

GEWOBA-AWARD

Future.Housing 2026

Housing as a social practice

How can life in the neighbourhood be shaped for the future from a socio-spatial and lifeworld-oriented perspective?

Competition announcement and further information 





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Competition Announcement

Every two years since 2016 the GEWOBA Aktiengesellschaft Wohnen und Bauen in Bremen is awarding students of social sciences with a prize for outstanding papers on future oriented urban development.

For this purpose, an open, non-anonymous student ideas competition is being held, in which social science work of all kinds can be submitted: individual and team work, semester-, project-, term- and final papers are equally welcome. To give room to a variety of creative ideas and approaches and to gather new understandings and perspectives, the assignment of the task and its wide group of participants is intentionally chosen.

The goal of offering this award publicly is to encourage students of the social sciences to get more involved in the subject of habitation and to receive suggestions for the practice.

Procedure

The competition is organised by GEWOBA Aktiengesellschaft Wohnen und Bauen and carried out in cooperation with the Constructor University Bremen, the Bremen University of Applied Sciences and the University of Bremen.

A jury consisting of representatives of the Senator for Labor, Social Affairs, Youth and Integration, the Constructor University Bremen, the Bremen University of Applied Sciences, the University of Bremen and GEWOBA decides on the submitted works.

Eligible Participants

Students of all social science and related degree programmes (individuals or groups) who are enrolled at a college or university at the time of the competition are eligible to participate.

Contact

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Keyword: GEWOBA-Award 2026
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Prizes and Recognition

The prize-money has the overall amount 2.000 Euro:

1st Prize	1.000 Euro
2nd Prize	500 Euro
two recognition	each 250 Euro

The jury reserves the right to make a different distribution and to award special prizes.

Specification of Competition

For the competition, under the thematic focus „**Housing as a social practice**“ analyses, new insights and perspectives on the question „How can life in the neighbourhood be shaped for the future from a socio-spatial and lifeworld-oriented perspective?“ should be developed with a clear practical relevance and reference to GEWOBA.

Further criteria are a clear reference to the respective degree programme and recognisable transfer achievements. Further information can be found on the following page.

Requirements

The results should be written in German; in exceptional cases, English-language papers are also possible. In addition to traditional term papers or seminar papers, other (creative) forms are also possible.

In addition to the completed application form, a letter of motivation and an executive summary, which should not exceed six A4 pages, are expected. Selected applicants will be invited to a personal presentation.

GEWOBA is authorised to publish the work submitted, naming the participants. The submitted documents of the prize-winning works become the property of the organiser. Copyrights are not affected by this. Documents of works not awarded prizes will be returned.

Dates and Deadline

February 2026

Publication of the competition documents

31st October 2026

Submission of the assignments to the following address:

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November 2026

Preselection through the jury, invitation to the presentation

Presentation of the work, evaluation through the jury, notification of the awardees

December 2026

Public awards ceremony

Further Information

preis.gewoba.de

GEWOBA Aktiengesellschaft Wohnen und Bauen is a company in the housing and real estate industry. The core business is the management of around 42.600 Rental apartments – predominantly in the state of Bremen. Since the Founded in 1924, GEWOBA supplies broad sections of the population in the state of Bremen needs-oriented with affordable housing.

This mandate is still anchored in the statutes today. Included The company doesn't just limit itself to the pure Providing living space, but also developing the Topics related to living continue to be forward- looking – because livable quarters are far more than the sum of wellmaintained ones Buildings and green spaces.

In addition to economic objectives, environmental and social aspects are also crucial for the company's success. GEWOBA is an important player in city and neighborhood development. She is a reliable and committed partner for tenants, customers, shareholders, local politics and business as well as the social and cultural institutions in the Bremen and Bremerhaven districts.

As a housing company whose residential buildings were often built in a spatial context (and are still located today), GEWOBA pursues the goal of contributing to high-quality, communal living in a neighborhood. Our neighborhoods should make affordable living possible in a healthy, green environment and stand for an inclusive society that guarantees self-determination and participation, social stability and a high level of quality of life for everyone.

With this in mind, how can neighborhoods be designed for the future? With the Future.Housing competition we focus on the topic **"Housing as a social practice"** with the question

"How can life in the neighbourhood be shaped for the future from a socio-spatial and lifeworld-oriented perspective?"

The topic of housing is widely discussed and, in the social context, remains largely focused on the question of affordable housing provision.

But what about the socio-spatial and living environment- oriented view of housing in the context of social change processes and in the sense of those who are disadvantaged in the provision of housing for various reasons?

What influence do political and economic changes have on housing as a social and cultural practice?

What are the essential aspects of the design of living space - not only in terms of its urban development and architecture, but especially with regard to the distribution of population layers and classes in the urban dream, and especially in the neighborhood living environment?

Possible Topics and Questions

The following questions are examples and should only be seen as suggestions for developing a topic.

- How do social changes and changing lifestyles – for example in the division of labor, family relationships or gender relations – influence living and to what extent should this be taken into account when providing contemporary housing?
- What is living all about today – for people living alone, families, immigrants, single parents, young adults, in old age, in the transitions between different phases of life, etc.
- What concepts for housing and urban development are needed considering various life circumstances and phases?
- How can requirements from individualized lifestyles be designed in relation to living?
- What demands on housing arise from demographic change – in particular from the increasing aging of the population and from increased immigration – and what could strategies for dealing with these changes look like?
- What role do neighborhood and urban development play for successful aging and self-determined living for older people (e.g. with regard to living environment, infrastructure, social and spatial integration into the community, security of supply, participation, quality of life) – in particular with regard to the aspects of everyday orientation and independence for a growing number of people suffering from dementia?
- How important is neighborhood and urban development for the successful integration of immigrants?
- What offers do people with particular (access) difficulties need in the housing market?
- How can the quality of living together be positively influenced and how can the social infrastructure in a neighborhood be further tailored to the residents' needs?
- How can integration and participation in the neighborhood be achieved in the sense of integrative urban society?
- What does the "city for all" look like for everyone (i.e., for people of different age, gender, ethnicity, health, etc.)?
- How can neighborly relationships be strengthened, neighborhoods activated, spaces for meetings, neighborly contacts and activity spaces be created?
- What strengthens social cohesion in a neighborhood?
- What effect does the urban space have on the relationships between residents and how can this influence be used positively?
- How can the appropriation of spaces be positively influenced?
- Which often undiscovered qualities do districts have that suffer from a poor or negative image? What particular strengths, skills and resources lie behind a supposed disadvantage?
- How can local identification be promoted?