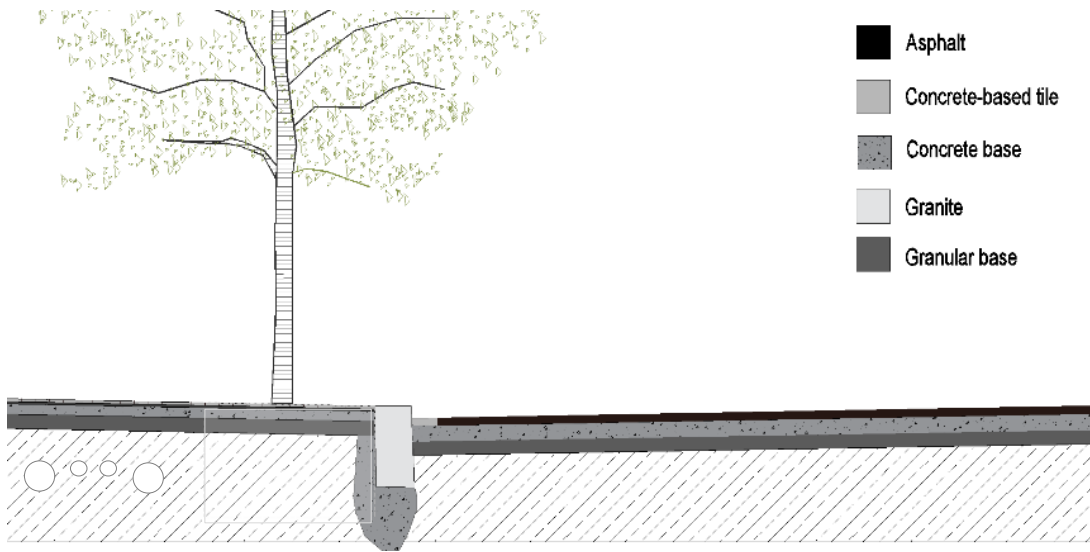
Catalonia

6,95 Mt
CDW

71.8%
Recycling
plant

1,96 Mt
Landfills

TYPE DETAIL OF AN EXISTING STREET IN BARCELONA



What are we looking for?

INNOVATIVE
solutions/processes
to **REUSE** leftover
materials from urban
redevelopment
projects, to **CREATE** a
new architectural
construction system
or method, with **NEW**
ARCHITECTURAL
applications and
VALUE

Not **ONLY** a new material
but a **NEW CONCEPT** of
construction system or
method with Architectural
values



The solution should be primarily implemented in public spaces, though building-related proposals will also be considered.



WHO IS TARGETED AT?

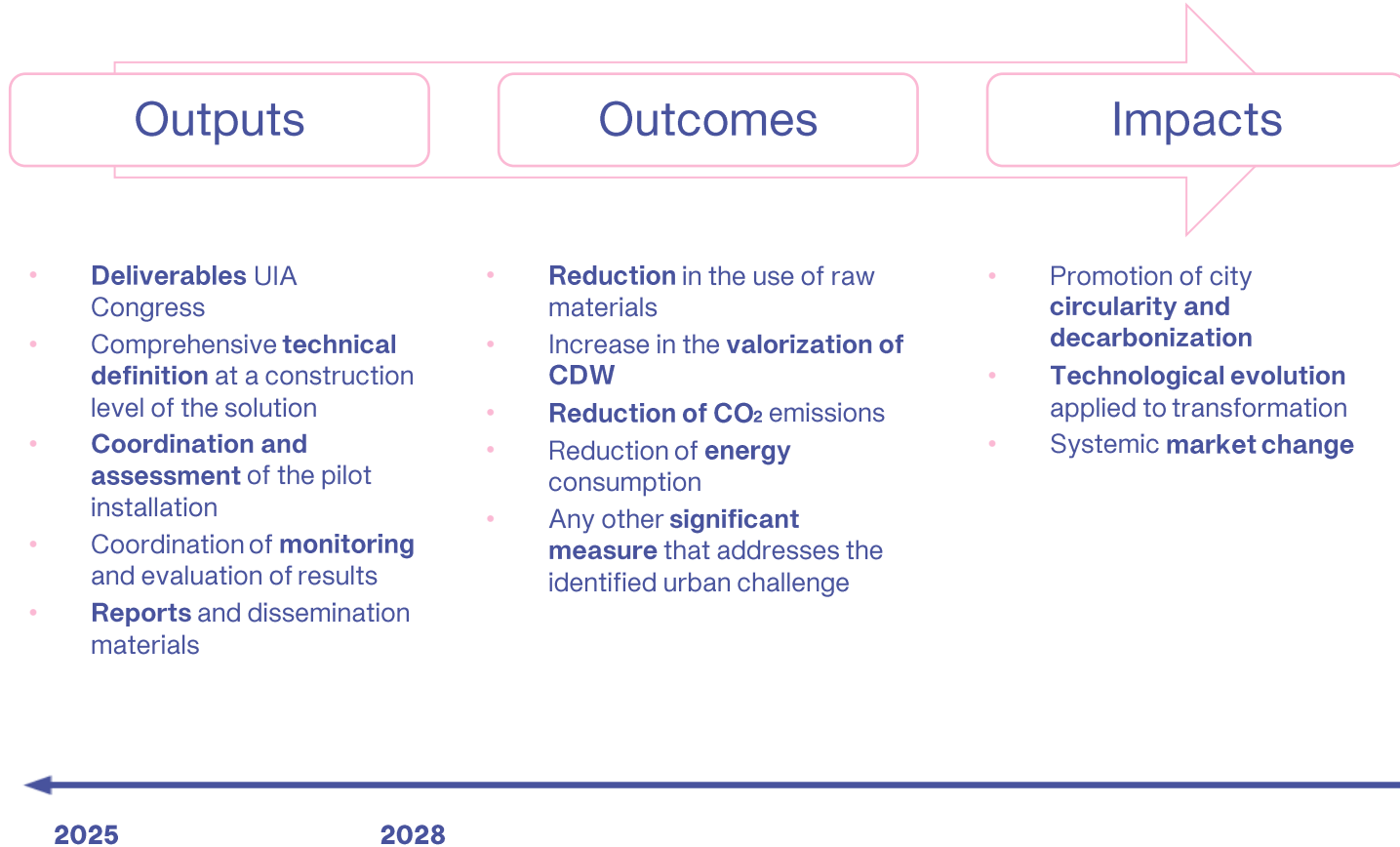
- ▶ **Architecture studios**
- ▶ **Engineering firms**
- ▶ **Industry**
- ▶ **Universities and R&D centres**
- ▶ **Foundations**
- ▶ **Associations**

Object

- ▶ *The challenge is built around a research-driven approach to urban mining that aims to develop a new architectural product*
- ▶ *The results of the research and innovation process will be showcased during the International UIA Congress.*
- ▶ *Pilot tests will be carried out as part of public space redevelopment projects across the city throughout 2026.*
- ▶ *These pilots will be monitored for one year to assess their effectiveness in achieving the expected outcomes.*

- 1 INNOVATION
- 2 DECARBONISATION
- 3 CIRCULARITY
- 4 EMBODIED
- 5 FEASIBILITY
- 6 SCALABILITY AND REPLICABILITY

Outputs, outcomes and impacts



Call for proposals



The winning proposals in Phase 1 must obligatorily participate in Phase 2. Otherwise, they will not be awarded.



In case any of them do not wish to participate, the next highest-scoring proposal will be selected.

Why take part?



COFINANCING

A maximum €150,000 grant will be awarded to the two winning projects (covering up to 80% of their total cost).

Minimum € 140.000 budget



PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING

Connection with the innovation ecosystem and other urban stakeholders



PRIZE

A €6,000 prize will be awarded to shortlisted proposals from the first phase of submissions. Winning teams will be required to advance to Phase 2.



KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND TRANSFER

Expert advice and support throughout the entire process. Participation and attendance in result-sharing sessions.



PRESTIGE AND VISIBILITY

Winning projects will be showcased and promoted at the UIA Congress and Barcelona 2026. World Capital of Architecture.

Call for proposals



PHASE 1

- CV
- Portfolio
- Statement



EVALUATION CRITERIA PHASE 1

- Materials and constructive quality
- Architectural and spatial quality
- Material circularity
- Intent of Project
- Team

Call for proposals



PHASE 1

- Curriculum
- Portfolio
- Statement



PHASE 2

- Project proposal
- Project report



EVALUATION CRITERIA PHASE 1

- Materials and constructive quality
- Architectural and spatial quality
- Material circularity
- Intent of the project
- Team



EVALUATION CRITERIA PHASE 2

- Framework of Becoming-UIA Congress
- Material and constructive quality
- Architectural and spatial quality
- Project results
- Economic sustainability and scalability

Grant calendar and phases

1

Call for proposal
to co-finance the
best solutions

March-
Sept. 2025

2

Research and
design and
prototyping

Sept. 25 – May
26

3

UIA congress and
pilot installation

Summer
2026

4

Pilot and
monitoring at the
public space
(city as test bed)

Oct. 26 -
Sept. 27
(1 year)

5

Results and
knowledge
transfer

Oct. – Dec.
2027

2028

SCALABILITY

Scaling the solution through public tenders
Market shape

MARKET
SHAPE

IN BARCELONA OVA

<https://bithabitat.barcelona/en/projects/mineral/>



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