



**public space**  
european prize 2010

## WHY PUBLIC SPACE?

Given the reductionism and oversimplification of some of the large-scale urban projects implemented in Europe in recent years, and the risks of homogenisation and impoverishment of the urban landscape, we believe that promoting public space and making known its political and plural character and the diversity of functions it can embrace, is an ideal way of stimulating urban projects that aim to reinvent and enhance the structural role that this space has always played in European cities.

## WHAT IT IS?

The **European Prize for Urban Public Space** is an initiative of the Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona (CCCB). It was established following the exhibition “The Reconquest of Europe”, which was held in the CCCB in 1999, in order to offer testimony to the process of rehabilitation of public spaces that has been occurring in many European cities. Over the last decade, the Prize has become known throughout Europe and has been gaining institutional support to the point that it now constitutes a gauge of the main concerns and initiatives in European urban planning.

The aim of the Prize is to recognise and foster the public character of urban spaces and their capacity for fostering social cohesion. While acknowledging the ambiguities inherent in the notion of public space, this Prize – the only one of its kind in Europe – is distinctive in both recognising and promoting a public space that is at once public (open and universally accessible) and urban. The Prize, in highlighting the relational and civic aspects of the typically urban space, thus differs from other initiatives that are focused on the figure of the architect, and from awards given for landscape-centred projects.

## ABOUT US

In the years since its inception, a number of European institutions have joined the project, which is presently co-organised by The Architecture Foundation (London), the Architekturzentrum Wien (Vienna), the Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine (Paris), the Nederlands Architectuurinstituut (Rotterdam) and the Museum of Finnish Architecture (Helsinki) and the Deutsches Architekturmuseum (Frankfurt). Over the last five occasions on which the Prize has been offered, it has consolidated in institutional terms and this has enabled it to expand its geographic scope. In 2008, 197 projects from 26 European countries (in comparison with the 81 projects from 14 countries in 2000) were entered for the Prize, which might therefore be seen as a window on to the transformation of public spaces in Europe, and a gauge of the main concerns of European cities.

## CARACTERISTICS

The Prize has many distinguishing features. First, it is conceded to both the architect and the

branch of public administration (council or political representative) that has taken the political decision to effectuate the intervention and, frequently, to guarantee its funding as well. Second, is the honorific nature of the Prize. Third, the Prize is not so much concerned, at least not uniquely or as a priority, with large-scale urban planning operations, as with interventions – great or small – of what might be called urban surgery that aims, above all, to improve the lives of citizens. Priority is given, then, to architecture with a social vocation rather than to that with an aesthetic or spectacular accent. This enables us to situate architects who are as yet unknown, or just starting to be known, alongside the great names of the world of architecture. Fourth, the Prize is distinctive in its clearly European vocation. While respecting local particularities, it is concerned to pay tribute to the common features of urban planning interventions throughout the geographic space of Europe, and to endorse and make known a certain European identity in the domain of architecture.

## ARCHIVE

The majority of the projects that have been presented since the Prize was first offered may be viewed today in the European Archive of Urban Public Space <http://www.publicspace.org/eng/archive>. They are complemented with the Urban Library, which consists of a collection of texts on the city and urban issues that the CCCB has been engaged with through lectures and exhibitions since its very beginnings. The Prize is organised within the framework of the CCCB's larger, permanent and multidisciplinary programme on cities and public space. It represents a privileged platform of 390 projects of transformation of space in 239 European cities, besides offering a good measure of critical reflection from the leading experts in the field of public space.

## MEMBERS OF JURY

The Jury members are the directors of the award-giving institutions and the President and Secretary represent the CCCB.

### **Rafael Moneo, CCCB**

A Spanish architect of great international prestige, he was awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1996, the Royal Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2003, and the Gold Medal of Spanish Architecture. He is a member of the Spanish Royal Academy of Fine Arts.

Notable among his buildings are the Kursaal Auditorium and Congress Centre in San Sebastian (1999), the extensions to the Prado Museum of Madrid (2007), The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, (2000) and the LISE (Laboratory for Integrated Science and Engineering) Building at Harvard University, Cambridge (2007). Rafael Moneo combines his work as an architect with teaching, giving lectures and writing as a critic. He is presently Josep Lluís Sert Professor of Architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. A co-founder of the review *Arquitecturas Bis*, he frequently publishes in specialist journals and is author, inter alia, of the book *Inquietud teórica y estrategia proyectual en la obra de ocho arquitectos contemporáneos* (2005), which was published in several languages, including English (*Theoretical Anxieties and Design Strategies in the Work of Eight Contemporary Architects*).

### **Severi Blomstedt, Suomen Rakennustaiteen Museo, Helsinki**

Director of the Museum of Finnish Architecture (Helsinki) where he was formerly director of exhibitions, he presided over the jury in the competition for the Finnish Pavilion at EXPO 2010

Shanghai and has been a member of other juries, for example that of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award and the European Architectural Photography Prize. He has served as president of the Finnish Foundation for the Visual Arts in New York and as vice-president of the commission of the Japan Finland Design Association.

**Ole Bouman**, *Nederlands Architectuurinstituut*, Rotterdam

Director of the Netherlands Architecture Institute and former editor-in-chief of the periodical publication *Volume*, he has been curator for a series of events promoting the reconstruction of public space in cities affected by different kinds of disasters, for example Ramallah, Mexico City, Beirut and Pristina, as well as for exhibitions for the Triennale of Milan and Manifesta 3. He is co-author of the encyclopaedia *The Invisible in Architecture* and co-editor of *AI Manakh* and also writes for such publications as the newspaper *De Groene Amsterdammer*, *The Independent*, *Artforum* and *Domus*. He has taught Design at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has given lectures at several universities.

**Sarah Mineko Ichioka**, *The Architecture Foundation*, Londra

Director of The Architecture Foundation and co-director of the London Festival of Architecture, she was also a consultant for the exhibition *Global Cities in The Turbine Hall* of the Tate Modern and associate research fellow for the project *Urban Age*, which investigates the future of global cities. In the Tenth Venice Biennale, she was content coordinator of the exhibition *Cities, Architecture and Society* and co-editor of the catalogue. Notable among her writings is her contribution to the book *The Endless City*.

**Francis Rambert**, *Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine*, Paris

Architecture critic and director of the Institut Français d'Architecture at the Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine in Paris, he has been editor of the column "Architecture" in the cultural supplement of *Le Figaro* and was one of the founders of the review *D'architectures*, while also publishing a great number of articles in specialist reviews, in particular *Connaissance des Arts*, for which he writes on a regular basis. Notable in his experience as an exhibition curator is his work in the exhibition of projects concerning the future of the metropolis of Paris, *Le Grand Pari(s)*, and in the French Pavilion in the 11th Venice Biennale of Architecture 2008 where the theme was *GénéroCité, le généreux vs le générique*. His most recently published book is *Architecture Tomorrow* (2005).

**Dietmar Steiner**, *Architekturzentrum Wien*, Viena

Director of Architekturzentrum Wien (Vienna) since 1993, he was commissar in 2002 for the Austrian project at the Venice Biennale of Architecture. He is also president of the International Confederation of Architectural Museums and a member of the consultative committee of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe, while also serving as consultant architect on a number of juries. He writes assiduously for a range of publications on architecture and urban development, among them the Italian review *Domus*.

**Peter Cachola Schmal**, *Deutsches Architekturmuseum*, Frankfurt

Director of Deutsches Architekturmuseum DAM (German Architecture Museum, Frankfurt). Architect and Critic. He has been a member of various juries, such as the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award, the European Architectural Photography Prize – and organizes own competitions at the DAM, such as the DAM Prize for Architecture in Germany, the DAM Architecture Book Award and the International Highrise Award. The range of exhibitions and programs at the DAM include topics as "New Urbanity – the European City in the 21 Century", "Urban Green – Contemporary European Landscape Architecture" and projects with international partners such as "Patent Construction - New

Architecture made in Catalonia”, “Becoming Istanbul”, “Megacity Network – Korean Contemporary Architects” and “M8 in China - Contemporary Chinese Architects”. He was the General Commissary of the German Contribution to VII. International Architecture Biennale Sao Paulo 2007.

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Journalist and critic in the German review *Baumeister*

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Architecture critic in the German review *Redaktion Bauwelt*

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Professor at ETSAB and President of the European Prize for Urban Public Space 2006

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Architect and urban planner, Leuven

**Vučinić Vesna**

Professor of Urban Anthropology at the University of Belgrade

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Director of Irish Architecture Foundation Dublin

**Ellis Woodman**

Journalist and architecture critic in *Building Design*

**Ana Maria Zahariade**

Professor at "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanisme, Bucharest

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