



## **OUTSTANDING ARTIST AWARD – EXPERIMENTAL TENDENCIES IN ARCHITECTURE 2014**

Prize-giving ceremony and exhibition opening: Wed, 15.10.2014, 7 pm  
Exhibition: 16.10. – 03.11.2014, Halle F3

AN EXHIBITION BY THE BUNDESKANZLERAMT ÖSTERREICH KUNST

This year, once again, the Federal Chancellery of Austria organised the outstanding artist award for experimental and pioneering directions in architecture – Austria's most important award for innovative architecture, which has been in existence 1988 – and embarked once more on a search for architecturally ambitious, forward-looking positions with serious content. The projects submitted were extremely diverse, ranging from technical studies to spatial and user-related experiments, from a purely theoretical approach to a concrete built project, and from a formal aesthetic experiment to functionalist minimalism.

In the context of the prize-giving ceremony on 15.10.2014 the winning project and three honourable mentions will be announced and presented in an exhibition, alongside ten further projects, nominated for their remarkable qualities. The project panels with photographs, drawings, commentaries and models display an astonishing wealth of ideas, a delight in experimentation and new intellectual and construction-related approaches.

From a total of 45 projects submitted the jury, consisting of Anna Heringer (architect, Laufen), Françoise-Hélène Jourda (Professor at the Institute of Architecture and Design, Department of Spatial and Sustainable Design, TU Vienna) and Verena Konrad (Head of the VAI – Vorarlberger Architektur Institut, Dornbirn), selected a first prize-winner and three honourable mentions and nominated a further ten projects for the exhibition. All these projects can be seen from 16.10. – 03.11.2014 in the exhibition in the Az W.

### **Statement of the jury**

One of our principal concerns in assessing each project was to identify an active examination of the circumstances under which architecture is made and the effects that can be achieved through it. On this account we focussed on projects that are devoted to processuality, communication and reflection on one's own activity and are coherent as a whole, rather than on purely formal-aesthetic designs.

Every form of architectural experiment requires a vision – one that is social, political, technological, ecological and/or economic. Both the approach and the results of the four projects selected from those submitted convinced the jury.



## **PRIZE-WINNER**

### **ESCOLA ANAJÔ – COMMUNAL BUILDING WITH LOCAL RESOURCES**

by Gregor Fasching

The jury selected this as the winning project on account of its experimental and forward-looking approach in which all aspects of architecture – the social, political, technological, economic and ecological – are comprehensively considered. The prize is granted in recognition of the courage, willingness to take risks, commitment, stamina and the architectural position as process designer.

The building task was found by means of an individual initiative and given concrete form over a longer period of time, during which concepts for financing it were also devised. The main focus is on the use of renewable and local resources which, on the one hand, leave behind no material ballast and on the other ensure an added social value by creating workplaces and helping the workers acquire qualifications through learning construction methods. The planning process involved cooperation with the local population along with an examination of the peoples' lives and of the economic and political situation.

(Jury statement)

## **HONOURABLE MENTIONS**

### **GREGORS STADT**

by Martin Zettel

Forward-looking architecture requires the ability to engage in criticism and discourse and the development of a generally understandable language for public communication about architecture.

Decisive in selecting this project for an honourable mention is the aspect of architecture's social dimension. Gregors Stadt (Gregor's City) demonstrates the importance of listening and observing as abilities that should always form the basis for architectural action – it demonstrates the quality of willingness to learn from each other. With Gregors Stadt as an exhibition, lecture, conference and film project the jury recognizes a successful example of an interdisciplinary discourse about public space and its design, which starts from among a minority, the city's homeless.

### **LUZIAPARK NIEDERNSILL**

by Stephan Wimmer and Bernhard Stubenböck

The Luziapark in Niedersill is a project carried out at a small scale using the simplest of means. The result is architecture that is fun – a joyous experience of nature and movement in a designed environment where it is a delight to spend time. The experimental aspect is not restricted to the design but also includes the diversity of use. The leisure time architecture employs simple materials and a construction method that enables it to be harmoniously embedded in the landscape.



## **ELASTIC – LIVING**

by Angelo Roventa

This honourable mention goes to a modular furniture system of 50m<sup>2</sup>, conceived for production in series. ELASTIC – LIVING can be used multi-functionally; it stands for the efficient use of infrastructure and represents a forward-looking solution in times when resources are becoming scarcer.

Although Angelo Roventa is not at the start of his career, the jury pays tribute to the consistent way in which he has developed his work on experimental forms of housing.

(Jury statements)

## **NOMINATIONS**

“POINT of VIEW” by Ismail Karaduman

“Building a Healthcare-Centre in South Sudan” by David Kraler and Christoph Lachberger

“Is global design generic?” by Wolfgang Bürgler, LIMIT Architects

“Imagination Stadt” by heri&salli”

“Robotic Infiltrations” by Andrei Gheorghe

“Bio Informed” by Nikolay Hristov Ivanov

“Because of Nelio” by Barbara Poberschnigg

“Ein Dach für Homa Bay” by Susanne Weißenböck

“Stadtpark Hobrechtstraße” by Sophia Gurschler

“Pavillon und räumliche Intervention für das Az W” by Clemens Bauder

The exhibition "outstanding artist award – experimental tendencies in architecture 2014" can be visited until Mon., 03.11.2014 in Halle F3 in the Az W. Admission is free of charge!

**The press release on the exhibition as well as high-resolution, free-of-charge press photos can be downloaded at: [www.azw.at/press\\_outstanding](http://www.azw.at/press_outstanding).**

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Patron of the Az W: Architecture Lounge