

Europe's Best Buildings

European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture Mies van der Rohe Awards 2024

03.10.2024–20.01.2025 | Exhibition Hall 2
Press conference: Wed, 02.10., 11:00
Opening: Wed, 02.10., 19:00

The EUMies Awards (60,000 euros main prize / 30,000 euros Emerging Architecture Prize), endowed with a total of 90,000 euros in prize money, is the most important European architecture award. 362 projects from 38 countries were nominated by local experts and carefully reviewed by an international jury. The selection is a seismograph of current social processes. With new usage concepts, collective forms of living, recyclability, and the resource-saving continuation of existing buildings, the projects provide exemplary answers to pressing issues such as the climate crisis and social polarisation.

In 2024, the main prize will once again go to an educational building: The Study Pavilion on the Technical University of Braunschweig campus by Gustav Düsing and Max Hacke offers a flexible and innovative learning environment that promotes social and professional exchange. The sleek steel-wood hybrid construction is completely dismantlable. Besides the possibility of densifying the building with additional platforms, it can also be rebuilt in a different form or at a different location. The winner of the “Emerging Architecture 2024” prize is the Gabriel García Márquez Library in Barcelona by SUMA Arquitectura (Elena Orte and Guillermo Sevillano). The sculptural structure enlivens a long-disadvantaged working-class district and creates an open urban lounge that was immediately accepted by visitors and residents alike.

‘What does architecture for the climate transition look like? Will it bring new aesthetics as well as new building methods? Europe’s best buildings convince with both extroverted and sober answers’, says Angelika Fitz, director of Az W.

The new school building for the Colegio Reggio in Madrid by Andrés Jaque resembles an assemblage of diverse climate zones, ecosystems, and architectural traditions. In contrast, the renovation of the tourist information office and redesign of the village square in Piódão in Portugal by Branco del Rio leaves the impression that everything here has always been like this. The Hage public space and garden in Lund, Sweden, represents the beginning of an urban development area and will develop over time from an object in the landscape to a void in the urban fabric. During the transformation of a dilapidated slaughterhouse in Ostrava, Czech Republic, into the PLATO City Gallery for Contemporary Art by KWK Promes, the contaminated space around the building evolved into a biodiverse art park. The revitalisation of the Saint-François Convent in Corsica by Amelia Tavella Architects relies on the poetic power of architecture.

What distinguishes these and many other projects in the exhibition, in addition to their high architectural quality, is that they break new ground in design responsibility, rely on collective action, and deal with circular value chains and well-thought-out construction processes. From the 362 nominated projects from 38 European countries, the prominent international jury chaired by the French architect Frédéric Druot shortlisted a total of 40 projects that are now part of the exhibition. These include five collective housing buildings, seven cultural institutions, and six mixed-use projects. Two projects from Austria have also been spotlighted: the Neubaugasse Townhouse by PSLA Architekten and IKEA wien westbahnhof by querkraft architekten.

The Architekturzentrum Wien has been involved in the design of the Mies van der Rohe Award for many years as a member of the Advisory Board. The exhibition vividly conveys the high quality of the projects in models, videos, photos, and plans. In addition to the 40 projects on the shortlist, the 14 Austrian nominations are also shown at the Az W.

About the Mies van der Rohe Award

The main aim of the Mies van der Rohe Award is to recognise and award outstanding achievements in the field of architecture within Europe. Projects whose innovative character serves as a guide, if not a manifesto, for the development of contemporary architecture are honoured. The prize, worth a total of 90,000 euros (main prize: 60,000 euros, Emerging Architecture Prize: 30,000 euros), is awarded for exceptional accomplishments in conceptual, technical, and structural terms. The Emerging Architecture Prize is also intended to promote the profession itself and to encourage architects at the beginning of their careers.

Winner of the Mies van der Rohe Awards 2024

Study Pavilion of the Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany

Architecture: Gustav Düsing, Büro Max Hacke

The Study Pavilion convinces people by creating a flexible and innovative learning environment that promotes social exchange, and the development of interdisciplinary knowledge and dialogue between students and teachers. The two-story building made of white steel frame and glass is a light, airy, and delicate structure. The decentralised access via nine entrances and nine staircase areas structures the space, enabling the circulation and usable areas to merge. The approximately 1,000-square-metre-large pavilion with room for up to 200 students is characterised by technical sophistication combined with a high degree of abstraction and visual reduction. The slender steel-wood hybrid construction is completely dismountable and follows the principle of 'design for disassembly' – so it can be expanded, changed, and set up elsewhere at any time.

The building is also a rare example of circular construction, as components are only screwed together at specific points, and therefore reusable. Gustav Düsing and Max Hacke founded their studio in 2015, making them the youngest winners of the EUMies Awards.

Emerging Architecture 2024 Young Talent Award

Gabriel García Márquez Library in Barcelona, Spain

Architecture: SUMA Arquitectura (Orte Elena, Sevillano Guillermo)

The Gabriel García Márquez Library in Barcelona contributes to the transformation of the disadvantaged working-class district of Sant Martí by opening itself to the outside and inside as a new public space. With a limited number of tectonic resources, a wide variety of spaces that convey a uniform impression have been established here. The reading, working, and meeting spaces are distributed across the floors around the vertical distribution hall, and each has its own, independent character that corresponds to its function. By questioning classic library models, the architects create a spatial allocation programme that holistically fosters access, exchange, and knowledge production.

Finalists of the Mies van der Rohe Awards 2024

Colegio Reggio in Madrid, Spain

Architecture: Andrés Jacque / Office for Political Innovation

The Colegio Reggio outside Madrid creates a generous microcosm of nature, air, plants, insects, and birds for its students and is fully in line with the pedagogical concept that the school environment should arouse curiosity and encourage collective learning. The project features a lively visual language and a dramaturgy of different materials and spatial elements, as well as the constant presence of nature. In a participatory process, open spaces, lush vegetation inside, and gardens for insects and birds were designed and created – elements that make this school the ideal place to learn about interaction with nature.

Hage in Lund, Sweden

Architecture: Brendeland & Kristoffersen architects

Hage in Lund, Sweden, appears as a timeless architecture – three walls and a roof structure arising on a spacious field. Hage offers a social space whose function will evolve over time. Built on church-owned land in the middle of an emerging urban development project, Hage protects some of the last remnants of Sweden's richest soil. With increasing development around the structure, it becomes a symbol of those things lost through perpetual economic growth. As an undefined space that can be programmed and used by future residents, the project exudes cautious optimism. It moreover contains a radical idea for urban development: to deliberately leave the first part empty.

Revitalisation of the Saint-François Convent in Sainte-Lucie-de-Tallano, Corsica

Architecture: Amelia Tavella Architects

Located high atop a rocky promontory, the building originally served as a defensive castle before becoming a place of prayer and contemplation.

Inside the building, nature has spread out between the stones and transformed into an armour of plants that protects against erosion and collapse. Amelia Tavella has honoured this nature and decided to preserve the ruins and replace the demolished section with a copper structure that will be used as the Maison du Territoire (local administration office).

PLATO City Gallery of Contemporary Art in Ostrava, Czech Republic**Architecture: KWK Promes**

During the transformation of the dilapidated slaughterhouse in the Czech city of Ostrava into the PLATO City Gallery of Contemporary Art, the demolished parts of the building and gaping wounds in the façade were filled with micro-concrete, while preserving the historical ornamentation of the brick walls. The central idea was to maintain the functionality of these 'openings' as shortcuts connecting the building to the city. Thanks to rotating wall sections, the exhibition spaces can be extended outwards. The contaminated soil outside was remediated and a biodiverse park with water-permeable floors, flower meadows, and retention basins was created.

Finalist of the Emerging Architecture 2024 Young Talent Award**Square and Tourist Office in Piódão, Portugal****Architecture: Branco del Rio**

The village square of Piódão in central Portugal had degenerated into a car park over the years, losing its former function as a meeting spot and place to linger. The project included both the conversion of the square into a traffic-free zone and the renovation of the tourist information building. Freeing the square of cars and other obstacles, Branco del Rio redefined the space. The existing trees, the statue, and the public lighting were all retained. The materials used come from the surrounding area and their processing also corresponds to the local building tradition, which creates the feeling that everything has always been like this.

An exhibition catalogue presents all the nominated projects and is available as part of the exhibition at the Az W.

An exhibition presented by the Fundació Mies van der Rohe and the European Union

Curators: Ivan Blasi & Anna Sala Giralt, FMvdR
Coordination: Jordi García, FMvdR & Katharina Ritter, Az W
Graphic Design: Valentina Pulian, spread: David Lorente, Tomoko Sakamoto
Videos: Nihao Films (winners, finalists and winners), Tiago Casanova (emerging finalist)

Board of Trustees: Ajuntament de Barcelona, Gobierno de España – Ministerio de Fomento, Generalitat de Catalunya, Col·legi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya, ETSAB, Fira Barcelona, MoMA, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz

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The press release and free, high-resolution press photos are available for download at www.azw.at/presse.

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