

Prize Rules

Fundació Mies van der Rohe. Barcelona, March 2014



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The European space is composed of an emulsion of natural and cultural, vernacular and canonical, traditional and artificial elements. Contemporary architecture must assume this ambiguity, project it towards the future and offset the natural wear to which forms are subject by means of a symmetrical process of innovation; a process that has been presided over by works that introduced into an architectural tradition contribute a new inflection or added value that can only be qualified as 'artistic'.

The purpose of the Prize is to detect and highlight such works – of which the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion of Barcelona is a genuine symbol – whose innovative character acts as an orientation or even a manifesto. This is why the Jury will represent the institutions involved, while also reflecting the cultural intentions that endow the Prize with both symbolic and pedagogic value.

The Prize highlights the achievements of European architects in the development of new concepts and technologies and provides citizens as well as public institutions with the opportunity to reach a better understanding of the importance of architecture in the construction of sustainable cities and communities where the essential relationship between the quality of life and the quality of the environment is a key priority.

By doing so, the Prize aspires to be a platform for investigation, development and implementation of sustainable architectural practice that will minimise the negative environmental impact of construction as well as promote the social, cultural and economic benefits of sustainable growth.

Europe is composed of an increasing number of common elements. However local traditions, histories, languages, landscapes and urban contexts continue to characterise its rich and composite identity. The Prize seeks to celebrate the diversity of European architectural expression, emphasising architecture's role as both a basis for the interchange of ideas as well as a unifying element that defines a common European culture by fostering transnational commissions; supporting emerging architects as they start out on their careers and the cultivation of responsible clients – both public and private – who are committed to building both the European economy and its culture through their commissions.

In 1987 the European Commission and the Fundació Mies van der Rohe created the biennial Mies van der Rohe Award for European Architecture was created with these purposes in mind. The European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture represents the evolution of the Mies van der Rohe Award following similar objectives and principles.

The Prize benefits from the participation of the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) along with the ACE-member architectural associations and the other European national architects' associations*, as well as the recommendations of an Advisory Committee** composed of some of the most prestigious European cultural entities in the field of architecture. The

Steering Committee*** comprises a group of Advisory Committee members who work closely with the Fundació Mies van der Rohe in the award process.

Nominations for works to be considered for the Prize and the Special Mention will be put forward by the ACE-member architectural associations and the other European national architects' associations and a substantial group of independent experts specialising in contemporary architecture, as well as by the Advisory Committee.

For each biennial edition, the Jury will select a single work from these nominations to be awarded the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award and a single work by an emerging architect or team of architects, to be granted the EU – Mies van der Rohe Emerging Architect Special Mention. The works granted the Prize and the Special Mention will reflect the definitions and objectives established in the preceding paragraphs and be distinguished by a combination of qualities such as excellence and authenticity of design; a genuine and innovative character; and high-standard, well-executed and sustainable construction.

The Jury will also make a selection of exemplary works to be published and shown in a travelling exhibition. The works proposed for the prize are not limited by scale or programme and the jury selection for each biennial edition represents an extensive overview of quality European architectural production with the common denominator being the contribution that these works make to the construction of the European city.

1. The Prize and Special Mention will be granted to the European author(s) of architectural works constructed in Europe***.

2. The Prize is open to all the works completed in Europe within the two-year period before the granting ceremony of the Prize. The first prize-giving ceremony was held in 2001.

3. The Prize and Special Mention will be awarded every two years by the Member of the European Commission responsible for Education and Culture based on the decisions of a Jury composed of acknowledged specialists representing diverse schools and trends in the field of architecture and architectural criticism.

After taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee as well as the proposals of the Steering Committee, in consultation with the European Commission the Fundació Mies van der Rohe will appoint the Jury of seven (7) members. The Jury will hold two meetings, with the second being the decisive one.

4. The Director of the Fundació Mies van der Rohe will carry out the functions of Secretary of the Jury, but without the right to vote.

5. For the purpose of the selection of candidates, the following procedure will be followed:

5.1. The ACE-member architectural associations and the other European national architects' associations will be invited to propose works by their members built in their own

countries as well as transnational commissions that comply with either of the following conditions:

5.1.1. Works by European authors from other countries built in the country of the architectural association.

5.1.2. Works by their own members constructed in other European countries.

The ACE-member architectural associations and the other European national architects' associations may submit a maximum of five (5) proposals, except for France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom, each of which may submit a maximum of seven (7) proposals.

5.2. The Fundació Mies van der Rohe, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, will establish a group of independent experts composed of a substantial number of prestigious European specialists, each of whom should propose a maximum of five (5) works from any country within the framework of the Prize.

5.3. The Advisory Committee as a group will be invited to propose a list of maximum 20 (twenty) works from all countries within the framework of the Prize. The decision will be made by majority vote of the members of the Advisory committee.

In their proposals, the architectural associations, independent experts and Advisory Committee should take into consideration works of a transnational nature, works by emerging architects and works that further research and implementation of ideas that contribute to the development of sustainable architectural practice.

The nominators may not propose their own works or works by the Jury.

All proposals should be accompanied by comments about the work, and if possible, by documentation.

The definitive list of candidates submitted for consideration by the Jury will consist of the combined proposals of the ACE-member architectural associations, the other European national architects' associations, the group of independent experts and the Advisory Committee.

6. The authors of the proposed works will be asked to submit complete documentation consisting of:

6.1. Submission form and images completed on the online database

The submission information form includes the following information: basic information and credits for the work, a description of the work and the curricula vitae of all the authors. The submission form is to be completed online along with four (4) photographs and two (2) drawings in low resolution and free of copyright directly on the database of the Fundació Mies van der Rohe.

6.2. Submission form and documentation sent by registered post or courier

A print out of the submission form (previously completed online) must be signed by all the authors of the work and sent by registered post or courier to the Fundació Mies van der Rohe along with the following documentation:

6.2.1. Drawings: Hard-copy images of a complete set of drawings of the work. This set of drawings should include site plan, floor plans, sections and details, as well as any other types of drawings that the authors deem necessary to explain the project.

6.2.2. Photographs: Photographic prints of professional quality in black and white or colour of the completed work at A4 or 18 x 24 cm. This set of photographic prints should include interior, exterior and detail views as well as any other views that the authors deem necessary to explain the project. The total number to be submitted is a minimum of 8 (eight) and a maximum of twelve (12).

The same set of drawings and the same set of photographs specified above must be submitted digitally on a single DVD or USB flash drive.

The exact specifications for the electronic images will be outlined in detail in the 'Guidelines for Submission of Documentation' which will be sent to all the authors along with the official letter from the Fundació Mies van der Rohe advising them of the proposal of their works.

6.3. A general description about the proposed work.

6.4. An analysis – both in conceptual and constructive terms – of the work in relation to sustainable architectural practice. It will include: the conceptual overall decisions; the formal aspects of the work; the construction systems and materials; the passive and active systems employed; the economic and financial management criteria and results; the contrasted innovation and technological achievements; and social impact.

6.5. The current curricula vitae of the architect(s).

6.6. Six images in low resolution free of copyrights for the database, publications and exhibitions organised to disseminate the results of the Prize.

6.7. One image in high resolution free of copyrights for press diffusion.

All these documents will become the property of the Fundació Mies van der Rohe and will form part of its permanent archives. The documents related to the works awarded the Prize and the Special Mention and the exemplary works selected by the Jury, will be included in the Prize publication, exhibition and database. The documents related to the proposed works will be included in the database.

7. At its first meeting, following the pertinent analysis of information submitted for each of the proposed works and the subsequent debate, the Jury will draw up a list of a maximum of five (5) finalist works, one of which will be awarded the Prize. The Jury will also draw up a list of works to be considered for the granting of the Special Mention. At its second meeting, the Jury will make its decisions and recommendations regarding the works to be granted the Prize and the Special Mention. Both the works to be awarded the Prize and the Special Mention will be selected by absolute majority vote of the Jury members.

8. The Prize may not be declared vacant. There will be a single, indivisible Prize and a single, indivisible Special Mention for each edition. Acceptance by the authors of the Prize and the Special Mention entails prior acceptance of the Rules.

9. The audience will be encouraged to participate via an Online Opinion Forum. Discussion will turn around the selection of the 5 Finalist works by the Jury.

10. The “European Union Contemporary Architecture Young Talent Internship” will consist in a one year-long Prize to work in the office of the “Prize Winner”. The participation will consist in the development of an applied research programme for a specific project from the office of the “Prize Winner”, with the support of specific companies from the construction field. The results of this twofold win to win opportunity will be reported according to an established calendar.

The Internship will be granted to the best Architecture project in Europe*** designed by a former Architecture student for his graduation within the same period as the Prize edition.

Each ACE-member architectural association or other European national Architects’ associations will be asked to propose the best three (3) graduation projects from their territory.

The Winner of the Internship will be decided by the members of the Steering Committee at a meeting in which all the proposals will be analysed.

11. The Prize and the Special Mention will be awarded by the Member of the European Commission responsible for Education and Culture in a dynamic Granting Ceremony at the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion in Barcelona. The Ceremony Process will begin in January and the Granting Ceremony will represent a means for further dissemination of the programme and of Architecture practice.

The Prize will consist of the sum of 60.000€ and a sculpture evoking the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion. The Special Mention will consist of 20.000€ and a sculpture evoking the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion.

The Internship will consist in an economic Prize and the possibility of working in the Winner’s office for 12 months.

The Clients of both winning works will be rewarded for their support and key role in the construction of an emblematic work with a special element that will become a way to recognise the client’s achievements and look forward to working with them to exceed their levels of performance in the Architectural field and its promotion.

12. The authors of the works shortlisted by the Jury will be asked to send a model and an original drawing of their work. The exact specifications will be outlined in detail in the ‘Guidelines for Submission of Collection Documentation’ which will be sent to the authors along with the official letter from the Fundació Mies van der Rohe advising them of the shortlisting of their works.

13. To ensure compliance with the general objectives of the Prize, the Jury, subject to consultation and agreement of the holding institutions, may amend these Rules if and when a situation, unforeseen in the aforementioned Articles, deems it necessary.

*** Architects Council of Europe (ACE) Members:**

Bundeskammer der Architekten und Ingenieurkonsulenten, Austria
Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes, Belgium
Fédération Royale des Sociétés d'Architectes de Belgique, Belgium
Chamber of Architects, Bulgaria
Union of Architects, Bulgaria
Hrvatska Komora arhitekata i Inženjera u Graditeljstvu, Croatia
Cyprus Architects Association, Cyprus
Česká Komora Architektů, Czech Republic
Akademisk Arkitektforening, Denmark
Danske Arkitektvirksomheder, Denmark
Eesti Arhitektide Liit, Estonia
Suomen Arkkitehtiiliitto Finlands Arkitektförbund, Finland
Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes, France
Syndicat de l'Architecture, France
Union Nationale des Syndicats Français d'Architectes, France
Bund Deutscher Architekten, Germany
Bund Deutscher Baumeister, Architekten und Ingenieure, Germany
Bundesarchitektenkammer, Germany
Vereinigung Freischaffender Architekten, Germany
Association of Greek Architects SADAS-PEA, Greece
Technical Chamber of Greece, Greece
Magyar Építész Kamara, Hungary
The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, Ireland
Consiglio Nazionale degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti, Conservatori, Italy
Latvijas Arhitektu Savienība, Latvia
Lietuvos Architektu Sąjunga, Lithuania
Ordre des Architectes et Ingénieurs-Conseils de Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Kamra tal-Periti, Malta
Arkitektbedriftene, Norway
Norske Arkitekters Landforbund, Norway
Izba Architektów Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej, Poland
Stowarzyszenie Architektów Polskich, Poland
Ordem dos Arquitectos, Portugal
Ordinul Arhitecților din România, Romania
Slovenská Komora Architektov, Slovakia
Zbornica za arhitekturo en prostor Slovenije, Slovenia
Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España, Spain
Sveriges Arkitekter, Sweden
Bond van Nederlandse Architecten, The Netherlands
Stichting Bureau Architectenregister, The Netherlands
Chamber of Architects of Turkey, Turkey
Architects' Registration Board, United Kingdom
Royal Institute of British Architects, United Kingdom

ACE Observer Members:

Association of Architects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Association of Architects of Macedonia, FYROM

National Architects Associations:

Arkitektafélag Íslands, Iceland
Association of Architects of Montenegro, Montenegro
Društvo Arhitekata Beograda, Serbia
Shoqata e Arkitekteve të Shqipërisë, Albania

**** Advisory Committee Members:**

arc en rêve centre d'architecture, Bordeaux
Architekturzentrum Wien, Vienna
Arkitekturmuseet, Stockholm
Berlage Institute, Rotterdam
Dansk Arkitektur Center, Copenhagen
DESSA, Ljubljana
Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Frankfurt
CIVA, Brussels
Eesti Arhitektuurimuuseum, Tallinn
Fundació Mies van der Rohe, Barcelona
Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre, Budapest
Institut français d'architecture, Paris
Museum of Architecture, Wrocław
Museum of Architecture and Design, Ljubljana
Nasjonalmuseet for Kunst, Arkitektur og Design, Oslo
RIBA Trust, London
Suomen Rakennustaiteen Museo, Helsinki
Triennale di Milano, Milan

***** Member states of the European Union:**

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom;

in addition the EEA countries:

Iceland, Norway;

and the EU candidate and potential candidate countries:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey.