

THE WORLD ARCH BRIEFING · DAILY BRIEFING

27 October: Old Factories, New Roofs, and the People's Vote

From Tbilisi to Poughkeepsie, this issue follows old industrial fabric finding new life, roofs and courtyards tuned to climate, and a public vote that tests what readers actually love.

By World Arch Journal · Published 27 October 2026 ·



Old Town, Tbilisi. Photo: Kober, via Wikimedia Commons — CC BY 2.0. This shows Tbilisi's old town, not the Loco Park site or the former locomotive plant. Photo source ↗ · CC BY 2.0

Six reports, all published on 26 October 2026 and checked on 27 October 2026, make up this issue of The World Arch Briefing, covering Tbilisi, France, Chile, Switzerland, Italy and the United States. Each

story links to its original publication, so readers can follow every report back to its source, and every story ends with an “Our reading” paragraph offering independent commentary. “Our reading” is independent commentary, not on-site reporting: this issue does not claim to have visited the buildings or sites it describes. Photographs are independently licensed images, never the news outlets’ own pictures; where no freely licensed photograph of the actual subject was verified, the caption says so explicitly and the image used is a clearly labelled contextual photograph. Estimated reading time: about 9 minutes.

DAILY BRIEFING · GLOBAL ARCHITECTURE NEWS

Sources checked 27 October 2026. Source statements and our interpretation are distinguished below. How we work ↗

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

What these stories mean together

The thread running through this issue is architecture learning to work with what already exists: a Soviet-era locomotive works and an Italian textile mill are kept and reprogrammed rather than erased, a Chilean roof is shaped by seismic loads and Patagonian wind, a Zurich house steps down a steep slope instead of fighting it, and a college welcome building frames existing trees and courtyards rather than clearing them, while the Dezeen Awards public vote adds the one test none of these projects can design for themselves, whether ordinary readers actually like the result.

- When an old factory or mill is kept, how much of its industrial character should survive, and at what point does a sensitive conversion become a theme park version of its past?
- Can a public vote ever be a fair measure of architectural quality, or does it mostly reward the projects with the clearest photographs and the largest fan bases?
- Do climate-responsive moves such as thickened roofs, deep overhangs, planted terraces and shaded courtyards deserve more weight in awards than striking form alone?
- What should a welcome building, a cultural hub or a new neighbourhood give back to people who never enter it, beyond a handsome edge to the street?

This issue does not independently assess construction quality, energy performance, cost accuracy, planning status beyond what the linked reports state, or the lived experience of residents, students and visitors; it summarises and comments on published reports only, and readers should treat unbuilt competition projects as proposals, not as completed buildings.

Six stories, one day

Welcome to the 27 October edition of The World Arch Briefing, built entirely from reports published on 26 October 2026.

The six stories move from Tbilisi's former locomotive works to a new cultural hub in Italy's Valle Camonica, with a readers' vote, two houses and a college building in between.

Read them as a set: the unbuilt projects show where architecture wants to go next, and the built ones show what that ambition feels like once it is standing.

01 / A locomotive works becomes a green neighbourhood

Source published: 26 October 2026



A street in Tbilisi's old town. Photo: Kober, via Wikimedia Commons — CC BY 2.0. This shows Tbilisi's old town, not the Loco Park site or the former locomotive plant. Photo source ↗ · CC BY 2.0

Stefano Boeri Architetti has won the competition to turn the 73,600-square-metre former Soviet-era Tbilisi Electric Locomotive Manufacturing Plant, in the Temka area, into a green residential neighbourhood called Loco Park.

The factory itself is to be renovated, while new housing blocks in colourful brick will carry vaulted, sawtooth and pitched rooflines around tree-lined pedestrian spaces, parks and sports facilities.

Ground floors are planned for shops, cafes and workshops, and the brick colours come from a colour-mapping study of Tbilisi's architecture.

Terraced roofs will carry planting and communal greenhouses, tying the new homes back to the landscape and to shared outdoor life.

OUR ANALYSIS

This is industrial reuse at neighbourhood scale rather than single-building scale, and its most interesting gamble is colour: by deriving brick tones from the city itself, the scheme tries to make a large new quarter feel as if it already belongs, though only the finished streets will show whether the palette reads as local character or as decoration.

Read source: Dezeen — Loco Park, Tbilisi, 26 October 2026 ↗

02 / Readers pick their architecture winners

Source published: 26 October 2026



Victorian terraces in Winchester, England. Photo: Pierre Terre, via Wikimedia Commons — CC BY-SA 2.0. No freely licensed photograph of La Friche d'Oloron-Sainte-Marie or Oloron-Sainte-Marie was verified for this issue; this is a contextual photograph of English terrace housing, not a winning project or the awards venue. Photo source ↗ · CC BY-SA 2.0

Dezeen's readers have chosen 19 architecture winners from a 392-project shortlist, voting between 28 September and 16 October 2026.

Two practices won twice: Collectif Encore, for La Friche d'Oloron-Sainte-Marie in France, and ZAV Architects.

The winners span the New Government Quarter in Oslo, the Glasshouse Theatre in Brisbane and the Techo International Airport in Phnom Penh by Foster + Partners, alongside a rammed-earth house in Wiltshire named sustainable building of the year.

The public vote is separate from the main judging, and the overall winners are due to be announced on 16 November 2026.

OUR ANALYSIS

A public vote is a useful corrective to jury taste, and the spread here, from civic quarters to a rammed-earth house, suggests readers rewarded clarity of purpose as much as spectacle; the real test comes on 16 November, when the juried winners will show how far expert and popular judgement actually diverged.

Read source: Dezeen — Dezeen Awards public vote winners, architecture, 26 October 2026 ↗

03 / One roof over a Patagonian ravine

Source published: 26 October 2026



Volcán Osorno seen from the south shore of Lake Llanquihue. Photo: Franz Xaver, via Wikimedia Commons — CC BY-SA 3.0. This does not show Casa Ensenada and does not show Calbuco Volcano. Photo source ↗ · CC BY-SA 3.0

Casa Ensenada, by Paralelo Transversal in Puerto Varas, Chile, was completed in 2025 and measures 155 square metres, organised under a single large hip roof.

A terrace cantilevers over a ravine, while the roof section thickens at its centre to carry long-span trusses that resist seismic loads and Patagonian winds, thinning towards the perimeter.

The open kitchen, dining and living spaces sit on the narrow side of the plan and open onto the terrace, with three suites arranged on the wider side.

Floor-to-ceiling windows face Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park and Calbuco Volcano, keeping the landscape present from inside the house.

OUR ANALYSIS

The roof is doing structural, climatic and spatial work at once, which is exactly what a house in this landscape needs; the risk of such a single gesture is that it dominates everything else, so the detailing of the thin perimeter edge, where the roof meets the sky, will decide whether the house feels sheltering or heavy.

Read source: Dezeen — Casa Ensenada, Puerto Varas, Chile, 26 October 2026 ↗

04 / A house that steps down to the lake

Source published: 26 October 2026



A winter day in Zurich, looking across Lake Zurich toward the Alps. Photo: albinfo, via Wikimedia Commons — CC BY 4.0. This does not show the House on a Slope. Photo source ↗ · CC BY 4.0

Think Architecture's House on a Slope, above Lake Zurich, is a built 1,000-square-metre house on a narrow, steep site.

Two blocks, a family house above and children's and guests' accommodation below, are connected by a subterranean art corridor and a central garden level.

Dark limestone and cedar volumes step down the slope, native trees are preserved, and a planted roof terrace sits over the lower block.

Interiors use bog oak, cedar, oak, Belgian bluestone, terrazzo and patinated brass, a restrained palette that lets the slope and the lake do the talking.

OUR ANALYSIS

Splitting the house in two and burying the connection is a disciplined response to a difficult site, preserving trees and views instead of flattening the slope for one big block; the question it raises is whether the art corridor reads as a genuine shared heart or as a handsome passage between two separate lives.

Read source: Dezeen — House on a Slope, Lake Zurich, 26 October 2026 ↗

05 / A textile mill becomes a valley cultural hub

Source published: 26 October 2026



The Charterhouse, Coventry — a medieval monastery building now in cultural use. Photo: Amanda Slater, via Wikimedia Commons — CC BY-SA 2.0. This is not the Ceto mill or the proposed cultural hub; no freely licensed photograph of the Ceto site was verified for this issue. Photo source ↗ · CC BY-SA 2.0

Politecnica, leading a team with Park Associati and AMDL CIRCLE, has won the competition for a cultural hub at Ceto in Italy's Valle Camonica, converting the former Società Filati Niggeler & Kupfer textile mill.

The unbuilt scheme will hold exhibition spaces, research facilities, an auditorium and visitor services within the former mill complex.

Landscape sits at the centre of the design, linking the area's industrial heritage, its archaeology and its natural environment.

The valley is home to the Rock Drawings in Valle Camonica, Italy's first UNESCO World Heritage site, inscribed in 1979, and Ceto is a candidate for Italian Capital of Culture 2029.

OUR ANALYSIS

Putting landscape, not a single landmark building, at the centre is the right instinct for a valley whose heritage is spread across archaeology, industry and nature; the challenge now is governance, because a hub that tries to serve exhibitions, research, visitors and a Capital of Culture bid at once will need a very clear idea of who it is for on an ordinary Tuesday.

Read source: ArchDaily — Ceto Polo Culturale, Valle Camonica, 26 October 2026 ↗

06 / A timber welcome at Vassar

Source published: 26 October 2026



Vassar College Main Building, seen from the left side. Photo: Akarenbon, via Wikimedia Commons — CC BY-SA 4.0. This does not show the new Dede Thompson Bartlett Center. Photo source ↗ · CC BY-SA 4.0

Maryann Thompson Architects' Dede Thompson Bartlett Center at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, is a built admissions and career centre that opened in January 2026.

The low-slung, two-storey timber building uses angled wings to frame existing trees and three courtyards designed as outdoor rooms.

A double-height lobby anchors the plan, and a bean-shaped, wood-louvred entry pavilion gives the building its most distinctive moment.

Its envelope approaches Passive House standards, with triple glazing, deep overhangs, wood louvers and high operable windows that support stack ventilation, and the project was funded in part by a \$10

million gift towards its \$27.5 million cost.

OUR ANALYSIS

A welcome building that frames trees and courtyards instead of clearing them sends exactly the right message to prospective students, and the near-Passive House envelope shows that message extends to energy, not just image; the test will be whether the courtyards stay genuinely usable outdoor rooms through a New York winter, or become views to look at from inside.

Read source: Architectural Record — Dede Thompson Bartlett Center, Vassar College, 26 October 2026



What to watch next

Watch for the Dezeen Awards overall winners on 16 November 2026, for the first detailed drawings from the Tbilisi and Ceto competition teams, and for how the two built houses and the Vassar centre perform once their first full seasons are behind them.

Browse the archive for earlier briefings on reuse, climate-responsive houses and campus buildings, and follow the source links above to read each original report in full.

Further reading

- Browse the previous briefing (26 October)
- Loft Conversion Handbook: Types, Headroom, Stairs, Planning and Costs
- Insulating Solid Walls from Inside: Breathable Materials, Damp Risks and What It Costs
- Adaptive Reuse Architecture: 8 Strategies That Preserve Value
- Climate-Responsive Facades: 7 Strategies for Better Cooling
- Small Apartment Layout: 12 Moves for Storage, Privacy and Daylight
- Modern Villa Design Reimagined: 7 Principles for Contemporary Living
- Browse every dated architecture briefing

Source notes

Official announcements and source reporting are linked below. Interpretations labelled “Our reading” are World Arch Journal commentary, not claims made by the source organisations. No sponsored placement is included in this edition.

1. Dezeen — Loco Park, Tbilisi, 26 October 2026 ↗
2. Dezeen — Dezeen Awards public vote winners, architecture, 26 October 2026 ↗
3. Dezeen — Casa Ensenada, Puerto Varas, Chile, 26 October 2026 ↗
4. Dezeen — House on a Slope, Lake Zurich, 26 October 2026 ↗
5. ArchDaily — Ceto Polo Culturale, Valle Camonica, 26 October 2026 ↗
6. Architectural Record — Dede Thompson Bartlett Center, Vassar College, 26 October 2026 ↗

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