



## Jacques Rougerie's Advice for the Fondation's International Architecture and Innovation Competition

Dear candidates,

On the occasion of this new 2026 edition of the Fondation's International Architecture and Innovation Competition, which I have the pleasure of leading alongside the Académie des beaux-arts, I would like to share with you a few words of advice to support you in your reflection.

These recommendations are addressed to all of you, regardless of the theme you choose: **Submersible Lands, Sea or Space**, in either the **Prospective or Lab categories**.

Architecture, especially when it is set within complex environments, cannot be conceived in isolation. I strongly encourage you to work with passion and boldness in **multidisciplinary teams**, and to surround yourselves with complementary perspectives. Do not hesitate to **seek expertise**, even occasionally, including from people who are not directly part of your team; this will enrich your vision and will be valued by the jury.

Seek advice, among others, from engineers, hydrologists, urban planners, geographers, and ecologists for submersible lands. For the sea, go and meet oceanographers, fishermen, and field practitioners. For projects related to space, exchange with astrophysicists, engineers, and specialists in life in extreme environments. **Test your ideas against those who live in, study, and experiment with these environments.**

Also rely on robust sources. Do not hesitate to consult what is known as **grey literature**—reports, studies, and expert work—which will allow you to ground your project in a nuanced understanding of the issues at stake.

Your approach should be adapted according to the category in which you are entering.

For **Lab projects**, the jury and I expect particular attention to be paid to **technical feasibility and economic viability**. Your proposals must be able to take root in reality, taking into account **local contexts**—whether natural, social, or economic—and within a sustainable framework. Do not forget that you have the opportunity to bring your Lab Prize project to life thanks to partners, particularly the topic "Building and Living with Water in the Dunkirk Region," France, supported by **Nhood – Ceetrus / Group Projex**.

For **Prospective projects**, I invite you to explore possible futures with boldness, without disregarding the fundamental constraints of construction, physics, or economics. To imagine does not mean to exempt oneself from reality; on the contrary, it means proposing credible trajectories.

We also encourage you **to combine vernacular knowledge with modernity**. Territories carry their own intelligence, practices, and memory. By combining these with innovation, you will be able to propose appropriate responses.



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Finally, never forget that architecture is also a sensory and emotional adventure. The human being must be at the heart of your project. I invite you to design **joyful, desirable** projects that carry a positive imagination. We need visions that make people want to inhabit the living environments of tomorrow.

Together with the entire Foundation team, we look forward to discovering your projects and highlighting them.

Good luck,

**Jacques Rougerie**

Founder of the Fondation Jacques Rougerie – Académie des beaux-arts