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EUROPEAN UNION
PRIZE FOR
CONTEMPORARY
ARCHITECTURE

**MIES VAN DER ROHE
AWARD**

HISTORY OF THE PRIZE

EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR
CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE –
MIES VAN DER ROHE AWARD



Creative
Europe



**fundació
mies van der rohe
barcelona**



European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award

Initiated in 1987 after an agreement between the European Parliament and the Barcelona City Council, the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award has been coorganised by the Fundació Mies van der Rohe and the European Commission since 2001.

The Prize is awarded biennially to works completed within the previous two years. The main objectives are to achieve a thorough understanding of the transformation of Europe's built environment; to recognize and commend excellence and innovation in the field of architecture; and to draw attention to the important contribution of European professionals in the development of new ideas with the undeniable support of clients and the involvement of those who will become the users of these places.

The Emerging Architect Winner is distinguished by a combination of qualities such as excellence and authenticity of design; a genuine and innovative character of its work; and high-standard, well-executed and sustainable construction. The jury selects the winner among those applicants who have not yet attained recognition by having a body of critically recognised work at major and established institutions or publishers.

The Young Talent Architecture Award Winners, launched in 2015, is the most recent addition to the Prize, which recognizes and rewards the best graduation projects of architecture students throughout Europe and beyond.

Today, the EU Mies Award is much more than a prize: a platform involving architects, urban designers, landscape architects, clients, journalists and policymakers. At the same time, by bringing European citizens together – those living in cities and those living in less dense areas – it has greatly helped to promote values like freedom and creativity.

The European architectural works which have been nominated for the Prize, although very diverse in style, use and purpose, have all created urban public spaces that help improve our lives, both at the individual and at the collective level.

3.618 works have been nominated to the Prize since 1988, and all of them form the most comprehensive archive of contemporary architecture in Europe, unique due to the selection of carefully chosen works, discussed and visited by eminent architects, critics, journalists and curators from all over the world, as well as their users and clients.

The fact that the EU Mies Award has prospered over the last 32 years is due to a variety of factors, not least of which is the involvement of the architects whose projects have been nominated year after year. Right now, as new realities are rapidly emerging, looking back at the Prize and this extraordinary period of experimentation in European architecture since 1988, provides clues to how we may approach contemporary and future challenges.

The **overall objective** of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award is to foster the promotion of European culture. It emphasizes and values the public role of architecture and distinguishes it as the foundation for welfare and social cohesion. From this overall objective, the Prize also pursues the following aims:

1. to highlight, recognise and commend **excellence in European architecture** in creative, conceptual, social, cultural, technical and constructive terms and to involve clients and other stakeholders.
2. to underline the European city as a **model for the sustainable smart city**, contributing to a sustainable European economy. Contemporary architecture is socially and culturally rooted and is essential to people's everyday lives.
3. to **build and help raise awareness on the benefits quality architecture can generate** for growth, jobs, environment/sustainable development and social cohesion.
4. to **support emerging architects and young talents**, as they start out on their careers, and to /facilitate the incorporation/integration of architects from the EU Member States and those countries participating in Creative Europe into the profession.
5. to reach out to diversified target groups and to cultivate future clients and promoters.
6. to promote transnational architectural commissions throughout Europe and abroad and to find business opportunities in a broader global market.
7. to **highlight the involvement of the European Union in supporting quality architecture** as an important element that reflects the diversity of European architectural expression, its role as a unifying element to define a common European culture and its contribution to sustainable development.



How the Prize works

The European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award is a continuous process focused on how architects are thinking and working in Europe today. For each two-year period, the following steps take place:

1. Proposals are **submitted by a group of independent experts**, the Associations of Architects and the Advisory Committee.
2. The Jury members meet to evaluate all the nominated works. They go through the materials presented by the architects in different formats and a selection of shortlisted and finalist works is made.
3. The nominated works are made public through the website, the app, a publication and an exhibition, encouraging people to learn more about the recent built environment and become part of it.
4. The Jury members visit the finalist works, meeting those who use the spaces. They make their decision on the Prize Winner and the Emerging Architect Winner.
5. A ceremony gathers those people involved in the Prize: Jury members, Winners, Finalists, Emerging Architect Winners, Shortlisted authors, Experts, European Commission representatives, Barcelona representatives and the clients of the works. Together with these people, everybody is invited to participate in this celebration.
6. The award process is summarised in a publication and a travelling exhibition that features the works chosen by the Jury – the Prize Winner, Emerging Architect Winner, the Finalists and the Shortlisted Works. The other Nominees are also presented. All the nominated works are available for consultation on the Prize database, <http://miesarch.com/archive> and app, transforming each edition into a biennial anthology of some of the best work being constructed in Europe.
7. The authors of the shortlisted works participate in seminars, discussions and lectures and the works are presented in different architecture events worldwide.

The nominated works are not limited by scale or programme. The selection of the Jury for each edition has included private homes and collective housing; museums and cultural places; educational, health and sports facilities; as well large-scale infrastructure projects and transport systems. **The common denominator is that these works all contribute to the construction of the European city.** In this sense, the Prize aspires to be a platform for investigation, development and implementation of sustainable architectural practice that promotes the social, cultural and economic benefits of sustainable growth.

The Winner receives 60.000€ and a sculpture that evokes the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion of Barcelona. The Emerging Architect Winner receives 20.000€ together with the sculpture and the finalists and the clients also receive a sculpture, recognizing their essential contribution to contemporary architecture.

The prestige of the Prize and the dissemination of the knowledge and savoir-faire of European architects is further enhanced with the organisation of exhibitions and debates worldwide, bringing architecture nearer to citizens.



1988-2019 Winners

European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award

- 2019 **Transformation of 530 dwellings - Grand Parc Bordeaux**
Lacaton & Vassal architectes / Frédéric Druot Architecture / Christophe Hutin Architecture
- 2017 **Deflat Kleiburg, Amsterdam**
NL Architects / Pieter Bannenbergh, Walter van Dijk, Kamiel Klaasse
XVW architectuur / Xander Vermeulen Windsant
- 2015 **Philharmonic Hall, Szczecin**
Barozzi/Veiga / Fabrizio Barozzi, Alberto Veiga
with the collaboration of A4 studio
- 2013 **Harpa - Reykjavik Concert Hall & Conference Centre, Reykjavik**
Henning Larsen Architects / Peer Teglggaard Jeppesen, Osbjørn Jacobsen
Studio Olafur Eliasson / Olafur Eliasson
Batteríð architects / Sigurður Einarsson
- 2011 **Neues Museum, Berlin**
David Chipperfield Architects / David Chipperfield, in collaboration with Julian Harrap
- 2009 **Norwegian National Opera & Ballet, Oslo**
SNØHETTA / Kjetil Trædal Thorsen, Tarald Lundevall, Craig Dykers
- 2007 **MUSAC Contemporary Art Museum of Castilla y León, Leon**
Mansilla+Tuñón Arquitectos / Luis M. Mansilla, Emilio Tuñón
- 2005 **Netherlands Embassy, Berlin**
OMA / Rem Koolhaas, Ellen van Loon
- 2003 **Car Park and Terminus Hoenheim North, Strasbourg**
Zaha Hadid Architects / Zaha Hadid
- 2001 **Kursaal Centre, San Sebastian/Donostia**
Rafael Moneo
- 1998 **Kunsthau Bregenz, Bregenz**
Peter Zumthor
- 1996 **Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris**
Dominique Perrault
- 1994 **Waterloo International Terminal, London**
Nicholas Grimshaw & Partners / Nicholas Grimshaw
- 1992 **Municipal Sports Stadium, Badalona**
Esteve Bonell, Francesc Rius
- 1990 **Stansted Airport, London**
Norman Foster+Partners / Norman Foster
- 1988 **Banco Borges e Irmão, Vila do Conde**
Álvaro Siza Vieira



Emerging Architecture Winners

- 2019 **E26 (school refectory)**
BAST
- 2017 **Navez 5, Schaerbeek, Brussels**
MSA/V+ / Benoit Moritz, Jean-Marc Simon, Alain Simon, Jörn Aram Bihain, Thierry Decuypere
- 2015 **Casa Luz, Cilleros**
Arquitectura-G / Jonathan Arnabat, Jordi Ayala-Bril, Aitor Fuentes, Igor Urdampilleta
- 2013 **Red Bull Music Academy/Nave De Música Matadero, Madrid**
Langarita-Navarro Arquitectos / María Langarita, Víctor Navarro
- 2011 **Collage House, Girona**
bosch.capdeferro architectures / Ramon Bosch, Bet Capdeferro
- 2009 **Gymnasium 46° 09' N / 16° 50' E, Koprivnica**
STUDIO UP / Lea Pelivan, Toma Plejić
- 2007 **Faculty of Mathematics, Ljubljana**
bevk perović arhitekti / Matija Bevk, Vasa J. Perović
- 2005 **BasketBar, Utrecht**
NL Architects / Pieter Bannenberg, Walter van Dijk, Kamiel Klaasse, Mark Linnemann
- 2003 **Scharnhauser Park Town Hall, Ostfildern**
Jürgen Mayer H.
- 2001 **Kaufmann Holz Distribution Centre, Bobingen**
Florian Nagler



Creative Europe

The cultural and creative sectors embody Europe's immensely rich and diverse cultural heritage, and contribute to the development of our societies. These sectors play a big role in the European economy and help generate growth and jobs. Creative Europe has provided €1.46 billion over seven years (2014-2020) to strengthen Europe's cultural and creative sectors.

The programme:

- Safeguards and promotes European cultural and linguistic diversity, and fosters Europe's cultural richness.
- Contributes to Europe's goals for smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth.
- Helps the cultural and creative sectors to adapt to the digital age and globalisation.
- Opens up new international opportunities, markets and audiences.
- Builds on the success of the MEDIA Mundus and Culture programmes.

Through Creative Europe...

- Up to 250,000 artists and cultural professionals will be supported to share their work across borders.
- Thousands of creative organisations and audiovisual professionals will acquire new skills and strengthen their capacity to operate internationally.
- Publishers will benefit from funding to translate more than 4,500 literary works.
- Book lovers will be able to enjoy their favorite foreign authors in their own language.
- Filmmakers, distributors, sales agents and other audiovisual professionals will benefit from funding for the development, promotion and distribution of thousands of European films.
- Cinema lovers will be able to see films from all over Europe in hundreds of cinemas and festivals around Europe.
- Millions of people will be reached through the projects financed by the programme.

WEB: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/>

FB: [Creative Europe](#)

TW: [@europe_creative](#)

Fundació Mies van der Rohe

The Fundació Mies van der Rohe was set up in 1983 by the Barcelona City Hall with the initial purpose of reconstructing the German Pavilion, designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Lilly Reich for the 1929 Barcelona International Exhibition.

Besides conserving and disseminating knowledge about the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion, the Fundació today also fosters debate on and awareness of themes related to contemporary architecture and urban planning, as well as encouraging studies on the work of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and on the Modern Movement. In accordance with these objectives, the Fundació organises awards, congresses, conferences, exhibitions, workshops and installations.

Outstanding among these activities is the organisation, jointly with the European Commission, of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award, one of the most prestigious of all European architecture prizes.

Programmes

European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award + Young Talent Architecture Award.

Divulcation of the Pavilion

Research and debate

Exhibitions

Art interventions

Publications and documentaries

WEB: www.miesbcn.com

@FundacioMies (FB, TW, IG, LI)



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To find out more:

www.eumiesaward.com

www.miesbcn.com

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/about_en

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All the nominees can be found in the app

EUMiesAward App



Available on [Android](#) and [iOS](#).

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