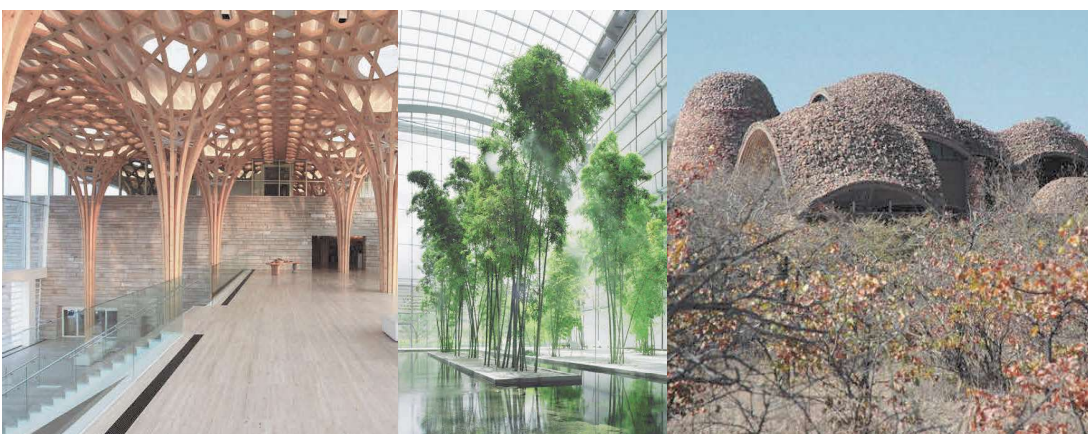


# INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

**Fassa Bortolo  
and  
Ferrara University  
Department of Architecture**





**University  
of Ferrara**

**DA** Department  
of Architecture



## Dedicated to those who design with the future in mind

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 prestigious jury's community

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](http://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**

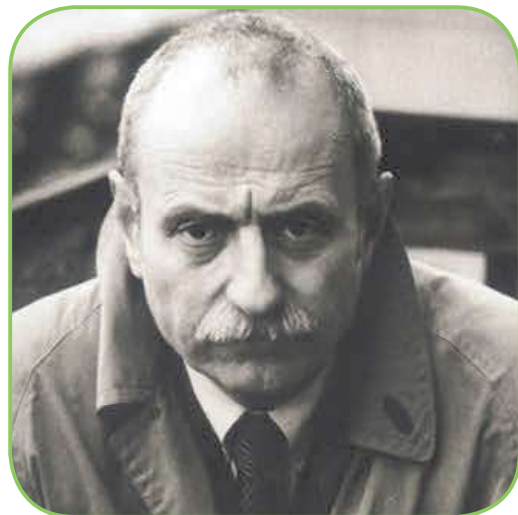
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# Thomas Herzog

## Jury chairman since 2008 (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.



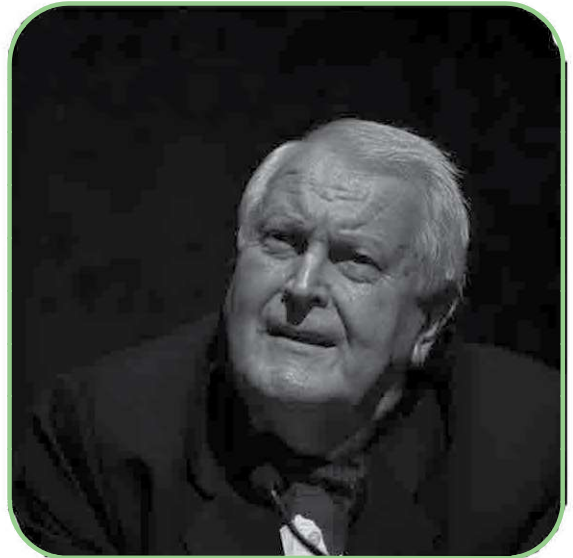
# Vladimir Šlapeta

## Jury member 2023 (Czech Republic)

“ Architects must think long-term, designing buildings that endure and adapt over time. This longevity is a crucial aspect of sustainability. ”

Vladimir Šlapeta is a prominent Czech architect, historian, and educator. He has significantly influenced the understanding and preservation of modernist architecture in Central Europe. Šlapeta has served as the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at both the Czech Technical University in Prague and the Brno University of Technology, shaping the education of numerous architects.

As a prolific writer and curator, Šlapeta has contributed to the discourse on modern architecture through numerous publications and exhibitions. His work emphasizes the importance of architectural heritage and its role in contemporary practice, making him a respected figure in both academic and professional circles.



# Román Cordero

## Jury member 2023 (Messico)

“ Energy efficiency is crucial in creating sustainable buildings. By incorporating passive solar design, natural ventilation, and energy-efficient systems, we can significantly reduce energy consumption ”



Román Cordero is a leading Mexican architect known for his innovative and contextually responsive designs. He is the principal of Román Cordero Arquitectos, a firm that specializes in residential, commercial, and cultural projects. Cordero's work is characterized by its attention to detail, use of local materials, and integration with the surrounding environment.

In addition to his architectural practice, Román Cordero has been involved in teaching and lecturing, sharing his expertise with the next generation of architects. His projects have been recognized with various awards, highlighting his contributions to contemporary Mexican architecture and his commitment to sustainable and culturally relevant design.



# Marianne Burkhalter

Jury member 2021 (Switzerland)

“ **The future of architecture lies in our ability to innovate sustainably. As architects, we have a responsibility to lead the way in creating buildings that are not only functional and beautiful but also environmentally responsible.** ”

Marianne Burkhalter is a distinguished Swiss architect who co-founded the architectural firm Burkhalter Sumi Architekten with Christian Sumi. Known for their vibrant and colorful approach, Burkhalter Sumi's projects often emphasize the interplay of light, materiality, and spatial dynamics. The firm has made significant contributions to contemporary Swiss architecture, particularly in housing and educational buildings.

In addition to her architectural practice, Marianne Burkhalter has been involved in academia, teaching at various institutions including the ETH Zurich and the University of Geneva. Her work has been recognized with multiple awards, and she continues to influence the architectural landscape with her innovative and context-sensitive designs.



# Sami Rintala

Jury member 2021 (Finland)

“ **Architecture should always be in dialogue with its surroundings. Sustainable design respects and responds to the natural environment, using resources wisely and minimally impacting the ecosystem** ”



Sami Rintala is a renowned Finnish architect and artist, known for his interdisciplinary approach that merges architecture, art, and landscape. He is the co-founder of Rintala Eggertsson Architects, a practice celebrated for its thoughtful and contextually integrated designs. Rintala's work often explores themes of sustainability, materiality, and human interaction with space.

Rintala has also contributed significantly to architectural education, teaching and lecturing at institutions such as the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and the Oslo School of Architecture and Design. His projects have been exhibited and awarded internationally, underscoring his impact on both the architectural and art communities.

# Anne Lacaton

Jury member 2019 (France)

“Transformation is the opportunity of doing more and better with what is already existing. The demolishing is a decision of easiness and short term. It is a waste of many things—a waste of energy, a waste of material, and a waste of history. For us, it is an act of violence.”

Anne Lacaton is a celebrated French architect known for her innovative and human-centric approach to design. She co-founded Lacaton & Vassal with Jean-Philippe Vassal in 1987. The firm is renowned for its commitment to sustainability and for rethinking conventional ideas about urban living.

Lacaton has taught at various prestigious institutions, including the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and Harvard Graduate School of Design. In 2021, she was awarded the Pritzker Architecture, recognizing her contributions to the field. Anne Lacaton continues to influence contemporary architecture with her emphasis on affordability, sustainability, and human-centric design.



# Xu Tian Tian

Jury member 2019 (Cina)

“Sustainability in architecture is not just about using green materials or technology; it's about creating buildings that are in harmony with their environment and can be maintained by the local community.”



Xu Tian Tian is a prominent Chinese architect and the founding principal of DnA Design and Architecture. She is celebrated for her sensitive approach to rural revitalization, blending modern design principles with traditional techniques and materials. Xu Tian Tian's work focuses on creating sustainable and contextually relevant architecture that benefits local communities.

Xu Tian Tian's work has received numerous accolades, including the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. Her innovative approach continues to inspire and influence the future of rural and urban architecture in China and beyond.



# Louisa Hutton

Jury member 2017 (UK)

“ A lot of people are apologetic about having to make buildings sustainable. We celebrate it. And a lot of the features we use are deliberately visible on our buildings, forming an integral part of the design. ”

Louisa Hutton worked with Alison + Peter Smithson for four years in the mid eighties. In 1989 she founded her own practice in London, together with Matthias Sauerbruch, which relocated to Berlin in 1993. Sauerbruch Hutton gained international renown for their early and comprehensive engagement with sustainability in architecture and urbanism.

Besides her work as an architect, Louisa Hutton taught at the Architectural Association and is a visiting professor at Harvard Graduate School of Design since 2008. She is a member of the Curatorial Board of the Schelling Architecture Foundation.



# Diébédo Francis Kéré

Jury member 2017 (Burkina Faso)

“ If you have to deal with specific climates and economies, the thing is, you have to just connect it and see what is possible in the given climate. What can I do in this specific place to create this space for people? ”



Diébédo Francis Kéré was born in Burkina Faso. His Berlin architectural practice has been recognized nationally and internationally with awards including the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (2004) and the Global Holcim Award 2012 Gold.

Kéré has undertaken projects in varied countries including Burkina Faso, Mali, Germany and Switzerland. In 2017 the Serpentine Galleries commissioned him to design the Serpentine Pavilion in London. He has held professorships at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, the Swiss Accademia of Mendrisio) and TU Munich.

# Muck Petzet

## Jury member 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

## Jury member 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.

# Glenn Murcutt

## Jury member 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

## Jury member 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.

# Li Xiaodong

## Jury member 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.”

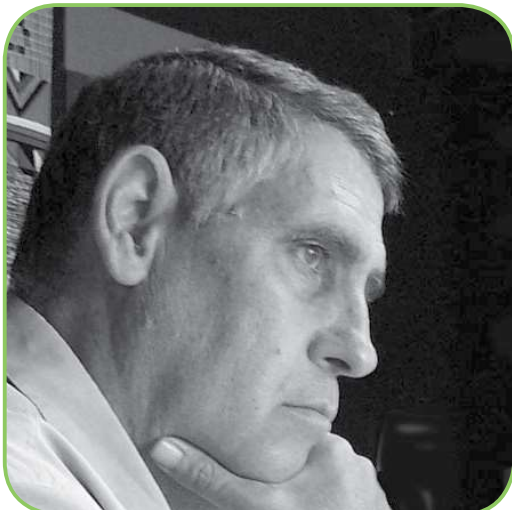
Li Xiaodong graduated from Tsinghua University in 1984 and completed his PhD at Delft/Eindhoven University of Technology in 1993. He is a practicing architect, educator, and researcher on architecture. He established his studio in 1997, and his work ranges from interiors, to architecture, to urban spaces. 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

## Jury member 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.



# Francine Houben

Jury member 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

Jury member 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.

# Alexondros Tombazis

Jury member 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. ”

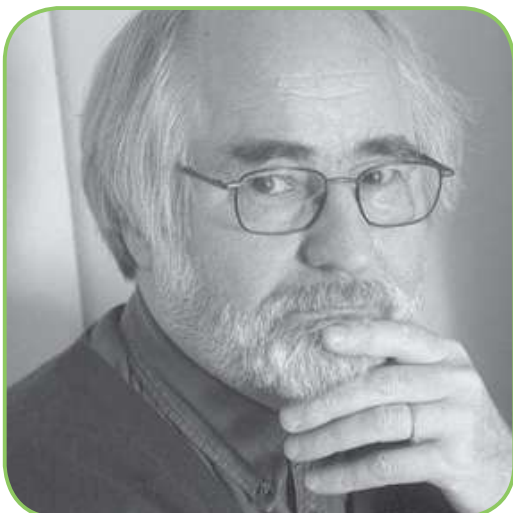
Born in India in 1939, he spent his early childhood in India and England before moving permanently to Greece. Today, Alexandros Tombazis divides his time between his office, which employs about 60 people, and travelling for congress or University lectures. He has been awarded prizes in more than 110 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 Pallasmaa

Jury member 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.

# Francoise Jourda

Jury member 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 (1955-2015) was based in Paris, where she practiced architecture at her firm, JAP (Jourda Architectes Paris) and since 1999 has taught in Vienna, Austria. All her activities were 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 was also one of the signatories of the 1996 European Charter for Solar Energy in Architecture and Urban Planning. She passed away too soon in 2015.



# Michael Hopkins

Jury member 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.

# Hermann Kaufmann

Jury member 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

Jury member 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. ”



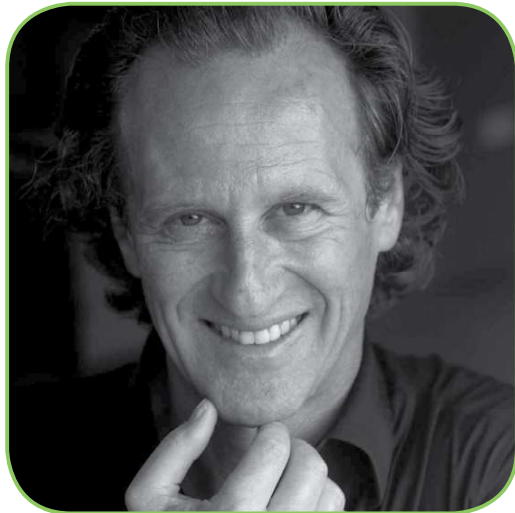
Wilfried Wang began his career in the World of Academic in 1981 and still has an extensive teaching experience in the USA and in Europe (Polytechnic of North London, Harvard, University of Texas at Austin). In the meanwhile, after several work experiences, he founded a studio, together with Barbara Hoidn. 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

Jury member 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.

# Werner Tscholl

Jury member 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.



# Brian Ford

Jury member 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.

# Mario Cucinella

Jury member 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.

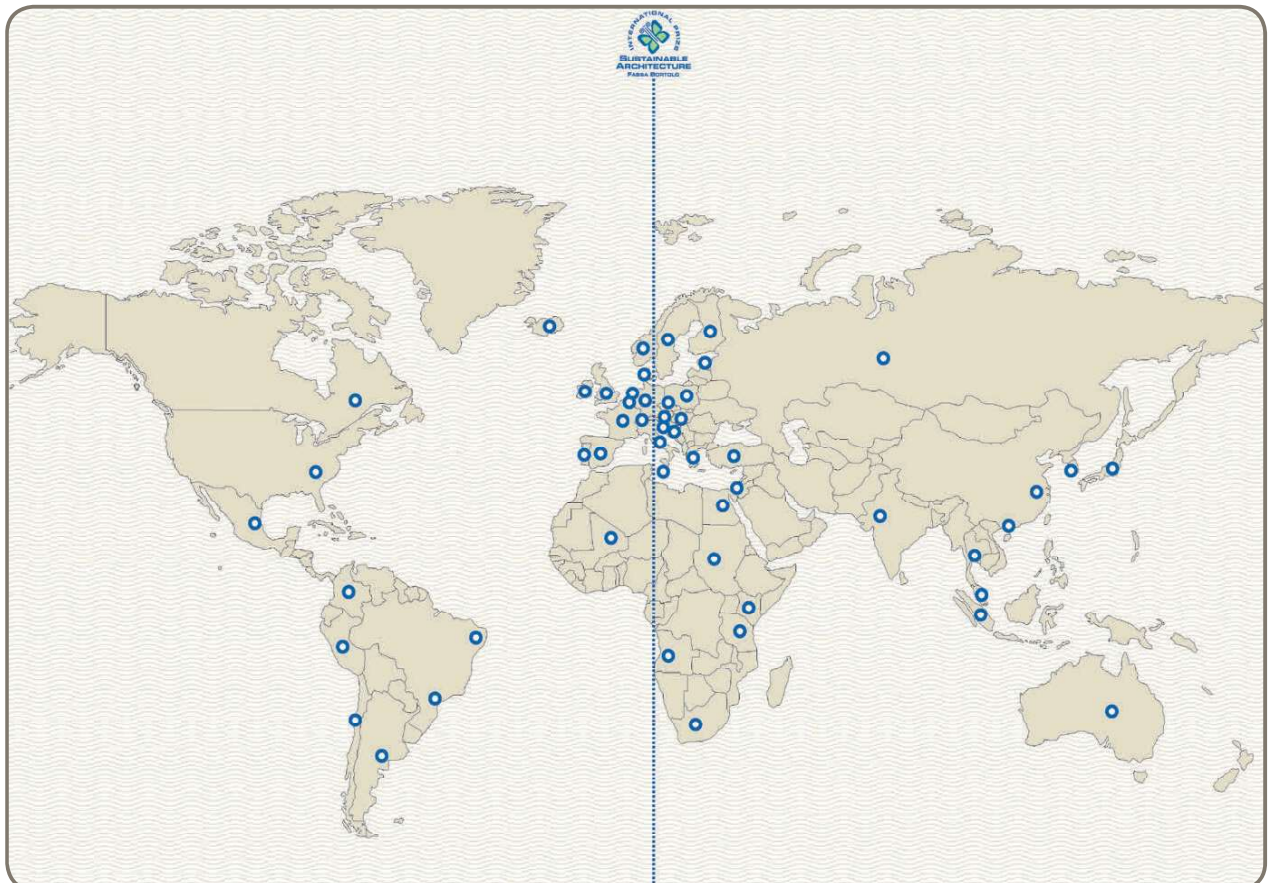
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Mario Cucinella was born in Italy in 1960. At 27 he graduated in architecture at the University of Genoa. After having worked with Renzo Piano, in 1992, he founded the MCA in Paris and in 1999, Mario Cucinella Architects in Bologna. Early on the office 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.



## Outstanding Projects

Since 2003, the diversity of the contributions, from all the continents 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.



## Many prestigious and well known international firms

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 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





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## Fassa Bortolo and Ferrara University

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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**

