

Mission, vision and the project itself

Glocal ways of thinking

Jury report of Archiprix International 2013 – Henk van der Veen, Marina van den Bergen

The jury meeting for the Archiprix/Hunter Douglas award 2013 took place in Moscow, Russia, in mid-October 2012. The jury members straddled a broad range of design practices and design cultures: from Canada came landscape architect Susan Herrington, Professor of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of British Columbia and author of articles on how designed landscapes reflect ideas regarding nature and culture; from Norway, architect Kristin Jarmund who has run her own practice since 1985 and has designed many award-winning buildings. From Switzerland, Austrian-born Hubert Klumpner, architect, director of the Venezuela-based Urban Think Tank, and Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at the ETH Zurich; from the United Kingdom, Lesley Lokko, born in Scotland, raised in Ghana and educated in England as an architect. Lokko is a highly appreciated speaker and guest teacher at schools all over the world, as well as being a best-selling novelist. From Russia came Yuri Grigoryan, director of Project Meganom and one of Russia's best-known architects. Grigoryan is also director of the educational programme at Strelka.

The jury meetings were hosted by the Moscow Architecture Institute MARKHI and took place in the beautiful Vkhutemas gallery, where the famous constructivist workshops took place in the early twentieth century. The jury had to review 287 projects from 76 countries, all completed between 1 July 2010 and 31 July 2012, and nominated as the best graduation project of their school or university. In preparation for the meeting, the jury members were asked to study some projects in detail online, each taking his or her share of the total amount of entries. In the first round the jury looked at all submitted projects, neatly laid out on tables and propped against walls.

Although the projects are all highly individual, each carrying the signature of the student or students who designed it, the jury did observe some general tendencies. Many of the 287 graduation projects show, as the jury called it, a kind of 'new social consciousness' in architecture. Or as jury member Lesley Lokko put it: 'It is a complex world they are moving into. Architects are no longer only designers; they have to embrace sociology, anthropology, sustainability, technical innovation.' They are projects not only about form and space, but also about people and cultures. Schools worldwide seem to be shifting focus from designing icons to relevant new tasks. It is demonstrated in the increasing number of graduation projects that deal with existing buildings, reuse and transformations on an architectural and on an urban scale.

The number of European graduates who are leaving their own backyard to design plans for foreign locations is remarkable. Especially India seems to be an inspirational place in this context. The proposals are often stimulating and are of good quality, according to the jury. They show an awareness of the impact of climate, culture, language and rituals on designs. Hubert Klumpner: 'The projects show that the students have social responsibility, deep commitment and knowledge of space.'

Some graduation projects are the result of teamwork. This being the case, Susan Herrington sees evidence that designers are willing to work with others, like community members, and to form collaborations that prove to be fruitful.

After a long and intensive day of reviewing, fifty projects progressed to the second round. On the second day, all fifty projects were reviewed again which led to the nomination of 25 projects. After a lively discussion, Hubert Klumpner, Kristin Jarmund, Lesley Lokko, Susan Herrington and Yuri Grigoryan agreed on the graduation projects that would receive an Archiprix International/Hunter Douglas award.

Most problems are complex and are impossible for architects to solve. . What the winning projects have in common, according to Kristin Jarmund, is that they give a simple yet

effective answer through architecture to these complex problems.
The seven award-winning projects are:

cip - centro per l'innovazione piemonte. Science and congress centre - Lago Maggiore -
Andreas Brinkmann

Brandenburgische Technische Universität, Fakultät 2/ Architektur Bauingenieurwesen
Stadtplanung, Cottbus Germany

Over the last 40 years, nature has overrun buildings and paths in the mountains above Lago Maggiore. The new science and congress centre rearranges and activates the site, it bridges the valley, connects existing ensembles, and provides an entrance to the campus. The transparent walls make the creative processes visible and give a glimpse into the future. It acts as a powerful landmark for the region

Comment: The timeless classical design harmonizes very well with the location and is simultaneously appropriate to the function. The beautiful building and the spatial qualities of the design show the hand of a very skilful architect whose design reflects the statement he made in the project description: participation and responsible action have to be the focus of our common future.

Let's talk about garbage... - Hugon Kowalski

Academy of Fine Arts in Poznan, Faculty of Architecture and design, Poznan Poland

Dharavi is a successful slum in Mumbai with many small factories and workshops, but the ground is up for sale. Giant concrete structures have been proposed to rehouse the people currently living in the slum, constructions that are cheap to erect and which the residents can shape and modify themselves. The structures are situated near the waste tip of Derona, where thousands of people recycle everything that is useful. The building is divided into a residential part and a recycling part.

Comment: A very intelligent proposal for the problem of housing poor people. The project does not close its eyes to the problems and makes a well-motivated proposal to continue the conditions that have made Dharavi a relatively successful slum where people can earn a living within a strong community.

Long Collective House. A new type of open urban residence - Yongming Chen, Yanming Cheng, Zhen Li

Huaqiao University, Faculty of Architecture, Xiamen China

The proposed transformation of the specific Xiamen Long Collective House follows the changes currently occurring in family life in China. The design aims at reorganising spatial memory, superimposing urban life, and promoting harmony between the original residents and the new ones.

Comment: The project is a fascinating exercise in public and private space. The accurate and well-presented analyses lead to a series of small interventions. The carving out of the building volumes in favour of courtyard space is particularly interesting. The project proposes an interesting strategy to renew the existing urban area.

Marrakech. 5 storytelling spaces in the Medina of Marrakech - Greta Tiedje, Lisa Tiedje

Universität der Künste Berlin, Gestaltung Fachbereich 2 - Architektur, Berlin Germany

The project embeds spaces of knowledge exchange, interaction and communication into the public network of narrow alleys in the Medina in Marrakech, Morocco. A complex of five specific spaces has been projected on one of the last building lots. The volumes provide spaces for learning, knowledge-sharing and communication. Traditional forms of knowledge transfer, such as narrative culture, are mixed with contemporary ways of learning. The spaces are defined by a gap: a public, vertical network of alleys running through the complex.

Comment: The design is the result of an interesting evocation of the relationship between cultures. European sensibilities are translated into Moroccan culture. This combination leads to an original concept that fits seamlessly into Moroccan culture and the fabric of the Medina. It is an inspiring way to make a beautiful contemporary social space based on local traditions.

A Mausoleum for Vatnajokull. *Permanence & Transience: An observatory of change* - David Adrian O'Reilly

University of Glasgow / The Glasgow School of Art, Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow Scotland

Cast by fire and carved by ice, Iceland's landscapes are places of constant evolution and erosion. Transient processes leave permanent markers and reminders. The architectural ambition is to create a building of permanence within a transient landscape – a building that observes and documents changes in natural phenomena within the site context. The Mausoleum for Vatnajokull, also known as the Vatna Glacier, Iceland's largest glacier, provides a physical connection between the Glacial Lagoon and the Black Beach, and illustrates and isolates various sense modalities with individual elements: wind, ice, water and earth.

Comment: The project has classical architectural qualities and shows an interesting approach due to its clear focus on one thing: an architecture of timelessness in an ever-changing environment. It is condensed into a robust piece of architecture, a simple and strong gesture comprising two elements, the horizontal and the vertical.

Pabellón Reciclaciudad - Susana Sepulveda General

University of Talca, School of Architecture, Talca Chile

The Recycle the City Pavilion is a manifesto for the recycling of solid waste. The pavilion is made of disposed cardboard tubes and 2000 recycled corrugated cardboard plates; a minimum number of steel joints have been used to assemble the structure. The volume, temporarily placed in a public space for everyday use, appears as an element of surprise and inquiry. It is an addition to a deteriorating location, placing the resident in a relationship between a scarcity of public facilities and a recognition of the job done by the informal recycling agency.

Comment: The project is very small but simultaneously very vigorous. The minimal project is impressive because it generates a maximal effect with a minimum of means.

Urban Strategies to Regenerate Indian public Space. *A case study of Pols in Ahmedabad* - Almudena Cano Pineiro

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura, Madrid Spain

The project proposes a series of interventions in the Pols of Ahmedabad, one of the finest surviving examples of urbanism and domestic architecture in Indian tradition. The interventions form a catalogue of urban tools that solves the lack of infrastructure by providing water supply and drainage. It preserves the traditional way of living by improving the quality of the common spaces.

Comment: The project shows a new and much needed attitude of the architect. The way of working, on top of the existing city and on a small scale, is promising. It provides not only up-to-date infrastructure but also offers an integral approach for the revitalization of public space, while providing good opportunities for local participation. The designer succeeds in reaching her goal of empowering and increasing the capacity of society to develop the skills required to build its own future.