EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE
MIES VAN DER ROHE AWARD 2022
WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

TOWN HOUSE – KINGSTON UNIVERSITY, London
GRAFTON ARCHITECTS, Dublin
2022 ARCHITECTURE WINNER

LA BORDA COOPERATIVE HOUSING, Barcelona
LACOL arquitectura cooperativa, Barcelona
2022 EMERGING ARCHITECTURE WINNER

• The Jury of the Prize highlights the importance of architecture that delves into the possibility of changing mindsets and policies and the relevance of inclusiveness.

• The two awarded projects have been chosen from a list of 532 works from 41 countries.

• On 12 May, the Awards Ceremony will take place at the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion in Barcelona.
Bozar, Brussels, April 26, 2022

At a press conference held today in Brussels, Mr. Tamás Szűcs, Director of Culture and Creativity – Directorate-General for Education Youth Sport and Culture of the European Union, announced the Winners of the 2022 European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture | Mies van der Rohe Awards.

The 2022 Winner of the Architecture Prize is Grafton Architects, Dublin for the Town House – Kingston University, London. The client is Kingston University and it is rewarded for its remarkable environmental quality that creates an excellent atmosphere for studying, dancing, gathering and being together. The building creates an emotional experience from within and through the multi-level façade colonnade that creates a domestic atmosphere on different levels. It accommodates dance, library and study spaces using layers of silence and layers of sound which work perfectly well together. This is the first time that a university building wins the architecture prize and it shows that there is a need for public educational projects with the quality of this one, which dignifies people’s lives through education and being together and gives the same educational possibilities to everybody.

The authors, Grafton Architects, studio co-founded in 1978 by Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara, have a strong expertise in educational buildings and two others, were nominated to the 2022 EUmies Awards – Institute Mines Télécom in Paris and Toulouse School of Economics in Toulouse. University Luigi Bocconi in Milan was finalist in 2009.

The 2022 Winner of the Emerging Architecture Prize is the La Borda cooperative housing by Lacol in Barcelona. This cooperative project is transgressive in its context because although housing production is mainly dominated by macroeconomic interests, in this case, the model is based on co-ownership and co-management of shared resources and capacities. The model goes beyond the specific project of cooperative housing: the studio is also run as a cooperative where fourteen professionals with different expertise offer a role model and an active tool for promoting political and urban change from within the system, based on social, ecological and economic sustainability.

The 2022 Prize edition is the last edition under which the UK was eligible and therefore the Town House has been able to win. In the funding period 21-27, UK entities are not eligible to participate in EU grants procedures by default, since the UK became a third country with the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement signed on 1 February 2020.

The two awarded projects have been chosen from a list of 532 works from 41 countries. Five architecture finalists were selected and visited by the Jury: Z33 House for Art, Architecture and Design in Hasselt; Town House – Kingston University in London; the Railway Farm in Paris; 85 social housing units in Cornellà de Llobregat; and Frizz23 in Berlin, accompanied by the authors of the works, the clients or developers, the users and the local experts.

The jury, formed by Tatiana Bilbao, Francesca Ferguson, Mia Hägg, Triin Ojari, Georg Pendl, Spiros Pengas and Marcel Smets, agreed to start the conversations without a
pre-established agenda and instead develop an active, involved and open attitude based on dialogue and debate between the different positions of each of the members. The desire shared by the members of the jury from the beginning has been to convey a message to the architectural community, and beyond it, through the choice of the selected group and especially through the group of finalists and winners. The vision is not based on the performance of comparative standards but on the grouping of complementary diversity with high added value as extraordinary contributions in different and specific contexts.

**Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, said:** “I congratulate the winners of the EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award, who have demonstrated the creative and innovative potential of European architecture. It is particularly encouraging to see the contribution of contemporary architecture to improving the well-being of citizens in Europe like we are also doing with the New European Bauhaus.”

The €60,000 biennial prize, which is the most prestigious in European architecture, was launched in 1987 to highlight the contribution of European architects to the development of new ideas and technologies in contemporary urban development. It is co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme and the Fundació Mies van der Rohe.

The EUmies Awards Day that includes the awards ceremony, will take place on 12 May at the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion in Barcelona in the context of Model. Barcelona Architectures Festival. The festival presents experimental and speculative architecture to help us collectively rethink through new city models and new visions how we want to live together. The EUmies Awards Day event, open to the public, will include:

- the Awards Ceremony at the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion at 12:45h and celebration
- the “EUmies Awards 2022 exhibition” (1-12 May) with models, texts, videos, sketches and drawings of the 40 shortlisted works and a summary of all 532 nominees at ESklandestino, Barcelona;
- the “EUmies Awards Talks” which will allow Winners, Finalists, Shortlisted, clients, architecture media and people interested in discussing on the emerging topics highlighted by the Jury;
- the launch of the Out & About programme, aimed at discovering architecture with the authors and promoters of the 40 shortlisted works who have been invited to organise events in their buildings and share their experiences with everybody. Boat rides, tours, lectures and discovering the backstage of buildings will allow everybody to discover what makes an architecture project. This programme is organised together with Guiding Architects;

Many other exhibitions around Europe will allow people to discover, appreciate and learn from the European architectures highlighted by the EUmies Awards:
The ‘EUmies Awards 2022’ exhibition will embark on its tour around Europe with an opening in Cologne on 10 June with Baukultur Nordrhein-Westfalen; a venue at BOZAR, Brussels starting on 21 July; and a venue at the Architekturzentrum Wien in Vienna in October.

A photographic format of the ‘EUmies Awards 2022’ exhibition will take place at KU Leuven in the context of the New European Bauhaus Festival between 9 and 12 June with several conversations with alumni that have been part of the EUmies Awards, and a similar exhibition and a debate on Serbian architecture in the EUmies Awards will take place in Belgrade during the Belgrade International Architecture Week (BINA), that takes place from 26 May to 7 July.

PRESS KIT with images → https://mies.link/EUmies_Winners2022

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