



PRESS RELEASE

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FLORENCE, ITALY

**"NEW WORLD ARCHITECTURE" OPENS IN NOVEMBER AT SESV
"SPAZIO ESPOSITIVO DI SANTA VERDIANA" IN FLORENCE**

Fifty-seven (57) of the latest cutting-edge architectural projects from Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America are featured in a traveling exhibition that opens in Florence.

"New World Architecture" opens in Italy - Florence at The Faculty of Architecture : SESV – "Spazio espositivo di Santa Verdiana", (Piazza Lorenzo Ghiberti 27, 50122, Florence, Italy) November 30, 2007 and continues through December 21. The exhibition is open Monday-Friday from 10:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

An opening reception takes place on Friday, November 30 from 6:00-8:00 PM.

For more information about viewing hours and the opening reception call: +39 055 26 38 646.

The exhibition is presented by "Studio di Architettura Michele Piccini"

and supported by The Municipality of Florence -"Assessorato pianificazione del territorio di Firenze", Faculty of Architecture in Florence and The Foundation Romualdo Del Bianco & Vivahotels.

"New World Architecture" is curated by the Finnish architecture and design journalist and critic, Christian K. Narkiewicz-Laine with new skyscrapers, corporate buildings, bridges, institutions, art museums, airports, private residences, and urban planning projects selected by a jury of Russian architects from the Union of Architects of Russia in Moscow last March.

All exhibited projects were awarded with The 2007 "International Architecture Award" by The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design through its prestigious annual Awards Program that honors the most distinguished new global architecture.

Architects awarded with the 2007 International Architecture Award and included in the exhibition are:

Architekturstudio Bulant & Wailzer (Austria)
Architetto Toni Follina (Italy)
ARCHTEAM (Czech Republic)
Arge Eiger Nord Wien (Austria)
Ove Arup + Partners (UK/ USA)
Bernardo Hinojasa Rodriguez (Mexico)
Brian O'Halloran & Associates (Ireland)
Cloud 9, SL. (Spain)
COOP HIMMELB(L)AU Prix & Swiczinsky & Dreibholz ZT GmbH (Austria)
Dietrich / Untertrifaller Architekten (Austria)
Dominik Dreiner, Architect (Germany)
Driendl architects (Austria)
Elliott + Associates Architects (USA)
EM2N / Mathias Miller / Daniel Niggli Architekten AG / ETH / SIA / BSA (Switzerland)
Estudio Lamela (Spain)
feld72 Architecture and Urban Strategies (Austria)
Friis & Moltke A / S (Denmark)
gm+ad Architects (UK)
gmp-von Gerkan, Marg und Partner Architects (Germany)
GPL Tschuggen Arosa Salvatore (Switzerland)
Gustafson Porter (UK)
Heerim Architects & Planners Co., Ltd. (South Korea)
Herzog + Partner (Germany)
hg merz architekten museumsgestalter (Germany)
Higuera + Sanchez (Mexico)
IMH (France)
Ingenhoven Architects (Germany)
Kengo Kuma & Associates (Japan)
Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates PC. (UK/USA)
Macrae-Gibson Architects (USA)
Martha Schwartz Partners (USA)
Mario Cucinella Architects (Italy)
Massimiliano Fuksas Architect (Italy)
Mathew Ghosh Architects Pvt. Ltd. (India)
Michele Piccini Architect (Italy)
Miralles / Tagliabue-EMBT (Spain)
Mitsuru Senda + Environment Design Institute (Japan)
Mohamed Harasani Architects (Saudi Arabia)
Naomi Sato Architects (Japan)
Noero Wolff Architects (South Africa)
RADArchitekti (Czech Republic)
Richard Rogers Partnership (UK)
Roccatelier Associati (Italy)
Satoshi Okada Architects Inc. (Japan)
Sean Godsell Architects (Australia)
SCDA Architects Pte. Ltd. (Singapore)
Shanghai Institute of Architectural Design Research Co., Ltd. (China)
Shinichi Ogawa & Associates (Japan)
Shirae Associates (Japan)
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLC. (UK/ USA)
Studio arch. Mario Botta (Switzerland)
Takenaka Corporation (Japan)
Takeshi Nakashima/ O.F.D.A. Associates (Japan)
Taku Sakaushi/O.F.D.A. Associates (Japan)
Terry Pawson Architects (UK)
Vapaavuori Architects (Finland)

The geographic range in this year's Awards Program attests to the global significance of this program organized by The Chicago Athenaeum.

Out of the fifty-seven (57) projects selected for awards, Japan received the highest number of nine (9) awards with Germany and Italy at six (6) awards followed by the United Kingdom with five (5) awards and Spain with four (4) awards. The United States, Mexico, and Austria had three (3) awarded buildings with Switzerland, China, and Saudi Arabia for a total of two (2) awards. Ireland, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Australia, India, Denmark, South Korea, Egypt, South Africa, Singapore, Sweden, and Israel/Jordan each had one (1) awarded project. The total number of countries with awarded projects was twenty-four (24).

The Austrian firm of Coop Himmelb(l)au won four (4) awards for projects in South Korea, Germany, Egypt, and Spain while Skidmore, Owings & Merrill won a total of five (5) awards for projects in Great Britain, Saudi Arabia, Israel/Jordan, and the USA.

One of the boldest and largest projects awarded in 2007 is the new Madrid Barajas Airport by Richard Rogers Partnership in Madrid, Spain, which is a poetic marvel of form and function married to state-of-the-art technology. Staggering and expressive are the words for the Berlin Central Station by gmp-von Gerkan, Marg und Partner Architects in Berlin and for the high-art exposition facility, Nuovo Polo Fiera Milano, by Massimiliano Fuksas Architect in Rho-Però, Italy.

Two urban bridges of the highest caliber were awarded: the Sean O'Casey Bridge by Brian O'Halloran & Associates in Dublin and the Lugner Suspended Bridge in Glass by Architekturstudio Bulant & Wailzer in Vienna. Both bridges are brilliant aesthetic performances of engineering and far-reaching design skill. A new Danish prison was also awarded in East Jutland by Friis & Molke A/S, which might signal a new trend that tomorrow's prisoners might be housed in awarded design and a far cry from the nightmarish days of gulags and Alcatrazes of the past.

The majority of awarded projects for 2007 displayed a dizzying, almost hypnotic sense of geometric contortions. The Space of Contemporary Artistic Creation by Coop Himmelb(l)au in Cordoba, Spain is indicative of the continuing trend to stretch the box into an enthralling geometric labyrinth. Also overpowering in form are the mesmerizing shells of the Wellness Center "Bergoase" by Studio arch. Mario Botta in Arosa, Switzerland. A hard-edge abstraction is the giant cube for ARB Bank Headquarters by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The St. Andrew's Beach House by Sean Godsell Architects in Victoria, Australia is total sculpture as a house. All of these awarded hard-edge geometric designs are destined to become icons of our time and place in architectural history.

The architecture of the memorial had a priority in this year's awards with most of them commemorating the highest of human tragedies and disasters. The most austere are the Sachsenhausen Memorial "Station Z" by hg merz architekten museumgestalter in Oranienburg, Germany and the Bhopal Gas Tragedy Memorial by Mathew Ghosh Architects Pvt. Ltd. in Bhopal, India. The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Foundation symbolizes something entirely different memorializing the life of a humanist in the most humane form. Bridging the Rift by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill on the Israel/Jordan border demonstrates that good architecture could and should be the instrument of world peace.

"The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design and Metropolitan Arts Press Ltd. have organized this annual Museum program, **"The International Architecture Awards,"** as a way in which to draw significant world attention to new buildings and urban planning projects being built and designed globally by the best and most prestigious international architecture offices and design firms," states Christian K. Narkiewicz-Laine.

"The wide geographic distribution of these awards attests to the importance of the program," Mr. Narkiewicz-Laine adds. "There is no one, single architecture program in existence today that brings together the latest cutting-edge international architecture today as one cohesive universal representation or platform for world design. The Museum is honored to provide a focus that allows an exploration and analysis for current stylistic directions and philosophical thinking that is apparent in contemporary design today."

"The program has a unique educational mission and public profile with the intent of promoting and celebrating the latest, most cutting-edge international design to a national and international audience" Mr. Narkiewicz-Laine continues.

All 57 Awarded Projects for 2007 can be seen on The Chicago Athenaeum's website at www.chi-athenaeum.org.

The 2008 deadline for submissions for "The International Architecture Awards" is DECEMBER 1, 2007 for buildings designed and /or built between 2004-2007.

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