

EUROPEAN PRIZE FOR URBAN PUBLIC SPACE 2014. ANNOUNCEMENT

Information
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Why Public Space?

With ideas of equality, plurality and progress constituting part of its very foundations, the European city is today facing new challenges arising from its exponential growth and increasing social and cultural complexity. Some of society's main problems are expressed in its public spaces: segregation, rampant construction and deficiencies in guaranteeing the rights to housing and to the city are some of the phenomena that are putting into jeopardy the ideal of the open and democratic community that has always been so distinctive of the European city.

The European Prize for Urban Public Space is a biennial competition that aims to recognise and encourage the creation, recovery and improvement of public space in the understanding that the state of public space is a clear indicator of the civic and collective health of our cities.

Call for Entries

The sponsoring institutions of the Eighth European Prize for Urban Public Space are the following:

- Barcelona: Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB)
- Frankfurt: Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM)
- Helsinki: Museum of Finnish Architecture (MFA)
- Ljubljana: Museum of Architecture and Design (MAO)
- London: The Architecture Foundation (AF)
- Paris: La Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine (Cité)
- Vienna: Architekturzentrum Wien (AzW)

International Jury

The Jury of the 2014 Prize will consist of the following members: Carme Ribas (President, CCCB), Matevž Čelik (MAO), Sarah Ichioka (AF), Juulia Kauste (MFA), Francis Rambert (Cité), Peter Schmal (DAM), Dietmar Steiner (AzW).

Schedule

- 21 October 2013 - 23 January 2014: period of registration
- 3 and 4 April 2014: Jury's final working sessions at the CCCB
- 19 June 2014: prize-giving ceremony at the CCCB

Conditions of Participation

Works that have created, recovered or improved public space within the geographic limits of the Council of Europe in the years 2012 and 2013 may present for the Prize. These entries must be presented by the authors or the institutions that have sponsored the public space

project. Given that some urban public space interventions are of very long duration, any project that has not been completely finalised in the time period of 2012-2013 may still present for the Prize if enough phases of the envisaged end result have been completed to enable evaluation

of the eventual repercussions of the intervention as a whole within its urban setting.

Selection Criteria

The criteria that will govern selection of the prize-winning projects from among those that are presented for the European Prize for Urban Public Space will not only be related with the quality of the work from a strictly architectural point of view since the jury will also consider other aspects in its evaluation of the effects of the urban transformation that has taken place in the specific setting and its impact on collective life:

- The explicitly urban nature of the intervention. The size of the city or town is not a limiting factor although priority will be given to medium-sized or large municipalities and those with a more general urban significance.
- The public ownership and/or clearly public-spirited vocation of the project.
- Appropriateness of interventions to the functions required of public space, from those directly linked with citizens' occupation of a space, through to those pertaining to the collective imaginary.
- Capacity of the interventions to reduce social fractures within the city and eliminate physical and/or symbolic barriers in order to enhance quality of life for the inhabitants.
- Contribution of the projects in the domain of environmental improvement, in promoting public transport and innovation in the treatment of public installations, energy resources and urban waste.
- The degree of citizen participation and engagement in the conception, production and/or subsequent maintenance of the space. Degree of acceptance of the project by users.
- Transversal character of the planning concepts and/or objectives that have guided the project (sociology, demography, history, architecture, economy, engineering, landscaping, anthropology).

