European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture

Mies van der Rohe Award 2019

EU Mies Award Day • May 7

THE WINNERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE – MIES VAN DER ROHE AWARD RECEIVE THE AWARDS IN BARCELONA

• Transformation of 530 dwellings - Grand Parc Bordeaux by Lacaton & Vassal architects, Frédéric Druot Architecture and Christophe Hutin Architecture is the 2019 Prize Winner. The 2019 Emerging Architecture winners are the Toulouse-based studio BAST for the work **E26 (school refectory)** in Montbrun-Bocage.

• The EU Mies Award Day kicks off with a free session of debates and lectures on transforming people’s lives and community life called “EU Mies Award Talks”. It will include participants of the Future Architecture Platform.

• Opening of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award 2019 **Exhibition at Palau Victòria Eugènia** and Catalogue presentation

The day culminates with the Awards Ceremony at the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion in Barcelona.
“I would like to thank the jury, and especially its president, Dorte Mandrup, for its thorough work. I am very proud of this Prize, not only for the outstanding quality of its winners, but also because it contributes to a broader EU policy agenda to make our continent a more attractive, more sustainable and more inclusive place to live.”

Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, European Commission

“We want to involve the public and European institutions in spreading the influence of this Award beyond architectural circles, enhancing the capacity for mediation of architecture with all social actors, especially in relation to concepts that are fundamental today, like identity, social inclusion and all aspects of sustainability.”

Anna Ramos, Director Fundació Mies van der Rohe

“The EU Mies Award brings together the diversity of European architecture and culture and promotes architecture worldwide. Every two years it sets new directions for architecture with the Winners, the finalists and all those works represented in it.”

Dorte Mandrup, Chairwoman EU Mies Award 2019

Barcelona, May 7, 2019 - At a press conference held today in Barcelona, the European Commission and the Fundació Mies van der Rohe have presented the winners of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award 2019.

The Transformation of 530 dwellings - Grand Parc Bordeaux is the 2019 Winner of the Prize. The architects Anne Lacaton, Jean-Philippe Vassal, Frédéric Druot and Christophe Hutin have explained their project to the press. The project consists in the transformation of 3 social housing buildings of 530 dwellings. Built in the early 60s, they needed a renovation after their demolition had been ruled out. The architects, together with AQUITANIS (Bordeaux metropole public housing office), decided to implement climate improvement by adding a gallery – called winter garden – and a balcony to each apartment. This has provided more space to the neighbours while also solving the climate challenge in an innovative way.

The 2019 Emerging Architecture winners are the Toulouse studio BAST for the work E26 (school refectory) in Montbrun-Bocage. The architects have presented their project that is an extension to the existing school, fencing physically but not visually the courtyard with a glazed façade that preserves the view onto the surrounding landscape.

The two awarded projects have been chosen from a list of 383 works from 238 cities in 38 countries. Five finalists were selected and visited by the Jury: PC CARITAS in Melle by architecten de vylder vinck taillieu; Plasencia Auditorium and Congress Centre by selgascano; Skanderbeg Square in Tirana by 51N4E, Anri Sala, Plant en Houtgoed and iRI; Terrassenhaus Berlin / Lobe Block by Brandlhuber+ Emde, Burlon and Muck Petzet Architekten; in addition to the winning project, Transformation of 530 dwellings - Grand Parc Bordeaux by Lacaton & Vassal architects, Frédéric Druot Architecture and Christophe Hutin Architecture, accompanied by the authors of the works and their clients.
The press conference was held by Janet Sanz, Deputy Mayor's of Ecology, Urban and Mobility and President of the Fundació Mies van der Rohe, Viviane Hoffmann, Deputy Director-General of DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission, the jury member Angelika Fitz, and the Director of the Fundació Mies van der Rohe, Anna Ramos.

This evening at 18:30 at the Mies van der Rohe Pavillion in Barcelona Viviane Hoffmann, Deputy Director-General of DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission and Josep Maria Montaner, City Councilor of Housing and Vice President of the Fundació Mies van der Rohe will give the winning architects the prizes consisting on a sculpture evoking the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion and 60.000 € (main prize) and 20.000 € (prize for the Emerging Architecture winner). The clients of the winning works and finalist architects and clients will also receive a sculpture evoking the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion. Additionally, USM, one of the sponsors of Fundació Mies van der Rohe contributes by granting the winning architects with 5000€ in USM furniture.

With the aim of promoting knowledge of Contemporary Architecture and its values, the Fundació Mies van der Rohe has also presented the following activities organised for the 2019 edition of the Prize:

**Architecture days and EU Mies Award app**

In the week following the Awards Ceremony, the buildings of the EU Mies Award Winner, the Emerging Architecture Winner, the 4 Finalist works and some of the shortlisted works will organise events to explain the architecture of these places in situ.

In order to bring the Prize closer to the citizens, and spread knowledge about good architecture, the Fundació Mies van der Rohe has updated the mobile app so that everyone can view all the works nominated in this year's edition of the Award on their mobile devices and find out exactly where they are and how to get there. The application is free and available for download.

**EU Mies Award 2019 Exhibition and Catalogue**

The Palau Victòria Eugènia, in the Montjuïc fairgrounds, has been opened to the public to showcase models, texts, drawings and videos of the projects presented in the 2019 edition of the EU Mies Award. It is, at the same time, a way to offer citizens the opportunity to know this enclosure. The exhibition will travel around Europe and internationally in the next 18 months, with its first stop at BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts Brussels in September 2019.

The Fundació Mies van der Rohe has also presented the EU Mies Award 2019 catalogue, a compilation of all the works nominated for the present edition, which provides a panorama of architecture of the past two years in Europe. 383 works of architecture, 383 different and unique stories that are the result of a complex process over a period of time. The voices of each member of the jury are collected in the form of texts, with their thoughts on the selected works, finalists and winners, and the themes that emerge from them. This catalogue is presented as a tool for interpreting the Award, indispensable for a specific time (2019), place (Europe) and a varied group of voices (Dorte Mandrup, George Arbid, Angelika Fitz, Ştefan Ghenciulescu, Kamiel Klaasse, María Langarita and Frank McDonald).

EU Mies Award Talks and Awards Ceremony with the participation of the Future Architecture Platform

On May 7, the EU Mies Award Day kicks off with a free day of debates and lectures on “GOOD NEWS! Transforming people’s lives and Transforming Community Life”, that will be held in the Palau Victòria Eugènia.

Fundació Mies van der Rohe participates with the Creative Europe-supported Future Architecture Platform, a pan-European platform of architecture museums, festivals and producers embracing a wide range of emerging talents (http://futurearchitectureplatform.org/). This year two of its participants, Viktoria Khokhlova and Sonia Dragovic, will moderate the two panel discussions. F.A.T. (www.f-a-t.org), Kontextur (www.kontextur.info/) and Traumnovelle (www.traumnovelle.eu/Eurotopie) have also been invited to follow and participate in all the events taking place on May 7 and communicate them using different tools.

15:00 Presentation EU MIES AWARD TALKS

Keynote Lectures:
15:15 Skanderbeg Square, Tirana
   by 51N4E; Anri Sala; Plant en Houtgoed; iRI
15:25 Congress Centre, Plasencia
   by selgascano
15:35 School Refectory, Montbrun-Bocage
   by BAST
15:50 Debate: “Good News! Transforming Community Live”
   With clients and users of the presented works
   Moderated by Núria Moliner and Viktoria Khokhlova

16:30 Break, visit of the exhibition

Keynote Lectures:
16:45 PC Caritas, Melle
   by architecten de vylder vinck taillieu
16:55 Terrassenhaus/Lobe Block, Berlin
   by Brandhuber+ Emde, Burlon; Muck Petzet Architekten
17:05 Transformation of 530 Dwellings, Grand Parc Bordeaux.
   by Lacaton & Vassal architectes; Frédéric Druot Architecture;
   Christophe Hutin Architecture
17:20 Debate: “Good News! Transforming People’s Lives”
   With clients and users of the presented works
   Moderated by Núria Moliner and Sonja Dragović

18:00 Wrap-Up

The EU Mies Award Day continues in the evening with the delivery of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award 2019 in the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion, to which all citizens are invited.

18:30 EU Mies Awards Ceremony
Esplanade in front of the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion
Prize Calendar:

**May 7**  
Awards Ceremony (Barcelona Pavilion)

“2019 EU Mies Award exhibition” open to the public (Palau Victòria Eugènia)

EU Mies Award Talks, presentation of the 2019 Prize Catalogue and Mobile App (Palau Victòria Eugènia).

**May 9 – 19**  
Barcelona Architecture Week: a wide range of activities related to the world of architecture and the city, organized with the participation of different institutions including Barcelona City Council, the College of Architects of Catalonia (COAC) and the Fundació Mies van der Rohe. It includes the exhibition “Don’t Miss it!” on the local works nominated to the Prize in 2019 as well as the finalists and winners. The exhibition is spread throughout the city.  

The 4 Finalist works, the Winner and the Emerging Architect buildings as well as part of the shortlisted ones will organize activities to bring architecture closer to the public.

**September 12**  
Opening of the exhibition in BOZAR, Brussels
Winner works

Transformation of 530 Dwellings - Grand Parc Bordeaux
The Jury valued that the project challenges the existing European housing stock from the post war period, using minimum means to achieve a maximum effect. Instead of demolishing, which involves the use of an important amount of energy, in this case the client understood and supported the advantages of transforming the existing three buildings. This has changed people’s lives for the better without underestimating their previous lives, filling the new volume with poetry because it works on the basis that people understand space and in consequence, they use it in very different ways.
At a moment in which the commissions for new social housing blocks ask for a reduction of the surface of flats, here the volume is increased, offering dignity and giving more value to the individual and to the collective. The ensemble becomes an optimistic opportunity for social housing and modernity, being generous and also changing architecture and the possibilities of architecture. The architects show a very high acknowledgement of who – a mix of inhabitants – and what – the results from previous research on transformation – they are working with. This results in a refined way of working with people, space and materials although the improvement in the collective could have been stronger if the relationship between ground floor and public space would have been different.

Name of work: Transformation of 530 Dwellings - Grand Parc Bordeaux (FR)
Offices: Lacaton & Vassal architectes; Frédéric Druot Architecture and Christophe Hutin Architecture, Paris / Bordeaux
Authors: Anne Lacaton (FR); Jean Philippe Vassal (FR); Frederic Druot (FR); Christophe Hutin (FR)
Full information: https://eumiesaward.com/work/3889
School Refectory in Montbrun-Bocage

The jury was drawn by the extremely precise implementation and design decisions which make the refectory a remarkable project built on a relatively small budget. The project was done with extreme humbleness, taking into account the context of the village and the immediate landscape, thereby creating a very respectful work of architecture. As Benjamin Aubry, architect and expert of the EU Mies Award expressed, the simplicity of its devices and construction offers generous space, excellent capacity of use and immense poetry.

Name of work: School Refectory in Montbrun-Bocage (FR)
Office: BAST (FR)
Full information: https://eumiesaward.com/work/3843

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>> PRESS KIT / PHOTOS / VIDEOS: mies.link/PressKit_AwardsCeremony19
(All the photos will be available and updated during the day)
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EUMiesAward App
All the works can be found in the app:
Available on Android and iOS.
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