

European Award AHI 2023 Verdict

Barcelona, 31 May de 2023

Gathered here today at the headquarters of the Architects' Association of Catalonia (Plaça Nova, 5, Barcelona) are the juries of the four categories and the Special Mentions of the European Award AHI (Architectural Heritage Intervention), composed of the following members:

Built Heritage Category

Dikkie Scipio, Kaan Architecten, Belgium*

Kimmo Lintula, K2S, Finland

Susana Valbuena, Rodríguez Valbuena Arquitectos, Spain

Exterior Spaces Category

Pasqual Herrero, El fabricante de Esferas, Spain

Chris Rankin, rankinfraser landscape architecture, Scotland

Maria Viñé, Neuland ArchitekturLandschaft GmbH, Switzerland

Urban Planning Category

Sara Bartumeus, Renau Bartomeus, Spain

Carlo Atzeni, Italy

Maria Chiara Tosi, Italy

Disclosure Category

Nicola Regusci, The Cities Connection Project (CCP), Switzerland

Verena von Beckerath, Heide & von Beckerath, Germany

Devi Kituashvili, Mua Architecture&Placemaking, Georgia

Furthermore, the Spanish architect Pedro Rodriguez Cantalapiedra, together with the directors of the Award (Ramon Calonge, Oriol Cusidó, Marc Manzano and Jordi Portal), will act as the jury in the selection of the Restoration Special Mention.

The New European Bauhaus Special Mention was selected on 24 May 2023 in an online meeting between jury member Marcos Ros and the directors of the Award (Ramon Calonge, Oriol Cusidó, Marc Manzano and Jordi Portal).

*Dikkie Scipio has been unable to attend the meeting due to being hospitalised after suffering an injury.



PRIOR CONSIDERATIONS

During the month of May, the juries of the four categories studied, evaluated and analysed the documentation of the 241 submitted entries (174 in Built Heritage category, 31 in Exterior Spaces category, 10 in Urban Planning category and 26 in Disclosure category), in accordance with the criteria listed in the terms and conditions of the Award.

On the basis of this initial evaluation, in Built Heritage and Exterior Spaces categories the jury met online to draw up shortlists of 16 and 10 works, respectively, which were announced on 11 May 2023. The finalists and winners of both categories will be decided today. Meanwhile, in Urban Planning and Disclosure categories, the finalists are the entries that have obtained the highest score in accordance with the categories and points listed in the terms and conditions of the Award. The classification of this initial evaluation does not determine the winners.

SHORTLISTED

In Built Heritage category, following initial deliberations, the jury shortlisted the following 16 entries:

06A001181_Bijloke Concert Hall, Ghent, Belgium. DRDH Architects and Julian Harrap Architects
06A001184_“Sant Francesc” and “La Pardala”, Morella Castle, Morella, Spain. Carquero Arquitectura
06A001196_Quadrangle Building, King’s College, London, UK. Hall McKnight
06A001240_Ortega Marañón Foundation, Madrid, Spain. Junquera Arquitectos
06A001245_Unió de Cooperadors, Gavà, Spain. Meritxell Inaraja
06A001257_Straf! School met lef, Beringen, Belgium. a2o architecten and AAC architecture
06A001281_La Carboneria, Barcelona, Spain. OSS Office for Strategic Spaces
06A001288_Tobacco factory Linz - House Havana, Linz, Austria. Kaltenbacher Architektur ZT GmbH and STEINBAUER architektur+design
06A001297_Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany. David Chipperfield Architects
06A001339_Monsaraz Fortifications – west and south barbican path, Reguengos de Monsaraz, Portugal. Pedro Pacheco Arquitectos with José Aguiar
06A001394_Ombu, Madrid, Spain. Foster+Partners and Ortiz León arquitectos
06A001404_Bolhão Market, Porto, Portugal. Nuno Valentim, Arquitectura e Reabilitação
06A001428_Wintercircus Mahy, Ghent, Belgium. Atelier Kempe Thill, aNNo architects, Baro Architecture and SUM Project
06A001451_Galenicum Headquarters, Esplugues de Llobregat, Spain. HARQUITECTES
06A001465_City Hall of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium. HUB, Origin and Bureau Bouwtechniek
06A001474_V&A Exhibition Road Quarter, London, UK. AL_A

In Exterior Spaces category, following initial deliberations, the jury shortlisted the following 10 entries:

06B001173_Park of Culture Antonio Caregaro Negrin, Mogliano Veneto, Italy. MADE associati
06B001220_Last chance for a Slow Dance, Larrabetzu, Spain. behark
06B001264_Almadraba de Nueva Umbría, Lepe. Spain. SOL89
06B001269_El Tanque Garden: Industrial Heritage and Nature, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain. Fernando Menis
06B001310_Gasworks Area, Stockholm, Sweden. Sweco
06B001340_Trazas de Pontevedra, Pontevedra, Spain. Agi Architects
06B001344_The airplane spot in the forest, Alhama de Murcia, Spain. Blancafort-Reus Arquitectura
06B001358_Historic Path of Albacar, Ronda, Spain. Sergio Valadez Mateos
06B001360_Space “Viewpoint Aljibes”, Álora, Spain. WaterScales arquitectos
06B001468_Rec Comtal in Vallbona, Barcelona, Spain. Carles Enrich Studio



FINALISTS AND WINNERS

Built Heritage Category

The jury of this category was pleased to see the submission of such a large number of high-quality projects consisting of interventions in built heritage. Today we have fewer resources at our disposal and more vacant building stock than ever. The wide variety of approaches and material implementation of the submitted entries gives us hope and strengthens our belief that architecture has been and will continue to be a true game changer. Never has the idea of acting by making something been more relevant than now, with the pressing need to restrict the material implementation to the bare essentials while still creating new ways of embracing our cultural heritage.

From this point of view the shortlisted projects represent high quality on every level. They possess a solid architectural presence, adopt innovative approaches (whether in terms of programming or material execution and embedded sustainability) and represent context-based multidisciplinary in a coherent manner that does not depend on the project size or budget.

Finalists

The finalists all highlight different perspectives of what heritage is by definition. Yesterday's contemporary architecture suddenly becomes tomorrow's heritage. In these projects, the interventions have created added value in either physical or cultural form. They serve as a catalyst by observing and solving the challenges we are facing globally. At the same time, they represent a methodology, "research by doing", as a tool to ensure that our built heritage continues to be used. They all support open society and provide places for interaction and understanding how to live together in the world.

Primer finalista: 06A001428

We would like to highlight the way in which the Wintercircus Mahy in Ghent, by Atelier Kempe Thill, aNNo architects, Baro Architecture and SUM Project, "makes the city", how it manages to generate connections in a space for flexible use that stands out, in turn, for its raw, unfinished appearance, and on whose walls we can observe the passage of time and the city's history. It also solves the difficult task of including a specific venue for rock concerts with demanding acoustic requirements under the access floor, thus facilitating the simultaneous use of these spaces.

Segundo finalista: 06A001181

The Bijloke Concert Hall in Ghent, by DRDH Architects and Julian Harrap Architects, is an exquisite intervention that succeeds with special sensitivity in meeting the requirements of its new use as a concert hall, with the demanding acoustic requirements that this entails. It also stands out for its special treatment of details.

Tercer finalista: 06A001465

The City Hall of Antwerp, by HUB, Origin, Bureau Bouwtechniek offices, project is a solid exercise and an example of combining the restoration of the most representative spaces of the building with new interventions that improve its current uses.

Por último, cuarto finalista: 06A001245

Finally, the Unió de Cooperadors in Gavá, by Meritxell Inaraja, is an example of an approach to the study of this representative building of rationalist architecture. With a use similar to that of the original building, it stands out for its respectful treatment and for the recovery of its original spaces.

Winner

06A001297

The winner has taken this approach even further by embracing the spirit of the original building. Analytical and systematic thinking has resulted in an intervention that shows profound respect.

Winner: the Neue Nationalgalerie, by David Chipperfield Architects, refurbishment in Berlin has been executed in such a way that it is almost as if nothing has happened in order for everything to happen. Its restrained approach, showing the utmost care for the smallest technical detail, has resulted in a powerful architectural statement. It represents architecture, heritage and intervention at their finest.



Exterior Spaces Category

Las candidaturas presentadas en esta categoría abarcaban una gran variedad de proyectos que desafiaban la definición de espacios exteriores de una forma que nos pareció interesante y que suscitó un intenso debate. La definición de patrimonio arquitectónico también era amplia, ya que incluía el patrimonio industrial, paisajístico y de infraestructuras, así como otros ámbitos más tradicionales, como yacimientos arqueológicos y edificios históricos. La lista de finalistas refleja esta diversidad de enfoques en la conservación y promoción del patrimonio arquitectónico. Los proyectos se evaluaron en función de una serie de criterios como la calidad arquitectónica, la transformación del entorno, la sostenibilidad, el programa y la innovación. Los diez proyectos preseleccionados demostraron sus fortalezas en todos estos criterios.

Finalistas

Each of the four finalists had its own particular strengths in addition to performing well across all the criteria, thus standing out as worthy of further recognition.

The finalists range from a beautiful outdoor covered space that is part building, part public space, to extremely simple and subtle viewing points that reawaken citizens' appreciation of an ancient water course.

1st finalist: 06B001220

Last Chance for a Slow Dance in Larrabetzu, by Behark is a project that encompasses building and public space, indoors and outdoors. It is strongly rooted in the local cultural spatial concepts of Txosna and Aterpe. The use of subtle architectural detailing using local materials creates a beautiful and useful intervention.

2nd finalist: 06B001310

The Gasworks area of Stockholm, by Sweco, is a texturally rich intervention that clearly defines the public realm and complements the architecture of the industrial complex whilst adding a new identity to the space. The project sets a high standard for the future transformation of the wider area in line with a master plan.

Tercer finalista: 06B001468

The environmental restoration and biodiversity viewing points of the rec comtal (irrigation canal) in Vallbona, by Carles Enrich Studio, restore an important piece of landscape and infrastructural heritage. The delicate architectural interventions are the first steps of what can hopefully become a large scale environmental intervention.

4th finalist: 06B001360

The Viewpoint Aljibes in Álora, by WaterScales arquitectos constitutes a significant transformation of a degraded and empty void in the city. It is a small project that nonetheless contains a complex layering of archaeology, viewing points and access through the site. The result is a rich spatial experience that interprets the heritage of the city and landscape in an interesting and innovative way.

Winner: 06B001269

El Tanque Garden: Industrial Heritage and Nature, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, by Fernando Menis

El Tanque Garden is a comprehensive project in terms of sustainability, social benefits, respect for local identity and landscape design. The project reclaims and transforms previously contaminated land, creating a new public park, the first in the neighbourhood. The garden has a significant impact on the wider area in addition to being a clever and innovative use and reuse of industrial elements. The garden is the result of a long-term process of demands by local residents and designers in order to create a new public space.

El Tanque Garden is a clever amalgam of heritage, nature and recycling; reclaiming a protected post-industrial site to create a new public space. The design recalls the previous agricultural landscape of banana plantations in its planting design, combining that memory with the more recent geometries and traces of the tanks and walls that made up the former oil tank landscape. The project works with ecology and heritage to provide a creative, cultural and socially inclusive public arena. The project demonstrates sensitivity across all scales through to the reuse of redundant industrial waste in the design of furniture and lighting.



Urban Planning Category

In the Urban Planning category, an extremely wide range of projects have been submitted in terms of scale, type of intervention and stakeholders involved in the transformation processes. They include urban projects, plans, modifications of plans, proposals for the refurbishment of listed buildings and heritage complexes with an industrial and production-related past, among others. Despite their great diversity, the projects have a common denominator: they embrace active transformation while remaining respectful of heritage.

Criteria for Selecting the Finalists

In the projects selected as finalists, one can perceive, in different ways and at different levels of intensity, an ecological awareness, the need to mix uses and functions, and a refocus on the human dimension and inclusiveness that decisively address the challenges of contemporaneity.

In particular, the jury has appreciated their strategic, systemic and regulatory dimension, beyond strictly technical aspects. It has also appreciated both the originality and innovation of the analytical and project approach.

The jury would like to highlight the legibility of the concepts and the quality of the submitted documents, which anticipate and reveal scenarios of a more promising and sustainable future.

Finalists

1st finalist: 06C001259

Eco-illa la Mercedes, Barcelona. Batlleiroig. This urban planning project powerfully proposes a balance between conservation and transformation. The proposal transforms an industrial site into a new, sustainable, collective space that establishes a permeability with its surrounding context. In addition, it introduces new habitability conditions with its mix of proposed uses, represented through the image of a highly evocative urban landscape.

2nd finalist: 06C001261

Integrated Rehabilitation Master Plan of the Neighbourhood of Las Flores, La Coruña. Territoris XLM, BCQ arquitectura. This is the project which is most strongly focused on achieving a social impact, aiming to achieve greater equity through the sustainable reclassification of collective space. Despite the radicality of its initial conditions regarding habitability and urban development, the proposed vision is extremely solid.

3rd finalist: 06C001224

De Meelfabriek - Renovated Factory Masterplan, Leiden. Studio Akkerhuis Architects

This ambitious urban transformation project of an industrial complex manages to preserve the memory of the place by proposing a contemporary urban fabric with a new image of the city. The interesting balance between conservation, transformation and selective demolition stands out.

Winner:

06C001367

Regeneration of the Gràcia neighbourhoods of Barcelona. Jornet Llop Pastor Arquitectes, Department of Urban Planning of Barcelona City Council.

This innovative proposal addresses the challenges of contemporaneity, climate change and social inclusivity through affordable housing within the historical context of its location. The project transfers the principles of the conservation of built heritage to urban structure, to the ordinary urban landscape, and proposes an urban planning regulation that incorporates the environmental dimension. The plan activates the private sector, engaging it in environmental restoration.



Disclosure Category

The Disclosure category of the European Award AHI celebrates the conservation of architectural heritage, while exploring the dynamic relationship between traditions and innovation. Its informative narratives, diverse case studies and different media usage make it a valuable resource for discovering insights and providing important perspectives on the challenges faced during the intervention process and the impact of these interventions on the surrounding context and communities.

Several criteria were adopted in selecting the finalists and winner of the Disclosure category. The key criteria were originality, methodology, quality and contribution to the dissemination of heritage. Accordingly, the submitted projects were evaluated for their educational value, informative content and overall effectiveness in promoting a deeper understanding and appreciation of architectural heritage interventions.

Finalists

1st finalist: 06D001463

KANAL: THINKING / #1, Brussels by Atelier Kanal. Editors: Stephen Bates, An Fonteyne

2nd finalist: 06D001425

El Tanque Cultural Space. History of a Citizen's Battle for Art in Santa Cruz de Tenerife by Cultural Association of Friends of El Tanque Cultural Space

3rd finalist: 06D001266

Documentary: The secrets of the Abastos Market in Santiago de Compostela by Ruth Varela.

4th finalist: 06D001255

The Escandinavia Project in Aarhus by Andriette Ahrenkiel, Sara López Arraiza, Nacho Ruiz Allén

Winner:

06D001180

The winning entry is La vie en kit, a film by Elodie Degavre:

The film was chosen because it discovers and reveals to its audience a group of little known architects who believed that housing should be affordable, adaptable, and community-oriented. The idealistic, utopian approach they adopted at that time is extremely relevant to the challenges we are facing today.

The key themes explored in the film are:

The importance of citizen participation in the design and construction of housing.

The need for affordable and adaptable housing.

The benefits of living in community-oriented housing.

The challenges of creating alternative forms of housing.

In our opinion, La vie en kit is a thought-provoking film that challenges us to think about housing in new ways. It is a must-see production for anyone interested in architecture, urban planning or social justice. The choice of film seems an appropriate medium here for developing a narrative and for its potential to reach a wider audience.

The film effectively captures the essence of compact living, showcasing the clever design solutions and the cosy atmosphere that can be achieved within small modular units. Overall, the visuals provide an engaging portrayal of the concept and a pleasant journey into the past.



New European Bauhaus Special Mention

06A001436

34 Emergency Dwellings in Sant Feliu de Llobregat by MIM-A

This strategic reconversion of an office block into emergency housing perfectly combines and reflects all the values of the New European Bauhaus.

On the one hand, sustainability is faithfully reflected in the improvement and optimisation of the vertical and horizontal upper envelopes for better energy efficiency and natural lighting, or in the inclusion of bicycle parking and a communal laundry area.

Meanwhile, beauty is translated here into an improvement in the use of the built surface, generating new courtyards and using a contemporary language while respecting the previous construction.

Finally, the inclusive dimension is inherent to the proposed use of emergency housing: given the current crisis, this type of response is a model to follow. Furthermore, the economy of means that governs this project means that it is not exclusive, achieving top-quality living spaces.

With simple gestures and concrete proposals, this project achieves the reconversion and improvement of a disused building, providing an excellent response to a social demand in an elegant and efficient manner.

06C001261

Integrated Rehabilitation Master Plan of the Las Flores Neighbourhood in A Coruña by Territoris XLM and BCQ Arquitectura

The dynamics generated by contemporary heritage and its social context make the basis of this project truly inspiring: we must begin to reflect on the neighbourhoods designed in the enlargements of our cities, and how to adapt them to new ways of life. This premise is fully aligned with the New European Bauhaus.

The project carries out an exhaustive diagnosis of the urban environment, the neighbourhood's buildings and public space, analysing everything from building typologies and listed heritage to accessibility, state of conservation and social uses.

The Integrated Rehabilitation Master Plan sets out eight strategic objectives and 60 actions that are incorporated in a Masterplan and an Intervention criteria guide. They include the reconversion of public spaces, the elimination of architectural barriers or the incorporation of solar energy.

By condensing all these proposals, a pilot project is put forward that embodies the general spirit of the project, which begins to take shape.

The most valuable aspect of this project is the integrated and social nature of the proposal, addressing a problem that affects the entire European territory and proposing innovative solutions, favouring a sector of the population (the elderly) that sometimes deserves special attention.

Restoration Special Mention

From all the submitted works, the directors of the Award grant a Restoration Special Mention to the intervention which, from a technical and methodological perspective, they consider outstanding for its quality, precision and respect.

Having studied the works submitted to this edition, the jury members all agree that a wide variety of possible and valid actions exist in the field of Architectural Restoration.

Generally speaking, the submitted works can be classified in three main groups: historical restoration, reuse of old buildings and actions in modern heritage.

The entries include sensitive interventions such as the Douradores project in Lisbon, which has recovered hidden paintings, providing a starting point for future actions while creating a cosy domestic space; compelling projects involving the recovery of materials and shapes, along with the improvement of



energy efficiency in landmark buildings in the history of modern architecture, such as the project carried out in the building of the Unió de Cooperadors in Gavà and, with even greater impact, at the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin; interventions using enhancement methodology and techniques, such as in the offices of the Hortensia Herrero Foundation in Valencia and the Ateneo building in Madrid; and significant reuse actions such as the remodelling of the Molengebouw & Riffellokaal industrial buildings in Leiden for their use as lofts.

06A001188

The Restoration Special Mention goes to the Gruuthusemuseum in Bruges by b-juxta architecten. The jury considers that this heritage intervention project stands out for three key aspects, which together make it unique:

Its methodology, from its analysis of historical documentation to its testing of finishes and final materials.

Its construction and decorative techniques, following the original lines, joined to the volume of the work.

Its transparent, sincere approach, maintaining the previous elements and colourings, thus contributing to its permanence and conservation.

The deliberations having concluded at 20:45, the present minutes are hereby read out and unanimously approved. Those present are thanked for their attendance and the session is ended.

