

2023 UIA Triennial Prizes – Jury report

To encourage merit, recognise talent and reward achievements of international consequence, the International Union of Architects (UIA) awards prizes every three years during the UIA World Congress of Architects.

The only lifetime achievement awards bestowed upon architects by their peers, the prizes are traditionally attributed on stage at an awards ceremony at the end of the UIA Triennial World Congress. Nominees for the UIA Gold Medal and the UIA Prizes may include any living architect, firm or collective entities comprising architects.

The achievements of a firm or group must represent collaborative efforts over an extended period, with the same individuals as leaders of the group. Except in the case of the Jean Tschumi Prize, nominees must be professionally qualified architects or, in the case of group (team) submissions, headed by a professionally qualified architect.

The five UIA prizes are named for the Past Presidents of the UIA whose fame was founded on their ethics as well as on their mastery of their particular discipline. They recognise excellence in five specific architectural domains:

- **The Patrick Abercrombie Prize** for Urban Planning and Design
- **The Auguste Perret Prize** for Technology in Architecture
- **The Jean Tschumi Prize** for Architectural Writing
- **The Robert Matthew Prize** for Sustainable and Humane Environments
- **The Vassilis Sgoutas Prize** for Implemented Architecture Serving the Impoverished

The international jury evaluated 37 nominations sent by 19 UIA Member Sections (China, South Africa, Bulgaria, Belgium, Vietnam, Egypt, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, France, Finland, Spain, Czech Republic, Ireland, Denmark, India, Tunisia, Luxembourg, Mexico).

The jury was impressed by the great diversity of the nominations received for the 2023 edition and by the responses given to today's pressing issues such as climate change, poverty or the limited availability of resources. To select the laureates, the jurors considered the nominees' body of work and their response to the UIA's five prizes' architectural domains throughout their career: improving the lives of and empowering marginalised communities, making exceptional achievements in architectural innovation, and exceptional service and contributions to architectural academia.

Chaired by UIA President José Luis Cortés, the jury met in Beijing, China, on 27, 28 and 30 April as well as virtually on 5 May to evaluate the nominations. For each prize, the jury was joined by one of the laureates of previous iterations.

The Prizes and Honourable Mentions will be formally presented during the Prize Ceremony taking place on 6 July at the 28th UIA World Congress of Architects in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The jury selected seven (7) laureates and four (4) honourable mentions:

The Patrick Abercrombie Prize for Urban Planning and Design

Laureate

L'AUC, France

“Good urban planning today must address an increasing number of challenges as exemplified in the UN 17 SDGs. For more than two decades l’AUC has consistently addressed a multitude of these important challenges concerning resources, climate, sustainability, public health, new mobility, communality and social life. These concerns are found in the many projects from this multidisciplinary team, not least the project ‘Base aérienne 217’ for reuse of the military airport in Brétigny-sur-Orge where they reinvented a ruined landscape, worked with new types of density and mobility, and included a major cultural place where people can gather for cultural events.”

Honourable mention

300.000 Km/s, Spain

“300.000 Km/s’ projects consist serious research and reflections. They have a good understanding of cities and give an approach to a number of contemporary city planning issues. Their team is a great response to the need of today’s architecture to reunite multidisciplinary profiles, such as urban planners, data scientists, code developers and technical and humanistic profiles.”

The Auguste Perret Prize for Technology in Architecture

Laureate

Philip F. Yuan, China

“Philip F. Yuan has the ability to expand the boundaries of architecture by using digital technology, 3D printing and robotic construction, and manages to keep his projects human centred by taking into consideration local materials and working with the community. His work is ahead of its time and addresses current challenges related to local necessities and sustainability. It intertwines local craftsman, local materials, local needs and culture, and shares advanced knowledge across the World.”

The Jean Tschumi Prize for Architectural Writing

Laureates

Anne Beim, Denmark

“Anne Beim is an example of a holistic-thinking architect-academic who has made significant contributions through her writings that have influenced architects in Denmark, Scandinavia, and wider Europe. Focusing her writings and critique on building culture, tectonics, how architectural ideas are realised, and the wider role of architecture in sustainable development processes, she stresses the changing role of contemporary architects and the need for global engagement and cross-cultural learning.”

Vladimír Šlapeta, Czech Republic

“Vladimír Šlapeta is a leading scholar and historian, concentrating on the contributions of Central European architects to the Modern Movement. During a career spanning more than four decades, with contributions to various universities and UN organisations, he has had a significant influence through his outstanding contributions to teaching, deanship, writing, curating museum exhibitions, preparing catalogues, and delivering keynote addresses on the achievements of the Czech avant-garde in an international context and on contemporary European architecture.”

The Robert Matthew Prize for Sustainable and Humane Environments

Laureate

Hoàng Thúc Hào, Vietnam

“Hoàng Thúc Hào’s projects emphasise a sense of cohesion and a friendly environment for local people’s lives, he actively engages with the local community and encourages them to be part of the building process with a participatory approach. His project ‘Worker Village’ reinvents the living standards of workers and encourages communication between neighbours with a shared courtyard and corridor and by inviting inhabitants to tend the gardens. His work is a great example of interactions between the traditional and the modern, the humans and the environment, and the identity and the globalisation.”

Honourable mentions

Jalal Ahmed, Bangladesh

“Jalal Ahmed’s projects are simple yet impressive projects that engage the people physically in planning new villages. He emphasises a sustainable and practical approach by using recycled materials and protecting locals from natural disasters. The humanitarian aspect of his work also concentrates on food security, taking people beyond the realm of architecture. His projects demonstrate a holistic approach dealing not only with shelter but also introducing alternative food security options and building awareness about social, civil and political rights.”

Song Yehao, China

“Song Yehao has designed impressive structures for projects conceived for rural areas, which demonstrate innovative features and engage the community in the building process. His work clearly shows the role of the inhabitants and trains people in the technology of the ground. He interlaces urban and rural intervention. His project ‘Concept WRRF Yixing’ is a remarkable example of architectural cleverness in terms of technology and passive design. He addresses smaller and bigger scales at the same time, with the ‘Waterfowl Pavilion of Beijing Zoo’ project that uses solar panels and wind generation, or the ‘Passive House Pavilion of Longfor Sundar’ project that has a more humanitarian approach.”

The Vassilis Sgoutas Prize for Implemented Architecture Serving the Impoverished

Laureates

Marina Tabassum, Bangladesh

“We were impressed by Marina Tabassum’s interrogation of a specific design problem and her innovation shown in coming up with a practical, technically well-resolved solution which is scalable by the ordinary person. We felt that this aspect of the project warrants recognition as it talks particularly to creating a positive change and paradigm shift in the lives of the communities engaged with and beyond. She has made remarkable contributions in creating buildings in line with their natural environments and embracing the design challenges posed by the environment.”

Đoàn Thanh Hà, Vietnam

“Đoàn Thanh Hà has an impressive body of work which embodies the spirit of the prize. The innovation shown in every project demonstrates the architect’s commitment to creating an architecture which is of its place. This is done through the considered use of local materials, by engagement with local communities and by employing the local skills and craftsmanship within each community. The resultant body of work is one which pushes the boundaries of community design and begins to empower the user as maker and creator of their own spaces.”

Honourable mention

Belen Desmaison, Peru

“Belen Desmaison’s ‘Collective Spaces for care in the Peruvian Amazon - Rainwater Harvesting, Storage and Treatment’ project is a small project which has the potential to have a huge impact. Her engagement with an Amazon rainforest community in creating sustainable solutions to their way of living, is commendable. Demonstrating this in a built ‘prototype’ which tests the solutions contemplated and its adoption into the shared public spaces, makes this project unique and deserving of recognition.

The international jury members:

UIA Bureau:

.....José Luis CORTÉS
UIA President, Mexico

.....Thomas VONIER
UIA Immediate Past President, United States

.....Pei Ing TAN
UIA Secretary General, Malaysia

.....Seif ALNAGA
UIA Treasurer, Egypt

.....Natalie MOSSIN
UIA Vice President Region I, Denmark

.....Istelianna ATANASSOVA
UIA Vice President Region II, Georgia

.....Sam OBOH

UIA Vice President Region III, Canada

.....Ishtiaque ZAHIR TITAS

UIA Vice President Region IV, Bangladesh

.....Tokunbo OMISORE

UIA Vice President Region V, Nigeria

Laureates of previous editions:

.....Jan GEHL

1993 laureate of the Patrick Abercrombie Prize for Urban Planning and Design, Denmark

.....Anupama KUNDOO

2021 laureate of the Auguste Perret Prize for Technology in Architecture, India

.....Ashraf SALAMA

2017 laureate of the Jean Tschumi Prize for Architectural Writing, United Kingdom/Egypt

.....Carin SMUTS

2017 laureate of the Robert Matthew Prize for Sustainable and Humane Environments, South Africa

.....Nadia TROMP

*2021 laureate of the Vassilis Sgoutas Prize for Implemented Architecture Serving the Impoverished,
South Africa*

The jury for the 2023 **Patrick Abercrombie Prize** consisted of: José Luis CORTÉS, Pei Ing TAN, Seif ALNAGA, Natalie MOSSIN, Sam OBOH, Ishtiaque ZAHIR TITAS, Tokunbo OMISORE and Jan GEHL.

The jury for the 2023 **Auguste Perret Prize** consisted of: José Luis CORTÉS, Pei Ing TAN, Seif ALNAGA, Natalie MOSSIN, Sam OBOH, Ishtiaque ZAHIR TITAS, Tokunbo OMISORE and Anupama KUNDOO.

The jury for the 2023 **Robert Matthew Prize** consisted of: José Luis CORTÉS, Pei Ing TAN, Seif ALNAGA, Natalie MOSSIN, Sam OBOH, Ishtiaque ZAHIR TITAS, Tokunbo OMISORE and Carin SMUTS.

The jury for the 2023 **Vassilis Sgoutas Prize** consisted of: José Luis CORTÉS, Pei Ing TAN, Seif ALNAGA, Natalie MOSSIN, Sam OBOH, Ishtiaque ZAHIR TITAS, Tokunbo OMISORE and Nadia TROMP.

The jury for the 2023 **Jean Tschumi Prize** consisted of: José Luis CORTÉS, Thomas VONIER, Pei Ing TAN, Seif ALNAGA, Natalie MOSSIN, Istelianna ATANASSOVA, Sam OBOH, Ishtiaque ZAHIR TITAS, Tokunbo OMISORE and Ashraf SALAMA.