The UIA International Innovative Health Design Awards

Jurors’ Report

In acknowledgement of the difficulties endured on a global scale over the COVID-19 pandemic and the interventions made in addressing imposed change, the International Union of Architects (UIA) declared 2022 the UIA Year of Design for Public Health. In recognition of the essential roles that architects fulfil in social and environmental wellbeing, the UIA sought to recognize the efforts of architects in addressing ways of dealing with the effects of future calamities and the Design for Health, through works of architecture and architecture research.

The UIA, through its Public Health Group, initiated as one of its programs for 2022 Year of Design for Public Health, awards seeking to recognize with distinction innovative architectural design solutions addressing issues that have been brought to the fore by the COVID-19 pandemic for:

i) Built work aligned to any building typology, and
ii) Through architecture research documenting such innovation through new findings.

Esteemed Jurors in two respective panels were tasked with evaluating the submissions, and in terms of the Award rules, determining the one award permitted per category.

The Jury panels were as follows:

Built Work:
1. Architect Cindy Walters (UK)
2. Architect Deniz İncedayi (Turkey) – Chairperson, (UIA Representative)
3. Architect Tye Farrow (Canada)
4. Architect Kerstin Thompson (Australia)
5. Architect Dr Luyanda Mpahlwa (South Africa)
Alternate: Architect Fernando Mora (Mexico, UIA Representative)

Theoretical Work:
1. Architect Academic Prof. Ola Oduku (UK): Head --- University of Liverpool
2. Architect Academic Prof. Fani Vavili (Greece) - Chairperson, UIA PHG, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, UIA Representative
3. Architect Academic Prof. Dr. Nivaldo Vieira de Andrade Junior (Brazil) --- Federal University of Bahia
4. Architect Academic Dr. Rosman Wai (Hong Kong) --- University of Hong Kong
5. Architect Academic Mr. Vity Claude Nsalambi (Angola) --- University Agostinho Neto, Angola
Alternate: Architect Academic A/Prof. Lindy Osborne Burton (Australia) – Queensland University of Technology, UIA Representative
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Category A: Built Work

15 Submissions were received from across the 5 UIA Regions.

8 of the submissions received some acknowledgement for consideration by the jury, with 3 proceeding through to the next round of assessment. In the final grading 2 submissions remained, with one being declared the awardee, and the Jurors acknowledging the other as a Special Mention.

The Award for ‘Built Work’ goes to:

Project 3846 – Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) in Yixing, China

Authors: SUP Atelier of THAD – Song Yehao, Sun Jingfen, Xie Dan, Shi Lei, Wang Zhixin, Chen Xiaojuan, Chu Yingnan, Loo Huixin and Liu Mengjia (China)

Citation:

In terms of the project proposition, the environmental ambition, the setting in the landscape, the design and architectural resolution, the sustainable principles utilised on the project, the public and educational component, the focus on the optimisation natural resources, both in terms of the building and the purification systems employed, and most interestingly, the post occupancy energy performance evaluation presented, this project deserves the winning vote.

It is hoped that the project will be well received by its community; embraced as a successful case study in terms of promoting health, healthy buildings, and environmental awareness, and that it will contribute to a healthy built environment so needed in our times.

The building design is well presented with convincing photography and concept diagrams of the energy reticulation systems.

While no other award is permitted under this category, the Jury motivated for an “Honourable Mention” for a second deserving submission, this being:

Project: 3850 – Symbiosis Hospital and Research Center (SUHRC) in Pune, India

Authors: Rahul Kadri (India)

Citation:

This project deserves recognition for the contribution it makes to our profession. The project demonstrates a fitting response to its setting, designed with full acknowledgement of the topography and the needs of the surrounding community for state-of-the-art health care, research, education, and skills development. The reference to “Tele-Medicine services” for
rural communities is very relevant, and the use of the facility as a Covid-19 centre demonstrates the multi-functional character of the facility.

The Architects have used passive climate control design and sustainable building principles, especially relevant in environments with limited resources. The building is designed around courtyards which allow for adequate natural light and ventilation, with little reliance on mechanical cooling systems, and uses innovative systems to create a robust ecosystem. The Jurors acknowledge and commend this submission.

Category B: Theoretical Work

Disappointingly, only 3 submissions were received under this category.

The Jurors were unanimous in their deservedly assigning the award to:

Project 3852 – Design for Healthcare SURGE. A Toolkit for the African Region

Authors: Francesca De Filippi*, Stefano Fantucci**, Roberto Pennacchio*, Marco Simonetti**, Matteo Robiglio*, Elena Guidetti*, Valeria Villamil Cárdenas*, Laura Juliana Gualdrón Frias*, Michele Di Marco*** and Anna Silenzi*** (Italy)

*Department Architecture and Design, **Department of Energy, Politecnico di Torino, Italy
***World Health Organization. Technical Science for Health Network (Téchne)

Citation:

The objective of this study is very clear and is well related to health design. The methodology is well-defined and data collection /analysis followed the established framework. The case study, while not wholly scientific, indicated the broad direction in the consideration of ventilation, building materials, and building technology for the development of the Centers of Excellence in the African Region.

The design methodology stresses social and environmental aspects, and the established design methodology can be a practical toolkit to support future development of similar Centers for mitigating public health emergencies in different contexts and conditions in Africa.

Submitted on behalf of the Jurors: 24 April 2023

Awards Manager: Architect Kevin Bingham (South Africa)