INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

Fassa Bortolo
Department of Architecture
Ferrara University
There are ideas which have something extra and are always trying out something new, in respect of nature and constantly striving to improve the balance between man and the environment. Ideas which must be stimulated, promoted and compared. This is why in 2003 in collaboration with Ferrara University Architecture Department, Fassa S.p.A., owner of the “Fassa Bortolo” brand, leader in the building products sector and always particularly sensitive to developments in biocompatible architecture, set up an important international award: the PRIZE FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE. The initiative is aimed at all professionals who have designed and constructed projects based on the principles of sustainability in the last five years. Much more than a competition, it is a way of promoting innovative culture in the building world.
The Award has increased its importance during these eleven editions, promoting an interesting and developing debate about sustainability. The members of the jury come from all over the World. They are all well known personalities of the architectural field.

The increasing of participants from both the Prize's Sections (built projects and degree theses) testifies the expansion of this subject among architects from all ages and countries. With the 12th edition we want also to look ahead to the future, continue our contribution and promote good architecture for a more sustainable World.
Jury members

Thomas Herzog

Erik Bystrup

Mario Cucinella

Francine Houben

Werner Tscholl

Li Xiaodong

Glenn Murcutt

Francoise Jourda

Mario Cucinella

Muck Petzet

Matteo Thun

Francoise Jourda

Matteo Thun

Michael Hopkins

Francisco Mangado

Mario Cucinella

Alexandros Tombazis

Wilfried Wang

Li Xiaodong

Peter Rich

Mario Cucinella

Matteo Thun

Erik Bystrup

Philippe Samyn

Juhani Pallasmaa

Alexandros Tombazis

Juhani Pallasmaa

Werner Tscholl

Muck Petzet

Hermann Kaufmann

Brian Ford

Hermann Kaufmann

Francine Houben
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 chairmain for the International Prize for Sustainable Architecture.

The International Prize for Sustainable Architecture, now in its twelfth 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 Prize is awarded every two years 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 winning projects and those held worthy of honorable mention are divulged through the Prize’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”.

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“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
Jury’s chairman (Germany)
Muck Petzet
2015 (Switzerland)

“The energy spent when buildings are used is just part of the total energy consumed. Focusing on this is completely wrong, we must think about the whole lifecycle of buildings.”

Muck Petzet started teaching Architecture as Resource at TU Munich in 2012 and since 2014 is an Associate Professor for Sustainable Design at USI Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio. In his teaching and public activities he is advocating a ‘radical reuse’ strategy over new built. His research activities comprise the redefinition of the sustainable architecture basis as implementing strategies of avoidance, of sufficiency and behavioural change. He is one of the pioneers in an on-going movement to achieve the recognition of grey (embodied) energy as one of the crucial factors of ‘truly sustainable’ strategies.

Philippe Samyn
2015 (Belgium)

“The process of composition is wrapped up in an irregular spiral in a long iterative process. It develops in a random way in a matrix of concepts and constraints.”

An architect and engineer, Philippe Samyn founded his own firm in Brussels in 1978, with a large oeuvre and some works clearly dating back to the ecological awakening. This part of his work already bears the mark of a rational designer set on affirming “the balance of form, function, and technique” an architect of large structures, and an engineer keen on materials science, earning him a solid university career as a professor of building sciences. He thus makes a stimulating contribution, convinced of the importance of the ecological challenge and who applies his knowledge in service of the cause.
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 environment. 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 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 lifetime’s passion for architecture and for Africa.

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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.

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.

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

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.

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

Francis 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.

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.

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 Avila. 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.

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

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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: Arkitehtitoimisto 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.

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Juhani Pallasmaa 2010 (Finland)
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.

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.

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 knitted for services to architecture.

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.
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.

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 Morter 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 Italians and international journals.

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.
Many prestigious and well known international firms

During these eleven years the dimension and prestige of the initiative have become truly international, bringing the award to be enriched year after year, increasing in number and international participants. The event is managed to attract over the years some important names all over the world from all the continents including, among the others:

Alejandro Aravena, Shigeru Ban, Baumschlager & Eberle, Diener & Diener, Sean Godsell, Christoph Ingenhoven, Kengo Kuma, Rahul Mehrotra, Dominique Perrault, Georg Reinberg, Sauerbruch & Hutton, Eduardo Souto de Moura

The diversity of the contributions, from more than 30 different countries, stresses one aspect very clearly. The solutions offered reflect a new task, an individual approach born from the respective circumstances which is in its form language strongly varies from the “international style”. Estates which are permanently related to their location, topography surroundings and local climate can show very different approaches for their energy management regarding natural lighting, shading against overheating, and generation of environmental energy for electricity, heating and cooling. This reflects the development of a new architectural regionalism through the various solutions resulting from reason, knowledge, design competence and creative potential of the authors. The average level of all contributions is every year extremely high and they answer to the sustainability issue in different ways that is not possible to find just one single contribution exceeding the others. That’s why for some years the jury chose to give the first prize to more than one participant. All projects have pioneering aspects among their individual characteristics.
2015 edition

GOLD MEDAL
Onomichi U2 (Onomichi, Hiroshima, Japan) // Suppose Design Office Co., Ltd.

SILVER MEDAL
Secondary school in Roong village, Cambodia (Roong Village, Takeo Province, Cambodia) // ASF - Architetti Senza Frontiere Italia ONLUS

SILVER MEDAL
CASA DCS - Reuse and refurbishment of a building in Sicily (Ragusa, Italy) // Giuseppe Gurrieri, Valentina Giampiccolo
2012 edition

GOLD MEDAL
Scuola UPI (Valencia, Spain) // Paredes Pedrosa Arquitectos

SILVER MEDAL
1 Bligh (Sydney, Australia) // Ingenhoven Architects + Architectus

SILVER MEDAL
EDF Archives Centre (Bure-Saudron, France) // LAN Architecture

2013 edition

GOLD MEDAL
Hathigaon: housing for Mahouts and their elephants (Amber, Rajastan, India) // RMA Architects

SILVER MEDAL
Civic Centre and Library (Milan, Italy) // DAP Studio

SILVER MEDAL
Cooking School in Ancient Slaughterhouse (Medina Sidonia, Cádiz, Spain) // SOL89
2010 edition

GOLD MEDAL
Haesley Nine Bridges Club House (Yeoju, South Korea) // Kyeong Sik Yoon + Shigeru Ban

SILVER MEDAL
House on the Morella stream (Reggio Emilia, Italy) // Andrea Oliva

SILVER MEDAL
Soe Ker Tie House (Tak Province, Thailand) // TYIN tegnestue

GOLD MEDAL
New Mayr Melnhof - Kaufmann Administrative Centre (Austria) // Architekten Hermann Kaufmann

SILVER MEDAL
Mapungubwe Interpretation Centre (South Africa) // Peter Rich, Michael Ramage, John Ochsendorf

SILVER MEDAL
Brandhorst Museum (Munich, Germany) // Sauerbruch Hutton Architects

2011 edition

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New Mayr Melnhof - Kaufmann Administrative Centre (Austria) // Architekten Hermann Kaufmann

SILVER MEDAL
Mapungubwe Interpretation Centre (South Africa) // Peter Rich, Michael Ramage, John Ochsendorf

SILVER MEDAL
Brandhorst Museum (Munich, Germany) // Sauerbruch Hutton Architects
2009 edition

WINNER
26 social housing dwellings (Seville, Spain) // Solinas Verd Arquitectos

SPECIAL MENTIONS
Elm Park Low Energy Mixed-Use Development (Dublin, Ireland) // Bucholz McEvoy Architects
Alternative economy city in the former slaughterhouse (Rome, Italy) // Luciano Cupelloni Architettura
Elemental Iquique Expanded House (Santiago, Chile) // ELEMENTAL
High school building (Dano, Burkina Faso) // Kere-Architecture
Spanish Pavilion for Expo Zaragoza 2008 (Zaragoza, Spain) // Mangado & Asociados.S.L.
2008 edition

EQUAL WINNERS

Heelis, The New Central Office for the National Trust (Swindon, UK) // Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios

Social services and elderly people centre (Madrid, Spain) // Gil Torres Carmen

Conservation and Renovation of S. Stefano di Sessiano (L’Aquila, Italy) // Orianoassociati architetti

Rammed earth house (Schilins, Austria) // Marin Rauch & Roger Boltshauser

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Daycare facility for children (Vienna, Austria) // Architekturbüro Reinberg

Eawag Forum Chriesbach (Dübendorf, Switzerland) // BGP Architekten

Passive Energy Housing “Samer Mösl” (Heimat, Austria) // sps-architekten

The New Hall of Justice building (Arezzo, Italy) // Studio Nicoletti Associati

Residential building along the Piave river bank (Venice, Italy) // Studio MBAarchitekten
2006 edition

**WINNER**
*Wine facility “Collemassari”* (Grosseto, Italy) // Edoardo Milesi - Archos engineering consulting

**SPECIAL MENTIONS**
*House Baccichetto* (Venice, Italy) // Giovanni Antonio Brunello
*Popular Nursery School* (Cacém-Sintra municipality, Portugal) // NBAA Arq. Associados

2007 edition

**WINNER**
*Restoration of a farmhouse and new multi-purpose hall* (Bologna, Italy) // Diverserighestudio

**SPECIAL MENTIONS**
*Enlargement of the Town Hall in Vicar* (Almeria, Spain) // Carabajal Solinas Verd Arquitectos
*Ponticelli municipality School* (Bologna, Italy) // Contavalli Alessandro e Mirandola Stefania
2004 edition

WINNER
Offices and laboratories BIOTOP (Weidling, Austria) // Büro Reinberg

SPECIAL MENTIONS
Self-sufficient modules CAPA e DST (Porto, Portugal) // Cannatà & Fernandes Arquitectos

2005 edition

WINNER
Countryside house in Marsala (Trapani, Italy) // Ernesto Mistretta Architetto

SPECIAL MENTIONS
Exponor House in Matosinhos (Oporto, Portugal) // Cannatà & Fernandes Arquitectos

Sun House in Montecchio Emilia (Reggio Emilia, Italy) // David Zilioli e Andrea Oliva
This publication confirms the degree of maturity achieved in the cultural partnership, now in its twelfth edition, between university and business. Thanks to the far-sightedness of Fassa Bortolo and their intuition, investments in product and process innovation can’t be separated from the ambition to promote and communicate knowledge about the design process, the Ferrara School of Architecture has been able to divulge a rich and diverse range of explorations through the International Sustainable Architecture Prize. Thanks to them, there is an active witnesses to an epochal change that has placed sustainability and the use of renewable energy—concepts that have always been of fundamental value for our company in all the activities in which we are involved—at the centre of an extraordinary series of surprisingly complex design submissions of very high spatial, organizational, individual and aesthetic quality.

“Fassa Bortolo has chosen to place itself in the forefront in promoting eco-compatible development with this and other initiatives, fruit of an unflagging commitment to maintaining environmental equilibria and the compatibility of built works with the landscapes”.

Paolo Fassa