

**The European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award presents the first 449 works competing in the 2022 edition!**



→ **449** works from **279** cities in **41** countries have been nominated by **European independent experts**, the **national architecture associations** and the **Prize Advisory Committee**;

→ For the first time, the EU Mies Award counts with works from **Armenia**, **Moldova** and **Tunisia**;

Barcelona, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

The European Commission and the Fundació Mies van der Rohe announce today the **first list of 449 works** (completed between October 2018 and October 2020) competing for the **2022 European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award**. These works will be joined in September with a new group of nominees finished between November 2020 and April 2021.

As a result of the international concern about the spread of the coronavirus, the EU Mies Award has adapted this edition's calendar in order to include all the works and to ensure the **safety, rigor** and **excellence** of the evaluation of all the projects.

The new cycle of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award will reflect on the current challenges that architects, clients, policy makers and other professionals are faced with. Some of these works have been finished during the Covid-19 pandemic and some are the result of commissions from the 2007-2012 financial crisis or shortly afterwards. They will be evaluated during the post-pandemic time in a clear attempt to continue visiting architecture and its users, neighbours, clients and designers face to face. Climate change, pollution, digitalization and demographic explosion are also, maybe more than ever, a global threat that endangers the planet, its limited natural resources and in consequence our wellbeing. Buildings and infrastructures are responsible for at least 40% of all greenhouse gas emissions so the EU Mies Award must support the rethinking and replanning of Europe in such a way that it prioritises the environment through a cultural project in which design and sustainability are indissociable.

“The EU Mies Award as the resulting work of a strong network of Europeans, shows that quality can be understood in many different ways but that it must always be connected to the present challenges with the environment and make cities and infrastructure more sustainable and resilient”

Anna Ramos  
Director Fundació Mies van der Rohe

“By creating a bridge between the world of science and technology and the world of art and culture, the New European Bauhaus is an opportunity to make the Green Deal tangible and closer to citizens. The EU Mies Award has been and will continue to be a crucial European instrument to make this cultural change happen”

Hughes Becquart  
Culture Policy Officer, European Commission

“I am aware that I have committed myself to something that is strategically naïve, where we have found little political aspiration, but how can you gain a perspective on housing and city

issues, if you do not immerse yourself in the vast legacy we have to build on? I remain an  
enlightened pessimist, even though”

Frédéric Druot

EU Mies Award 2019 Winner with Anne Lacaton, Jean-Philippe Vassal and  
Christophe Hutin: Grand Parc Bordeaux

## From the list of 449 projects...

<b>Country</b>	<b>n° of works</b> in country + in other countries	<b>most prominent program</b>
<a href="#">Spain</a>	31 + 3	collective housing
<a href="#">France</a>	29 + 5	collective housing
<a href="#">Germany</a>	25 + 1	culture
<a href="#">Belgium</a>	21	education
<a href="#">Portugal</a>	19 + 2	single houses
<a href="#">Italy</a>	18 + 3	collective and single housing, culture and education
<a href="#">United Kingdom</a>	18 + 3	single houses
<a href="#">The Netherlands</a>	13 + 8	collective housing
<a href="#">Poland</a>	20	collective housing, culture and urban projects
<a href="#">Denmark</a>	13 + 5	infrastructures
<a href="#">Austria</a>	17	education
<a href="#">Ireland</a>	13 + 3	culture and education
<a href="#">Lithuania</a>	13	single houses
<a href="#">Slovenia</a>	13	education and single houses
<a href="#">Ukraine</a>	13	education and urban projects
<a href="#">Greece</a>	12	single houses
<a href="#">Hungary</a>	12	sport & leisure
<a href="#">Norway</a>	12	culture
<a href="#">Czech Republic</a>	11	commerce
<a href="#">Croatia</a>	10	education, food & accommodation and urban projects
<a href="#">Georgia</a>	8	collective housing and urban projects
<a href="#">Latvia</a>	8	collective housing
<a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	8	collective housing and office
<a href="#">Finland</a>	8	education and single houses
<a href="#">Montenegro</a>	8	single houses
<a href="#">Romania</a>	8	collective housing
<a href="#">Estonia</a>	7	culture
<a href="#">North Macedonia</a>	7	single houses
<a href="#">Sweden</a>	7	collective housing
<a href="#">Cyprus</a>	6	single houses
<a href="#">Serbia</a>	6	mixed use buildings and single houses
<a href="#">Slovakia</a>	6	single houses, funerary and urban projects
<a href="#">Luxembourg</a>	5	collective housing, commerce, food and sport
<a href="#">Kosovo</a>	4	collective housing
<a href="#">Malta</a>	4	single houses
<a href="#">Albania</a>	3	single houses
<a href="#">Armenia</a>	3	education
<a href="#">Bosnia - Herzegovina</a>	3	government & civic, landscape and single house
<a href="#">Iceland</a>	3	culture, single house and sport & leisure
<a href="#">Tunisia</a>	3	office buildings
<a href="#">Moldova</a>	1	culture

## **Calendar**

**February 2021:** announcement of the works nominated in the first phase of the EU Mies Award 2022

**September 2021:** announcement of the works nominated in the second phase of the EU Mies Award 2022

**January 2022:** announcement of the Shortlisted works

**February 2022:** announcement of the 5 finalist works

**April 2022:** announcement of the Winners

**May 2022:** EU Mies Award Day with conferences, debates and the Awards ceremony in the Barcelona Mies van der Rohe Pavilion, opening of the travelling exhibition, presentation of the publication and Open days for the selected works around Europe.

Mark these dates in your calendar to keep track of them and share the whole process!

#EUMiesAward2022

# Check the updated map of Contemporary European Architecture

## Housing beats culture

For the first time since 2003, **single houses (18,10%)** has become the largest group of works, followed by **collective housing (14,87%)** and **education facilities (14,01%)**, surpassing buildings with specific cultural programs. **Cultural facilities** such as museums, theatres, galleries and congress centres represent an **11,64% of all works**. This could be the result of the latest winners and finalists – Kleiburg in Amsterdam, Bordeaux Grand Parc, Navez 5 in Brussels, Ely Court in London and the Lobe Block in Berlin – which have highlighted the importance of good living conditions connected to the quality of design; but also of the current pandemic situation which has raised awareness on the quality of where we live and how people actually live, after staying at home for long periods of time; and the public debate, including with EU policy-makers, on the housing crisis, in which the EU Mies Award participated through talks, exhibitions and projects with UN-HABITAT such as Urban Maestro.

Collective housing buildings are particularly outstanding in cities such as Barcelona (6), Paris (4) and Riga (3). For a very long time, the most prominent examples of collective housing quality came from public-funded constructions, so it is significant that on this occasion, 75% of the collective housing projects have been privately funded.

This important change in trend is mirrored by the fact that buildings for cultural facilities have decreased 6% (single houses have increased the same percentage). This could be the result of understanding cultural facilities in other ways such as being connected to other programs and finding ways to ensure maintenance costs with different strategies. The figure is substantial and will need to be analysed.

## Regeneration keeps advancing

**A quarter of the total number of nominees have to do with regeneration**, understood in its broadest sense and including transformations, restorations, rehabilitations, extensions and adaptive reuse.

In **Ireland**, the percentage rises to **62%** and in places such as **Belgium**, half the works tackle with the transformation of what already exists, creating mostly cultural and educational buildings but also changing office buildings into housing. The same situation can be found in the **Czech Republic** and **Denmark where 5 of the 7 works from Copenhagen** are the result of transformations while **in Brussels, 3 of the 5 works are regenerations**.

The highest number of transformed existing constructions have become cultural buildings (31), followed by Education (18) and Urban Regeneration (13). It is worth highlighting that

Single Houses are also the result of transforming existing buildings and 11 of them can be found in the list of nominees while 11 Collective Housing buildings have also been the result of transformations.

### **Export and Import**

**There has been an increase of transnational works (10%)**, in which architects from one country have built in another one or the works have been collaborations between architecture offices, teaming up with local partners. This represents a similar percentage than in 2017, a percentage that has been pretty constant since 2009, with 35-45 cross-border works.

**The Netherlands** is the country that exports most architecture with **8 works** in which architects have built in other territories (Casanova+Hernandez Architecten in Albania; Neutelings & Riedijk Architects, Atelier Kempe Thill architects and planners and Korteknie Stuhlmacher Architecten in Belgium; KAAN Architecten in France; MVRDV and O.M.A. in Germany; O.M.A. in Sweden).

**France** comes in second with **5 works** (Dietmar Feichtinger Architectes in Austria; LIST and NP2F in Belgium; Thomas Raynaud Architectes + Paul Devarrieux architecte in Spain; and InSitu in Ukraine) together with **Denmark** also with **5 works** (BIG in France, Norway and Sweden; Andersen & Sigurdsson Arkitekter in Iceland; C.F. Møller Architects in The Netherlands).

**The countries in which most foreign offices have built** have been Belgium with 7, France with 6, Germany with 6, and Austria with 4. All these works in France and Belgium have been the result of different types of competitions (international, European, public, private, restricted and open), while 4 of the 6 German ones and 3 of the 4 Austrian ones have also been the result of competitions, two of them from private promoters.

**BIG Bjarke Ingels Group** (Copenhagen) is the studio with the highest number of nominated works (4), with one of them in Copenhagen (DK) and the other three in Bordeaux (FR), Jevnaker (NO) and Stockholm (SW). It is followed by **COBE** (Copenhagen) which has works in Copenhagen, Køge and Fredericia, all in Denmark; **DO Architects** (Vilnius) has works in Vilnius and Klaipėda, all in Lithuania; **Grafton Architects** (Dublin) have built in Toulouse, Paris and London; and **Helen & Hard** (Oslo and Stavanger) have two works in Stavanger and one in Oslo, all in Norway.

### **Metropolis versus Rural**

These 449 works are distributed in **279 locations** with a total population that corresponds to 30% of the total population of the participating countries in the EU Mies Award 2022.

**12%** of the works have been built in large **metropolitan** areas with more than 3 million inhabitants. **46%** of the works are in cities with a population between 100.000 and 3 million inhabitants and **37%** of them are in cities and towns with 1.000 to 100.000 inhabitants. **4%** of the works are in villages with less than 1.000 inhabitants, and **1%** of the works are isolated.

The most populated location is London (UK), where there are 3 works. The smallest village is Hribljane (SI) which has 8 inhabitants living next to the springs that splatter the hill.

It is also worth mentioning that 15% of the works are in the densest cities with over 5.000 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>.

### **From North to South and East to West**

The **northernmost work** is the Visitor Center in Bakkagerði, Iceland, by Andersen & Sigurdsson Arkitekter from Frederiksberg, Copenhagen, Denmark.

The **southernmost work** is the **Pal-maison** in **Tozeur (TN)** by **i+i**. The 40.000-city is a large oasis well known for its architecture of brownish brickwork and geometric patterns and also because it was a filming location for the Star Wars saga. Tunisia joined the Creative Europe programme of the European Union in 2017 and it is the first time that it participates in the EU Mies Award.

The **eastern-most works** are the **Hover Hotel** by **pstudio**. and the **Central School** by **Storaket Architectural Studio** in **Dilijan (AM)**. Armenia joined the Creative Europe programme in 2018 and it is also the first time that it participates in the Prize. The 17.000-inhabitant-town is well known for its spas and is currently the fastest-growing urban settlement in the country.

The **western-most work** is in **Horta (PT)**, on the island of Faial of the Azores Islands. The **City Seafront Requalification** by **Extrastudio**, **Oficina dos jardins** and **SPI** has changed the life of the 15.000-inhabitant-town and its connection to the ocean where whales and dolphins can be observed.

## Background

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 organised 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 and exceptionally, this time, 2,5 years. The principal 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.

All the works participating in the EU Mies Award are nominated by a hundred of **European independent experts**, the **national architecture associations** and the **Prize Advisory Committee**.

The **Fundació Mies van der Rohe** was created in 1983 with the aim of reconstructing the German Pavilion that Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Lilly Reich built for the 1929 International Exhibition in Barcelona. The foundation 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, Lilly Reich and on the Modern Movement.

**Creative Europe** is the European Commission's framework programme for support to the cultural and audiovisual sectors. The programme aims at promoting Europe's cultural diversity and rich heritage while enabling the cultural and creative sectors to reach their economic potential, contributing to sustainable growth, jobs and social cohesion.

### Prize

The **Prize 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; the finalists and the clients also receive a sculpture, recognizing their essential contribution to contemporary architecture.

The Prize draws the map of the best European Contemporary Architecture with the Prize Winner, the Emerging Architect Winner and the Young Talent Architecture Award Winners. The latter is the most recent addition to the Prize, which recognizes and rewards the best graduation projects of architecture students throughout Europe and beyond.

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.

**Contacts:**

Fundació Mies van der Rohe

Press Office Miriam Giordano / Marta Pérez - Labóh

Mail: [press@miesbcn.com](mailto:press@miesbcn.com)

Tel.: +34 933 192 664 / +34 606 602 230

To find out more:

[www.eumiesaward.com](http://www.eumiesaward.com)

[www.miesbcn.com](http://www.miesbcn.com)

[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/about\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/about_en)

<https://ec.europa.eu/culture/sectors/architecture>

Social Media Social media channels:

@EUMiesAward (FB, TW, IG)

@FundacioMies (FB, TW, IG, LI)

@CreativeEuropeEU (FB)

@europe\_creative (TW)

**#EUMiesAward2022 #EUMiesAward**