

Europe's best Buildings

**European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture
Mies van der Rohe Award 2019**

Exhibition: 30.07.–12.10.2020 | Exhibition Hall 2

Press conference: Wed 29.07, 11:00

The Mies van der Rohe Award, which is endowed with a total of 80,000 Euro prize money, is the most significant European architecture prize. It is a seismograph for the architectural scene and the current edition proves to be particularly sustainable with its finalists in the fields of housing, public space and its focus on conversion rather than new buildings. The exhibition 'Europe's best Buildings' at the Architekturzentrum Wien shows the 40 most convincing projects from the last two years.

The Covid19 crisis is clearly showing the importance of good housing developments, along with new combinations of living and working and a city of short distances with functioning neighbourhoods and generous public spaces. Although the current edition of the biennial EU Mies van der Rohe Award was awarded by the jury in 2019, its architectural responses to pressing social issues could not be more topical. The main prize has been awarded to a ground-breaking housing project: a radical transformation of three apartment blocks from the 1960s in Bordeaux by architects Lacaton & Vassal in collaboration with Frédéric Druot and Christophe Hutin. In the words of one resident, the addition of 'instant winter gardens' lends the 530 social housing units 'the spatial generosity of villas' – whereby the architectural extension also functions as a buffer zone, replacing conventional façade insulation. The remaining finalists range from the redesign of the monumental main plaza in Tirana, Skanderbeg Square, via the transformation of a desolate pavilion in a psychiatric clinic in Melle, Belgium, into a vertical open-air space, and to a new combination of work and living space in Berlin. The Emerging Architect prize went to the young French architects BAST for the school refectory in the village of Montbrun-Bocage, near Toulouse in France.

For the exhibition, a total of 40 projects have been selected from the almost 400 projects nominated from 36 European countries. This selection was made by a distinguished jury that included the Director of the Az W, Angelika Fitz, and includes three projects from Austria: the Aspern Federal School by fasch&fuchs.architekten, a housing development by StudioVlayStreeruwitz in Vienna-Floridsdorf, and the Haus der Musik by Erich Strolz and Dietrich Untertrifaller in Innsbruck. The exhibition is supplemented by the 15 nominated projects involving Austrian participation.

The jury's discussions centred around the social duties of architecture: What can architecture contribute to the major issues of our time, to the handling of resources, the housing question, the issues of land policy, and to places of social encounter? Sustainability is not only linked exclusively to energy efficiency standards and resource-saving materials, but also with a creative approach to the existing substance. This is reflected in almost 20 of the

40 shortlisted projects on show in the exhibition, which are conversions of or additions to existing buildings.

New opportunities for a good life are created when architects ask the right questions and meet clients, users and public administrations who share their priorities. The visionary character of the award-winning projects from all over Europe provide orientation, if not a manifesto, for the potential of contemporary architecture. With vivid presentations including numerous models and films, the exhibition 'Europe's best Buildings' will once again be a crowd-puller this year.

The Mies van der Rohe Award

The main purpose of the Mies van der Rohe Award is to recognise and pay tribute to outstanding achievements in the field of architecture within Europe. The prize, which is endowed with a total of € 80,000 (main prize: € 60,000, Emerging Architect prize: € 20,000), is awarded to projects whose innovative character serves as a guide for the development of contemporary architecture. The Emerging Architect prize is also intended to promote the profession itself and to encourage architects at the outset of their careers. More than 70 experts from 36 European countries apply their professional know-how and knowledge of the local context to nominate a dense selection of outstanding projects. A total of 40 projects from these almost 400 nominations were selected for the exhibition by a distinguished jury – comprised of the chairmen Dorte Mandrup, with George Arbid, Angelika Fitz, Stefan Ghenciulescu, Kamiel Klaasse, María Langarita and Frank McDonald.

The Main Prize: Grand Parc in Bordeaux

After the Second World War, the critical housing shortage in Europe was met in many places with standardised prefabricated buildings. These large housing estates have aged in the meantime and suffer from a negative image. They need to be renovated, both technically and programmatically, to avoid demolition. Together with **Frédéric Druot** and **Christophe Hutin, Lacaton & Vassal architectes** used minimal but effective interventions to renovate three apartment blocks from the late 1960s in the Cité du Grand Parc in Bordeaux. They were able to present the public housing association with a conversion project that was far more economical, environmentally sound and social than a previously envisioned new complex of building. At the centre of the conversion is the addition of prefabricated winter gardens to serve both as a climate layer and as an extension of the living space. The majority of the existing structure was retained and the residents were able to remain in their homes during the extremely short conversion period. The project, with a total of 530 units, shows that large-scale post-war housing estates can be brought into the 21st century while sparing resources – and maintaining the rent level and reducing energy costs. 'I used to live in a rabbit hutch, now I live in a house,' says one long-term tenant.

The Four Runners-Up

Among the projects to have reached the finals that have more extensive presentations in the exhibition is the Lobe Block Terrace House in Berlin (DE) by **Brandlhuber+ Emde, Burlon and Muck Petzet Architects**, a radical example of an open-use architectural structure where the fusion of private and public space becomes a living experiment. For the PC Caritas project, a pavilion in a psychiatric clinic in Melle, Belgium, **de vylder vinck taillieu** are realising the conversion of a ruin into a multi-story public open space. The Plasencia

Auditorium and Congress Centre in Plasencia (ES) by **selgascano** presents itself as an optimistic entity in a structurally weak region. What resembles a chimera between appearance and reality on passing by becomes a versatile place for cultural and social activities on entering. And in Tirana (AL), **51N4E** in collaboration with **Anri Sala** have broken the burdening monumentality of the communist architecture by redesigning the central Skanderbeg Square. In doing so, the architects work both with a relational elevation of the human perspective when crossing and using the plaza, and with the 'cosy' fraying of its edges.

The Emerging Architect prize: Extension of the village school in Montbrun-Bocage

The Emerging Architect Prize has been awarded to BAST from Toulouse for the conversion and extension of a village school in Montbrun-Bocage (FR). The new cafeteria frames the intimacy of the schoolyard while opening up a view of the idyllic rural surroundings.

Catalogue

A catalogue of the exhibition contains all of the nominated projects, and is available at the Az W for the duration of the exhibition.

Exhibition organised by Fundació Mies van der Rohe and Az W with the support of Creative Europe.

Curators: Ivan Blasi, Anna Sala Giralt

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Contributors: Knoll, USM, Viabizzuno, ALMA Barcelona, arch daily, world architects.com

PRIZEWINNER

FR Transformation of 3 Housing Blocks, 530 Dwellings - Grand Parc Bordeaux, Bordeaux, Lacaton & Vassal architectes; Frédéric Druot Architecture; Christophe Hutin Architecture

EMERGING ARCHITECT PRIZE

FR E26 (school refectory), Montbrun-Bocage, BAST

FINALISTS

DE Terrassenhaus Berlin Lobe Block, Berlin, Brandhuber+ Emde, Burlon, Muck Petzet Architekten

ES Plasencia Auditorium and Congress Centre, Plasencia, selgascano

AL Skanderbeg Square, Tirana, 51N4E; Anri Sala; Plant en Houtgoed; iRI

BE PC Caritas, Melle, architecten de vyllder vinck taillieu

SHORTLISTED PROJECTS

The shortlist drawn up from the 400 nominated projects, from which the finalists also emerged, represents an impressive cross-section of current European architecture. They are all covered in the exhibition and include three projects from Austria.

AT	House of Music, Innsbruck, Erich Strolz; Dietrich I Untertrifaller Architekten
AT	Aspern Federal School, Vienna, fasch&fuchs.architekten
AT	Performative Brise-Soleil, Vienna, StudioVlayStreeruwitz ZT-GmbH
BE	De Krook Library, Ghent, RCR Arquitectes; Coussée & Goris architecten
BE	Residential Care centre Kapelleveld, Ternat, architecten de vylder vinck taillieu
BE	Ryhove Urban Factory, Ghent, Trans
DE	Residential and Studio Building at the Former Berlin Flower Market, Berlin, ifau; HEIDE & VON BECKERATH
DK	Hammershus Visitors Centre, Hammershus, Arkitema Architects; Christoffer Harlang
DK	LEGO House, Billund, BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group
ES	Solo House, Matarranya, Spain, OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen
ES	House 1413, Ullastret, HARQUITECTES
ES	Civic Centre Lleialtat Santsenca, Barcelona, HARQUITECTES
ES	Life Reusing Posidonia 14 Social Dwellings in Formentera, Sant Ferran de ses Roques, IBAVI
ES	Desert City, Madrid, GARCIAGERMAN ARQUITECTOS
EE	Arvo Pärt Centre, Tallinn, Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos
FI	Helsinki Central Library Oodi, Helsinki, ALA Architects Ltd.
FR	The Perret Hall. Cultural Centre, Montataire, Atelier d'architecture Pierre Hebbelinck; HBAAT: Heleen Hart, Mathieu Berteloot
FR	Museum of Arts, Nantes, Stanton Williams Architects
FR	Lafayette Anticipations, Paris, OMA
FR	Théodore Gouvy Theatre, Freyming-Merlebach, Dominique Coulon et associés
FR	ENSAE Paristech, Campus Paris-Saclay, Paris, CAb Architectes (Calori Azimi Botineau)
IE	St. Mary's Medieval Mile Museum, Kilkenny, McCullough Mulvin Architects
IE	14 Henrietta Street, Dublin, Shaffrey Architects
IT	Prada Productive Headquarter, Arezzo, Canali associati s.r.l.
IT	M9 Museum District, Venice, Sauerbruch Hutton
NL	Visitor Centre Park Vijversburg, Leeuwarden, STUDIO MAK; Junya Ishigami Associates
NL	Musis Sacrum, Arnhem, van Dongen – Koschuch Architects and Planners
PL	Silesia University's Radio and Television department, Katowice, BAAS arquitectura; Grupa 5 Architekci; Małecy Biuro Projektowe
PT	Lisbon Cruise Terminal, Lisbon, Carrilho da Graça
RO	Restoration and Refurbishment of the Headquarters of the Order of Architects of Romania Bucharest Branch, Bucharest, STARH - Birou de arhitectura (Florian & Iulia Stanciu)
RO	Occidentului 40, Bucharest, ADN Birou de Arhitectura
RS	Reconstruction of Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, nooto; Dejan Todorović architect

SK Adaptation of the Former Factory Mlynica, Bratislava, GutGut

NOMINATED AUSTRIAN PROJECTS

AT BTV Headquarter Vorarlberg and Office Building, Dornbirn, Atelier Arch. DI Rainer Köberl
AT Austrian Embassy Bangkok, Bangkok, HOLODECK architects
AT MED Campus Graz, Graz, Riegler Riewe Architekten ZT-Ges.m.b.H
AT Higher Vocational Schools for Tourism and Catering – Am Wilden Kaiser, St. Johann in Tirol, wiesflecker architekten zt gmbh
AT Farm Building Josef Weiss, Dornbirn, Julia Kick Architektin
AT Exhibition Hall 09-12, Dornbirn, Marte.Marte Architekten
AT P2 | Urban Hybrid | City Library Innsbruck, Innsbruck, LAAC
AT Post am Rochus, Vienna, Schenker Salvi Weber Architekten; feld72 Architekten
AT Alpine Sports Silvretta Montafon, Schruns, Architekt Bernardo Bader ZT GmbH
AT Basilica & Clerical House, Mariazell, Feyferlik / Fritzer
AT Housing Maximilianstraße, St. Pölten, ARTEC Architekten; wup ZT GmbH; raum & kommunikation
AT Princess Veranda, Graz, Pentaplan
AT Schendlingen School, Bregenz, Architekt Matthias Bär ZT GmbH; Architekt Bernd Riegger ZT GmbH; Querformat ZT GmbH
AT Temporary Center of the city district of Reichenau, Innsbruck, ./studio3 – Institute for Experimental Architecture / Technical University Innsbruck
IT Educational Ensemble Terenten, Terenten, feld72 Architekten

The press release as well as high resolution, rights free press photographs are available as downloads at www.azw.at/presse.

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