

The Five Finalists for the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award 2009 present their projects in Barcelona

The five finalist architects for the EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award 2009: **Massimiliano & Doriana Fuksas, Grafton Architects, Snøhetta, Marc Barani, and RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta Arquitectes** will present their selected projects to the public in a series of special lectures on **Wednesday 22 April 2009** at La Pedrera de Caixa Catalunya in Barcelona.

The five finalist works for the 2009 Prize are:

- Zenith Music Hall, Strasbourg (France) by **Massimiliano & Doriana Fuksas – Studio Fuksas**
- Luigi Bocconi University, Milan (Italy) by **Shelley McNamara, Yvonne Farrell – Grafton Architects**
- Norwegian National Opera & Ballet, Oslo (Norway) by **Kjetil Trædal Thorsen, Tarald Lundevall, Craig Dykers – Snøhetta**
- Multimodal Centre – Nice Tramway, Nice (France) by **Marc Barani – Atelier Marc Barani**
- Library, Senior Citizens' Centre and Interior Courtyard, Barcelona (Spain) by **Rafael Aranda, Carme Pigem, Ramon Vilalta – RCR Arquitectes**

The 60,000 € Prize, one of the most important and prestigious prizes for international architecture, is awarded biennially to built works completed within the previous two years. It is funded with support from the European Commission and highlights the Commission's aims to promote creativity and innovation and open up culture to audiences beyond national borders. This is the first time in the history of the Prize that the finalists have been given the opportunity to present their projects to the public.

The announcement of the winning architect for the 2009 Prize will be made on **Wednesday 29 April 2009**.

The Jury, chaired by Francis Rambert includes: Ole Bouman, Irena Fialová, Fulvio Irace, Luis M. Mansilla, Carme Pinós and Vasa J. Perović.

Previous winners include, among others, OMA – Rem Koolhaas and Ellen van Loon, Zaha Hadid, Dominique Perrault, Peter Zumthor, Rafael Moneo, Álvaro Siza Vieira, Lord Foster and Luis M. Mansilla – Emilio Tuñón.

www.miesarch.com

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European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture Mies van der Rohe Award 2009 Lectures: Finalist Works

Wednesday 22 April 2009

Scheduled Speakers

11:00

Library, Senior Citizens' Centre and Interior Courtyard

Barcelona, Spain

Rafael Aranda, Carme Pigem, Ramon Vilalta – RCR Arquitectes

The mixed-use building, comprising a library, senior citizens' centre and childrens' playground, is situated within the interior space of an innercity block. Light filters through the facades of the Library into the reading rooms. The senior citizens' centre, in the form of a cul de sac, encloses the public spaces and encourages interaction between the children playing in the playground and the older people who are coming and going.

Rafael Aranda (born 1961 in Vic, Spain), Ramon Vilalta (born 1962 in Olot, Spain) and Carme Pigem (born 1960 in Olot, Spain), established their studio RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta Arquitectes in Olot in 1987. All three received their diplomas from the Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura del Vallès (ETSAV), Barcelona. Among their most important works are: the Bell-Lloc Winery in Palamós, Spain; and the Tussols-Basil Athletic Stadium and Les Cols Restaurant, both in Olot.

12:30

Multimodal Centre – Nice Tramway

Nice, France

Marc Barani – Atelier Marc Barani

This project includes the terminal station and maintenance centre for the tramway as well as a parking lot. It is situated in a residual space between a motorway, side roads and very large housing blocks and it coils around these infrastructures, connecting to the city and hills at successive levels. By doing so, the multimodal centre relates and adds to the existing public spaces, brings vitality to the district through the presence of shops and additional facilities and creates spectacular views of the city, hills and sea.

Marc Barani (born 1957 in Menton, France) received his diploma from the École d'Architecture de Marseille – Luminy in 1984. His built work includes: the restoration of Le Corbusier's Cabanon in Roquebrune-Cap Martin, France; the Applied Art Centre and Studios in Mouans-Sartoux, France and the Saint-Croix Church in Shelles, France.

16:30

Norwegian National Opera & Ballet

Oslo, Norway

Kjetil Trædal Thorsen , Craig Dykers – Snøhetta

The new building for the opera and ballet is the first element in the transformation of the bay area of Oslo with the objective of reconnecting the city with its waterfront. In addition to providing the city with an opera and ballet house of the highest international standards, the marble-clad roofscape is both a new civic landmark as well as an architectural landscape that is open to the public. The interior is composed of a sequence of differentiated spaces characterised by carefully chosen materials and the integration of the works of several artists.

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Kjetil Trædal Thorsen (born 1958 in Haugesund, Norway, diploma: Technische Universität Graz), Tarald Lundevall (born 1948 in Oslo, diploma: Arkitektur og designhøgskolen i Oslo) and Craig Dykers (born 1961 in Frankfurt, diploma: University of Texas at Austin) are partners and directors of Snøhetta, an architectural practice established in 1989 in Oslo. Their major works include the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt; the Norwegian Embassy in Berlin and the INMED Institute of Neurobiology in Marseilles, France.

17:30

Luigi Bocconi University

Milan, Italy

Yvonne Farrell, Shelley McNamara – Grafton Architects

This project represents a major intervention into the urban fabric of Milan. Containing offices for professors as well as a sunken, 1000-seat auditorium – the Aula Magna – the building has been conceived as a 'place of exchange' with the central hall acting as a filter between the university and the city. The external wall of the Aula Magna reaches the full height of the building with the upper level offices inhabiting its roofscape/attic and the basement levels are illuminated by deep cuts into the ground surface.

Both Shelley McNamara (born 1952 in Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, Ireland) and Yvonne Farrell (born 1951 in Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Ireland) received their diplomas from the University College Dublin in 1974. They founded their practice, Grafton Architects, in 1978 in Dublin. Important built works by their partnership include: Dublin City University; Dunshaughlin Civic Offices, Co. Meath; and the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Trinity College, Dublin.

19:00

Zenith Music Hall

Strasbourg, France

Massimiliano & Doriana Fuksas – Studio Fuksas

The music hall is an important project for the exhibition area in Strasbourg and for the future development of the city's infrastructure. The design concept is based on a modular and well-balanced organisation of different elements: good visibility and excellent acoustics for the visitors and maximum cost management. The building is a single, unified and autonomous 'light sculpture' that has a very dynamic character due to layering and rotating the ellipsoid metal facade structure that is covered with a translucent textile membrane.

Both Massimiliano Fuksas (born 1944 in Rome) and Doriana Fuksas (born in Rome) received their diplomas from La Sapienza Università di Roma (in 1969 and 1979 respectively). In collaborative practice since 1985, the major works of their office include: Peres Centre of Peace in Jaffa, Israel; EUR Congress Centre in Rome and the Armani Ginza Tower in Tokyo.

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