The **3rd edition** of the UIA Friendly and Inclusive Spaces Awards attracted 91 entries from 35 countries **across the world**. Despite widely varying economic, political, social and cultural contexts the submissions demonstrated how **sensitive architectural design** and **collaborative processes** can create inclusive, friendly and enabling environments.

**Five juries**, one from each UIA region, together with a past award winner, assessed the entries which were submitted in **four categories** — **New Buildings**, **Refurbished Existing including Historic Buildings**, **Public and Open Spaces** and **Research**. The assessment was conducted in two stages with **27 entries** proceeding to the second stage. A separate jury reviewed the Research Category.

The final jury commended the quality of projects ranging from a small rest area on a U.S. highway to a technologically advanced aquatic centre in Canada, from a complex reconstruction of a group of medieval buildings in Warsaw to a hospital in Afghanistan, from a joyful playspace in Bangladesh to a special school for disabled children in Hong Kong, and to the sheer range of buildings from South Africa and elsewhere in the world which **sensitively and sustainably respected their environments**. In most of the submitted projects the **diversity of human needs** were seamlessly accommodated allowing **people of all cultures, genders and abilities** to participate fully without exclusion.
Medalist in the New Buildings Category: Wits Rural Facility (South Africa), Kate Otten Architects

NEW BUILDINGS CATEGORY

Medal of Excellence: Wits Rural Facility, South Africa

"Inherent to this project is an underlying respect for people and place. What results is a symbiotic and universal relationship between the architectural spaces created and the natural world into which they insert themselves effortlessly, respectfully, beautifully."

Honourable Mentions:

A Special School for Children with Mild Intellectual Disability, Hong Kong

"The building is successfully integrated into a relatively hostile environment creating a small oasis of relative tranquillity. The simple planning and clear relationship to the courtyard facilitate orientation and intuitive wayfinding."

26 York Street, Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, Ireland

"A large building on an urban site which has comprehensively addressed many inclusive design issues for a client with a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion. The shared central areas are bright and welcoming, with numerous places for social interaction."

Linden Farm Supported Living Centre, UK

"A sensitive approach to providing residential accommodation for 10 young people with neuro-diverse conditions. The use of colour and natural materials successfully create an easily negotiated and calm environment closely linked to the rural setting."
REHABILITATION OF EXISTING & HISTORIC BUILDINGS CATEGORY

Medal of Excellence: Modernisation, preservation and digitalisation of the historic headquarters of the Museum of Warsaw, Poland by architects Ewa Wowczak & Jerzy Wowczak

"An extremely complex reconstruction of a group of medieval buildings destroyed by war in which the physical difficulties of providing access whilst dealing with specific conservation constraints are overcome through inclusive interventions in the historic fabric."

PUBLIC & OPEN SPACES CATEGORY

Medal of Excellence: Bamboo Playscape: An inclusive playspace as part of a “Cycle of care” project, Bangladesh by Kazi Arefin together with architecture & design team and dedicated team of students, workshop participants and volunteers.

"A collaboratively designed and built spectacular structure that joyfully caters for children of all ages and abilities. The project is rooted in the process of learning about access to land, materials, environments and the ethics and politics of creating socially just space."

Honourable Mentions:

Mønsted Limestone Pits / Mønsted Kalkgruber, Denmark

"The main objective was to make the historic limestone pits physically accessible to everyone, in order
The main objective was to make the historic limestone pits physically accessible to everyone, in order to experience the landscape, its history and past activities. This has been sensitively achieved by touching the earth as little as possible but as much as necessary.

Folchi i Torres Square, Spain

"Through the reordering of this urban square two segregated neighbourhoods are linked and the resulting amenities shared. Clever handling of the topography has broken down barriers and allowed for the creation of spaces for social engagement by people of all ages."

RESEARCH CATEGORY

Winner: Support Ageing through Design, Architectural Services Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

"Comprehensive desktop research was carried out and an excellent Design for All/UD process developed, involving all the actors at the relevant stages. The result is detailed user-friendly Guidelines to assist designers and decisions makers to improve the quality of the built environment, taking into consideration the physical, mental and social wellbeing of elderly people."

Highly Commended:

Designing for Inclusivity – Strategies for Universal Washrooms and Change Rooms in Community and Recreation Facilities

"This research helps to fill a gap in design knowledge around issues relating to universal washrooms and change rooms, and their provision in community and recreation facilities. It goes beyond the "gender-designated concept", using friendly design strategies that promote inclusivity for a wide variety of users."

Universal Design Guidelines for Macau

"Good desktop research and a Design for All/UD process was developed for a 'Travel Chain Analysis'. This has been developed into useful Guidelines which go well beyond the old 'barrier free' concept."

For more information about the UIA Work Programme Architecture For All, visit the UIA website.

The International Union of Architects (UIA) is an international non-governmental organisation based in Paris. Established in 1948, it is the only organisation representing architects across the globe working to unify architects, influence public policies on construction and development, and advance architecture in service to the needs of society.

UIA - INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS

E-mail: news@uiia-architectes.org
Website: www.uiia-architectes.org

Facebook
Sign up for our newsletter

This e-mail has been sent to @, click here to unsubscribe.