

Property Awards 2026

Property Entrepreneur of the Year

ENTRANT'S DETAILS

Full Name	Shiraz Jiwa
Job Title	Founder and CEO
Business Name	The Valesco Group
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Twitter handle	
Date of Birth	

PLEASE ANSWER ALL THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

Please outline why the nominated individual/organisation should be considered for the award?	<p>British real estate expert Shiraz Jiwa is Founder and CEO of London headquartered firm, The Valesco Group, which has become one of Europe's fastest growing office investors. Under his leadership, the company has amassed a €2.5 billion pan-European portfolio in just five years, with the backing of sovereign and institutional capital from Asia; unprecedented for such a young company. This period has seen numerous market headwinds, including Brexit, a global pandemic, war, disruption in office use trends, sharp inflation and aggressive interest rate hikes. Despite these scenarios, Valesco's contrarian and high conviction approach has seen it achieve unprecedented milestones across this cycle. Shiraz's vision goes far beyond financial returns, with a percentage of Valesco's profits going to The Valesco Foundation (registered with the UK Charity Commission), which then deploys to charitable and socially responsible initiatives. The Foundation was created from Shiraz's personal determination to create positive systemic and lasting impact to society, and is a pillar of propulsion and purpose for Valesco's employees and investors. The Valesco Foundation delivers a hand-up rather than hand-out approach at grassroots level with social mobility being very close to Shiraz's heart. On the back of work within this sphere, Shiraz became a member of the Advisory Council of The Patchwork Foundation, a UK-based charity aimed at encouraging the positive integration of young people from disadvantaged and unrepresented backgrounds into British politics. In the last year alone, Shiraz has been invited to attend several influential philanthropic events aimed at improving outcomes for young people including at 10 &amp; 11 Downing Street, the House of Lords, the Italian Ambassador's Residence and at Westminster City Council. Shiraz is an active member within the real estate community. He was extremely honoured to meet with King Charles in the last year, who</p>
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wished to celebrate British born entrepreneurs of South Asian descent for contribution to British society. Shiraz regularly uses his influence to champion the real estate industry. The past year has seen him speak at prestigious RE conferences and events as well as live on CNBC, and he is regularly approached by media publications to offer input on RE thought leadership pieces. In recognition of his inspiring achievements as an entrepreneur within the property sector, Shiraz was also invited by the Deputy Mayor of London for Business (who was previously a board member at Canary Wharf Group) to speak at an accelerator event for early stage companies.

Provide relevant information on the nominee?

2023 was a monumental year for Valesco, with the company completing the €460 million acquisition of Sequana Tower. The iconic tower in Paris serves as the global headquarters of Accor, the largest hospitality group in Europe and sixth largest globally. The landmark acquisition was the largest office deal of the year in Continental Europe and the largest office deal in France since 2021. Despite the highly volatile and illiquid macroeconomic backdrop, Valesco was able to unlock this landmark off-market transaction, which underlines the company's thesis of identifying and acquiring mission critical assets out of pricing dislocations and complex situations in challenging environments. The forensic asset selection and structuring capabilities that made this deal possible demonstrates the wealth of experience Shiraz Jiwa has acquired over his 22-year private equity real estate career. His in-depth expertise around financing and derivatives saw the company restructure the asset's existing senior loan, exit a number of existing banks and bring in new international banks, whilst also restructuring the existing interest rate swap package to generate a highly accretive outcome. The transaction uniquely capitalised on 2023 pricing dislocation whilst capturing 2018 financing rates. Since acquisition the asset's ESG credentials have also been enhanced including BREEAM Excellent certification. The investment also represented the first acquisition from Valesco's new fully discretionary fund, which had a 9 figure equity closing in 2023, anchored by sovereign wealth capital, demonstrating Shiraz's ability to raise and deploy capital with conviction this year, even in one of the most challenging markets on record. He has closed over £5 billion of European commercial real estate investments, delivering superior risk adjusted returns across market cycles. This experience led to the launch of this fund, with his track record contributing to strong interest from global institutional investors. Under Shiraz's leadership, Valesco continues to deliver stellar returns - a net current dividend to its investors (sovereign wealth and blue-chip institutions) of 9% and a running net IRR of 15%, yet the portfolio is core in nature thereby delivering a returns profile more than double the peer group. The collective market cap of Valesco's occupiers now exceeds £4 trillion.

List, all qualifications and

B.Sc. Joint Honours in Mathematics with Management from

institutions where the nominee studied	Imperial College London
Provide a brief biography of the nominated individual/organisation	<p>The Founder and CEO of The Valesco Group is Mr. Shiraz Jiwa, who has a distinguished track record spanning more than 2 decades. Mr. Jiwa has successfully closed and managed over EUR 5 billion of European commercial real estate investments, delivering strong target-exceeding returns to sovereigns, institutions and family offices. Valesco was created to disrupt the European real estate market and is one of Europe's fastest growing real estate investment platforms, having amassed assets under management of EUR 2.5 billion since it started deploying capital in 2018. Prior to founding Valesco, Mr. Jiwa was managing director and head of real estate investments at AGC Equity Partners, a sovereign backed alternative asset investment firm. He closed and managed numerous European real estate investments across Core/Core+, opportunistic, complex restructuring, development and special situations during his tenure. Previously, Mr. Jiwa was a partner and portfolio manager at the Rainbow Global High Yield Fund. His areas of focus were special situations, real estate, distressed debt and derivatives. Mr. Jiwa directed investment strategy and executed transactions across the capital structure. Prior to this, Mr. Jiwa was at Morgan Stanley where his expertise was utilised to develop, analyse, structure and execute portfolio optimisation and yield enhancement strategies and solutions. Mr. Jiwa executed several significant capital markets as well as securities division transactions. Mr. Jiwa started his career as part of the credit derivatives structuring and trading team at Bear Stearns. Mr. Jiwa has developed an expertise across all major asset classes, notably in real estate, real estate private equity, complex restructurings and special situations. Mr. Jiwa received a B.Sc. Joint Honours in Mathematics with Management from Imperial College London. Mr. Jiwa is the Chair of The Valesco Foundation through which Valesco delivers community impact.</p>
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