



CRÉATEURS DESIGN ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

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Kengo Kuma to Receive the Andrée Putman Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2027 Créateurs Design Awards

The Awards' highest honor recognizes a career defined by the synthesis of architecture and nature. The award will be presented at the CDA Awards Ceremony, live from Paris on January 16, 2027.

PARIS, September 1, 2026. The Créateurs Design Awards (CDA) today announced that Kengo Kuma, an architect involved in the design of the Japan National Stadium in Tokyo and in the V&A Dundee in Scotland, will receive the Andrée Putman Lifetime Achievement Award at its 2027 ceremony, presented live from Paris on January 16, 2027 at the Shangri-La Paris. The honor, one of two Legacy Awards conferred by the CDA, recognizes a career whose influence has shaped the built environment across generations and continents.

Born in Yokohama in 1954, Kengo Kuma founded Kengo Kuma & Associates in Tokyo in 1990 and opened a Paris office in 2008. Over more than three decades, his practice has advanced a synthesis of architecture and nature, reinterpreting Japanese tradition in a contemporary context. His landmark projects also include the FRAC in Marseille, the Cité des Arts et de la Culture in Besançon, and the Saint-Denis Pleyel station in Paris, delivered in 2024. A professor at the University of Tokyo since 2009, his recent honors include the Imperial Prize and Japan Art Academy Prize (2024), the Prix Versailles for Best Museum (2025), and the 38th Louis I. Kahn Award (2025).

“In my design practice, I consider myself a long-distance runner. I believe the most important thing is to keep running over the long term with a single goal in mind: achieving harmony between humans and nature. Writing is also a vital part of this journey; the ideas that come to me while running often take the form of essays and books. More than anything, I am honored that the Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes the entirety of everything I do,” said Kengo Kuma.

“For more than three decades, Kengo Kuma has asked how architecture can restore the relationship between people and the natural world, and he has answered on every continent. Our members chose to honor not a single building but the entirety of that pursuit, in the



spirit of dialogue between tradition and modernity that Andrée Putman herself embodied,” said Yuri Xavier, Co-Founder, Créateurs Design Awards.

Named for the pioneering French designer Andrée Putman, the Lifetime Achievement Award is determined by the members of the Créateurs Design Association and is not open to submission. Previous recipients include Lord Norman Foster, Tadao Ando, and Christian de Portzamparc.

The announcement coincides with the opening of submissions for the 2027 Créateurs Design Awards on September 1, 2026. Entries will be accepted through October 31, 2026 across fifteen categories spanning architecture, interior design, product design, and art and culture.

Key Dates

Submissions open: September 1, 2026

Submission deadline: October 31, 2026

CDA Awards Ceremony, live from Paris: January 16, 2027

About the Créateurs Design Awards

Presented annually in Paris, the Créateurs Design Awards recognizes excellence across architecture, design, culture, and media through a peer-led voting process shaped by more than 300 practitioners, institutional directors, journalists, curators, and cultural leaders from 55 countries. Across fifteen categories and two Legacy Awards, the program celebrates the projects, individuals, and ideas contributing to contemporary creative culture.

Recognized internationally for its peer-to-peer model and multidisciplinary scope, the Awards bring together a global community committed to excellence, authorship, and cultural responsibility.

Press Contact

Esther Ng

press@createursdesignawards.com

createursdesignawards.com

Notes to Editors

High-resolution portraits of Kengo Kuma, project imagery, and the full biography are available upon request. Interview opportunities with Mr. Kuma may be arranged through the CDA press office in coordination with Kengo Kuma & Associates. Media accreditation requests for the January 16 ceremony may be submitted to the press office from September 1.