

The prestigious jury's community

The International Award for Sustainable Architecture, now in its tenth edition, arose from the important international manifestation of the decennial of the foundation of the School of Architecture of Ferrara, held in 2003. Conceived and promoted by the School itself and the Fassa Bortolo, leader in innovative solutions for construction industry, the Award is intended to redirect attention to the necessity of reexamining the relationship between the process of construction and the habitat through the pursuit of compatibility among economic productivity, the safeguarding of resources and the quality of the environment. The Award is given annually by the attribution of a Gold Medal to a work designed by individual architects or architectural or engineering firms that best represents the fundamental principles of the idea of sustainability. In addition, two Silver Medals are awarded to other projects considered outstanding. The competition is also open to the world of Academia, hosting a section dedicated to projects developed as degree theses on themes pertaining to the Award's objectives, thus providing a space for the important ideas and works that arise from the breeding grounds of future professionals. The winning projects and those held worthy of honorable mention are divulged through the Award's official website at www.premioarchitettura.it.



"The annual change of the jury's members - all of which are internationally renowned - ensures neutral decisions free from any kind of "school" and excludes bias in the choice of awarded solutions regarding typology, use, materials or structural engineering systems".

Thomas Herzog

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Jury's chairman (Germany)

“ An overall consideration will increase importance in the future. It can only be reached by intensifying the cross-discipline thinking and working approach of natural, engineering, economic and social science and by understanding serious eco-design as a complex core discipline. ”

Thomas Herzog (born 1941) is a German architect from Munich known for his focus on climate and energy use through the use of technologically advanced architectural skins. He began with an interest in pneumatics and became Germany's youngest architecture professor at the age of 32. He established his firm Herzog + Partner in 1983. Since 2008 he is jury's chairman for the International Prize for Sustainable Architecture.



Mario Cucinella

2004 (Italy)

“ We must design buildings that use natural means, with a careful climate analysis and getting back to that basic relation between climate, environment and land. ”

Mario Cucinella was born in Italy in 1960. At 27 he graduated in architecture at the University of Genoa. After having worked with Renzo Piano, in 1992, he founded the MCA in Paris and in 1999, Mario Cucinella Architects in Bologna. Early on the office had great success in international competitions, research and industrial design. But the highlight has always been special interest in sustainability and climate drawings: in all his projects there are studies, surveys and design intent in accordance with the climate and terrain. He is a visiting professor at Nottingham University and teaches regularly at schools of architecture in Europe.



Brian Ford

2005 (U.K.)

“ We have to explore the relationship between different measures to improve energy efficiency in buildings and the integration of sustainable energy technologies. ”



Brian Ford is an architect and environmental design consultant, and is currently Head of the School of the Built Environment and Professor of Bio-climatic Architecture at the University of Nottingham. Together with Alan Short he designed the passively cooled Farsons Brewery building in Malta, and the naturally ventilated Queens building for De Montfort University. Latterly he has been involved as a consultant on many projects worldwide, including the Sydney Olympic Stadium and the new Pittsburgh Convention center in the USA.

Werner Tscholl

2006 (Italy)

“ I think renovation is interesting: many architecture expressions related with different emotions. The aim is to reach the complementarity between new and old. ”

Werner Tscholl was born in Laces (Bolzano) in 1955. He finished his studies in Florence in 1981 and in 1983 he founded the Tscholl Werner architect a Morte in Bolzano. With his practice he won two times the Architecture Prize of Oderzo and in 2002 he exhibited at the Venice Biennale “Next” with two projects representing the new architecture in Florence: Lonely Living and Novoli. In 2006 and again in 2008 he won the International Prize Dedalo Minosse. His works are published in many Italian and international journals.



Matteo Thun

2007 (Italy)

“ Sustainable architecture it’s a problem of duration... not just material, but also aesthetic and perceptive. ”



Matteo Thun comes from Bolzano, Italy. He studied at the Salzburg Academy and took his degree in architecture in Florence in 1975. After moving to Milan in 1978, he started working with Ettore Sottsass. In 1981, he was a co-founder of the Memphis group, the design movement that so shaped events in the eighties. Leaving Memphis, he founded the Studio Matteo Thun in Milan in 1984. He won several architecture and design awards. Matteo Thun stands for long lasting solutions with holistic approach. Architecture means designing the soul of the place. This implies an aesthetic, economic and technological sustainability.

Hermann Kaufmann

2008 (Austria)

“ We must examine common practices more closely and strive intensely to ensure sustainability. It’s a chance to generate architecture for a broad audience. ”

Hermann Kaufmann was born in 1955 in the Vorarlberg. He studied architecture in Innsbruck and Vienna and in 1983 founded an office in Schwarzach together with Christian Lenz. He has taught in several universities and since 2002 acts as Professor in Munich Technical University. His work consists of wooden buildings of all scales and all categories; ranging from small restorations of old utility buildings and restaurants to private houses, blocks of flats, community centres and industrial buildings, all of them almost entirely wood constructions. Energy efficiency and healthy structures are always in the focus of his work.



Wilfried Wang

2008 (U.S.A.)

“ If sustainability is to be set as a measure for a new paradigm, our lifestyles must be defined in quantitative and qualitative terms as global goals and standards. ”



Wilfried Wang began his career in the World of Academic in 1981 and still has an extensive teaching experience in the USA and in Europe (Polytechnic of North London, Harvard, University of Texas at Austin). In the meanwhile, after several work experiences, he founded a studio, together with Barbara Hoidn. Their spectrum of activities spans from furniture to urban design. Contrary to mass production and its aesthetic decadence, the office’s aim is to create a sensuous identity and cultural continuity in each project by means of conscientious craftsmanship. Wilfried Wang regularly serve as member of juries of competitions and awards.

Francoise Jourda

2009 (France)

“ We have to invent a different architecture, working closer with technicians and engineers, listening to the users, to their needs, to produce comfort and health. ”

Francoise Jourda (born 1955) is based in Paris, where she practices architecture at her firm, JAP (Jourda Architectes Paris) and since 1999 has taught in Vienna, Austria. In addition to this, she heads the company EO.CITE, an architecture and urban planning consulting firm. All three of these activities are centered around the principle of sustainable development. She has given a number of lectures and written many articles on the subject both in France and to an international audience. She is also one of the signatories of the 1996 European Charter for Solar Energy in Architecture and Urban Planning.



Michael Hopkins

2009 (U.K.)

“ I work to devise long-lasting, economically-viable solutions that help save materials and energy, reduce waste and integrate with coherent design expression. ”



With Norman Foster, Richard Rogers and Nicholas Grimshaw, Hopkins was one of the leading figures in the introduction of 'high tech' Modern architecture into Britain. In 1976 Hopkins set up his studio in London in partnership with his wife, Patricia. The practice has completed projects throughout the world and it's work is guided by deeply-rooted architectural, environmental and social conviction. They received the Royal Institute of British Architects Royal Gold Medal, awarded in 1994. Michael Hopkins was elected to the Royal Academy in 1992 and awarded the CBE and knighted for services to architecture.

Alexondros Tombazis

2010 (Greece)

“ Remember that building harms our planet. [...] So it's necessary to intervene with gentleness, to be careful, as we've only got one planet. ”

Born in India in 1939, he spent his early childhood in India and England before moving permanently to Greece. Today, Alexandros Tombazis divides his time between his office, which employs about 60 people, and travelling for congress or University lectures. He has been awarded prizes in more than 110 national, international or invited competitions. His practices works at many projects all around the world. In 1991 he was elected honorary fellow of the American Institute of Architects, while in 2006 he was awarded an honorary PhD by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.



Juhani Pallasma

2010 (Finland)

“ Ecological ethics and sustainable technologies are the most important force of change in the architecture field since the breakthrough of modernity a century ago. ”



Juhani Uolevi Pallasmaa is a Finnish architect and professor of architecture at the Helsinki University of Technology and a former Director of the Museum of Finnish Architecture. In Helsinki he runs his own architect's office: Arkkitehtitoimisto Juhani Pallasmaa. He's also Visiting Professor at Washington University in St. Louis, as well as Plym Professor at the University of Illinois. His exhibitions of Finnish architecture, planning and visual arts have been displayed in more than thirty countries and he has written numerous articles on cultural philosophy, environmental psychology and theories of architecture and the arts.

Francine Houben

2011 (Spain)

“ When I imagine the future society, as a mix of many nationalities, the only thing that I would be afraid of is if architects and urbanists don't do the right things. ”

Francine Houben is a leading Dutch architect. She is a founding partner and the creative director of Mecanoo Architecten, Delft. She has gained international acclaim for her works which is extremely wide-ranging and includes projects such as universities, libraries, theatres, residential areas, museums and hotels. She has held important professorships in Holland and abroad and in 2001 she published her seminal manifesto about architecture: 'Composition, Contrast, Complexity' and brought as curator of the Architecture Biennale Rotterdam in 2003, the theme of mobility to the forefront of international design consciousness.



Francisco Mangado

2011 (Spain)

“ The environmental responsibility of today's architecture is strongly linked with the context. This is the key to propose more than what is demanded. ”



Born in 1957, Francisco Mangado is recognized as one of the most prominent and prolific Spanish architects of his generation. Among his works are the Baluarte Congress Center and Auditorium, the Spanish Pavilion at the Expo Zaragoza 2008, the Archaeology Museum in Vitoria, the Municipal Exhibition and Congress Center in Ávila. In addition to public and private buildings, Mangado work focuses on education as professor at the University of Navarre, he also gives regularly conferences at schools of architecture abroad (Harvard and Yale, EPF in Lausanne). He is also director of the Fundación de Arquitectura y Sociedad.

Li Xiaodong

2012 (China)

“Sustainability is a “must” for new buildings in China, because if the country doesn’t get it right it’s “the end of the world”

Li Xiaodong graduated from Tsinghua University in 1984 and completed his PhD at Delft/ Eindhoven University of Technology in 1993. He is a practicing architect, educator, and researcher on architecture. He established his studio in 1997, and his work ranges from interiors, to architecture, to urban spaces. He thinks it is the responsibility of the architect to strive for the highest order of the human environments. Each project is unique and should add uplifting spiritual characteristic to the built environment. And the design should reflect an overall balance of aesthetic quality, tectonic order, precise detailing with the program.



Peter Rich

2012 (South Africa -U.K.)

“I strive to create meaningful, moving and uplifting places and spaces for all who occupy them: therefore the solutions that are unique to their time and place.



Peter Rich is a contemporary African architect. As a practicing as Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg for 30 years, he developed a contemporary architectural vocabulary that built on his research. He works for an architecture born from a deep understanding of context achieved through sustained research into local conditions and close collaboration with communities. The Mapungubwe Interpretation Centre and the Alexandra Heritage Centre, both recently completed, have been widely applauded as mature built works, a culmination of a lifetimes passion for architecture and for Africa.

Glenn Murcutt

2013 (Australia)

“ The buildings respond to the light, to air movements, to prospect, to refuge, to comfort. They work like instruments and nature is the composer. ”

Glenn Murcutt is Australia's most famous architect. He received many Australian and international awards including 2002 Pritzker Architecture Prize. He grew up in the Morobe Province of Papua New Guinea, where he developed an appreciation for simple, vernacular architecture. While his primary focus is on houses, one of his public buildings completed in 1999, the Arthur and Yvonne Boyd Education centre, has achieved acclaim as well, critics calling it 'a masterwork'. He has been Visiting Professor at many prestigious universities around the world, and continues as a Professor at the University of New South Wales.



Erik Bystrup

2013 (Denmark)

“ Power pylons combined with a scenic landscape are a positive message and celebration of technical progress and infrastructural development. ”



Erik Bystrup is founder of the Copenhagen based Bystrup Architecture, Design and Engineering. Since completing his architectural studies in 1968, Bystrup has worked at all scales of architecture from product design and residences to large exhibition buildings and conceptual master plans combining this with an academic experience. He served as a jury member in several architectural competitions and is a recognized lecturer and keynote speaker at international conferences. The past ten years Bystrup has led numerous research-intensive projects within power line development placing the company among international frontrunners.