European Prize for Urban Public Space 2012


Joint Winner
Arranjament dels cims del Turó de la Rovira, Barcelona [Spain] 2011
Architekten: Jansana, de la Villa, de Paauw, arquitectes SLP, AAIUP; Jordi Romero i associats SLP
Bauherr: Ajuntament de Barcelona, l'Institut de la Memòria i l'Heritage i l'Habitatge
Foto: Jordi Santamaria

Comment of the jury:
The Turó de la Rovira project in the Carmelo neighbourhood has been awarded an Ex aequo Prize because of its delicate and elegant treatment of a space that has a recent history and hitherto marginal position in the city of Barcelona. Apart from the 360° views afforded from a lookout which is now more accessible, the space has also been recovered for collective memory. It evokes the Civil War while also adding value to the remains of a self-constructed housing settlement without conveying any sense of over-emphasis. Hence, marginal space has been discretely included within the consciousness of the city as a whole.

Special Mention
Exhibition Road, London [United Kingdom] 2011
Architekten: Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Bauherr: Dixon Jones Ltd
Foto: Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Comment of the jury:
This work located in one of London’s main cultural districts has managed to achieve a balance of consensus between traffic and pedestrians, instead of segregating these two very real uses of urban space. This is a premier example of such a deliberately designed calm, shared space, or shared surface, on a major city road in a large metropolis.

Nantes [France] 2011
Architekten: Krzysztof Wodiczko & Julian Bonder, Wodiczko+Bonder, Architecture, Art & Design
Bauherr: Nantes Metropole, Ville de Nantes
Foto: Wodiczko+Bonder Photographs
Comment of the jury:
This work recovers a space of old infrastructure linked with a harsh history, that of the French slave trade. It is now public space at two levels. The lower part, the compressed form of which recalls the cramped conditions in the ships' holds has been transformed into a memorial space, while the upper level is a riverside walk where once there was a car park.

Special Mention
Annorstädes / Elsewhere / Ailleurs,
Malmö [Sweden] 2010
Architektur: Tania Ruiz
Bauherr: Trafikverket, Statens konsträd, Informationsteknik Malmö
Foto: Tania Ruiz

Comment of the jury:
This work was commissioned and constructed concurrently with the Malmö City Tunnel that hosts it and expressly designed for its functions. It has given a new dimension to the railway platform space by banning all advertising and replacing it on both sides for a length of 180 metres with an installation of slow-moving images that give poetic sense to the fact of waiting.

Special Category
Acampada en la Puerta del Sol, Madrid [Spain] 2011

Comment of the jury:
This entry has been assigned a special category because it was the subject of the most prolonged and most principled discussion among an evenly divided Jury. Among the issues raised was that of public space as physical container and as an arena for social and civic expression. This intervention also gave rise to debate about basic issues of understanding the parameters of architecture. Since half the Jury was very much in favour of this project being included so as to highlight its relevance in today’s world, the Special Category was unanimously agreed upon to reflect this opinion.