

Press Release  
3 October 2014



## **The Chapel by a21studio wins 'World Building of the Year' award at World Architecture Festival 2014**

The Chapel, Vietnam, designed by a21studio, has won the 'World Building of the Year' award, UOL Group Ltd, at the World Architecture Festival (WAF) 2014.

Live judging of the WAF awards took place during the largest global celebration of architecture - the World Architecture Festival, which culminated with a gala dinner and awards' ceremony today at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore.

The Chapel is a community space in a new urban ward on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. As a result of estate crisis, the surrounding area lacks communal centers; therefore, the Chapel is designed to be the place for people to participate in activities such as conferences, weddings and exhibitions. The Chapel takes advantage of materials from the owner's previous projects such as steel frames and metal sheets.

The project was selected by the festival's super-jury, comprising a selection of the world's leading architects and designers, led by renowned British architect Richard Rogers, and included Rocco Yim (Hong Kong), Julie Eizenberg (USA), Enric Ruiz Geli (Spain) and Peter Rich (South Africa).

Commending the winning project on behalf of the festival's super-jury, Paul Finch, WAF Programme Director, said "The judges felt this was a project that embraced history and modernity, and created a dialogue in the process. It has created maximum effect with minimum materials and has produced an unexpected change of pace in its urban context. The opportunity has been taken to recycle and rethink materials and site, and a series of design issues have been addressed which have produced a small project that makes a big statement. Colour and light have been deployed to put people at ease and the architect has found poetry in the mundane."

This is the 7th year the World Architecture Festival awards have been presented, with 33 WAF awards announced across the three main sections of Completed Buildings, Landscape and Future Projects.

Previous winners of the World Building of the Year Award include Luigi Bocconi University, Milan, designed by Irish practice Grafton Architects (2008); Mapungubwe Interpretation Centre in South

Africa, designed by Peter Rich Architects of Johannesburg (2009); MAXXI (National Museum of the 21st Century Arts) in Rome, designed by Zaha Hadid Architects (2010); Media TIC, designed by Cloud 9 Architects (2011); Gardens By The Bay, designed by Wilkinson Eyre, Grant Associates, Atelier One and Atelier Ten (2012); Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki by Frances-Jones Morehen Thorp (2013).

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## **Art Gallery of Greater Victoria wins ‘Future Project of the Year’ award at World Architecture Festival 2014**

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Canada, designed by 5468796 Architecture + number TEN architectural group has won the ‘Future Project of the Year’ award, sponsored by Far East Organization, at the World Architecture Festival (WAF) 2014.

Live judging of the WAF awards took place during the largest global celebration of architecture - the World Architecture Festival, which culminated with a gala dinner and awards’ ceremony today at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore.

The design team was shortlisted for a competition to envision the future renovation and expansion of the gallery. The competition brief asked that the proposal bring a ‘downtown’ presence to the museum’s suburban location and more vibrancy on the street, all without overwhelming the site or removing the existing trees.

The project was selected by the festival’s super-jury, comprising a selection of the world’s leading architects and designers, including Sir Peter Cook, Kai Uwe Bergman, Michael Rayner, Richard Francis Jones and Maria Warner Wong.

Commending the winning project on behalf of the festival’s super-jury, Paul Finch, WAF Programme Director, said “The jury was unanimous that that the Art Gallery of Victoria is a project

that embodies the future – both in terms of creating an intimate yet radical response to its suburban Victorian setting as well as being a beacon of what is to come from its authors.”

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Previous winners of the Future Project of Year Award include Spanish Pavilion for 2010 Expo Shanghai, by Miralles Tagliabue EMBT (2009); The Arc, by Suisman Urban Design (2010); Hanimaadhoo International Airport, by Integrated Design Associates Limited (2011); Msheireb - Heart of Doha (2012); National Maritime Museum of China, by Cox Rayner Architects.

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## **National Arboretum Canberra wins ‘Landscape Project of the Year’ award at World Architecture Festival 2014**

National Arboretum Canberra, Australia, designed by Taylor Cullity Lethlean and Tonkin Zulaikha Greer, has won the ‘Landscape Project of the Year’ award at the World Architecture Festival (WAF) 2014.

Live judging of the WAF awards has taken place during the largest global celebration of architecture, which finished today at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore.

The National Arboretum Canberra redefines the meaning of a public garden in the 21st Century. It comprises 100 forests of endangered tree species from around the world on a 250 hectare former fire ravaged site. Growing out of the very real issues of sustainability, biodiversity and public environmental concern, the National Arboretum is a strategy, a program and an ongoing event, not a design chiefly based on aesthetics.

The project was selected by a jury of some of the world's most dynamic architects and designers. It overcame competition from a shortlist of 11 entries.

The jury commended the project, saying "Out of the ashes, the grid form nature of the arboretum provides a contrast of the radial garden city nature of Canberra. What separates arboretum from the wetland garden is its uniqueness, its presentation of global landscape heritage and the legacy left for future generations."

This is the 7th year the World Architecture Festival awards have been presented, and by the end of the festival 33 WAF awards will have been announced across the three main sections of Completed Buildings, Landscape and Future Projects.

Previous winners of the World Building of the Year Award include Luigi Bocconi University, Milan, designed by Irish practice Grafton Architects (2008); Mapungubwe Interpretation Centre in South Africa, designed by Peter Rich Architects of Johannesburg (2009); MAXXI (National Museum of the 21st Century Arts) in Rome, designed by Zaha Hadid Architects (2010); Media TIC, designed by Cloud 9 Architects (2011); Gardens By The Bay, designed by Wilkinson Eyre, Grant Associates, Atelier One and Atelier Ten (2012); Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki by Frances-Jones Morehen Thorp (2013).

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## **The Pinch wins 'Small Project of the Year' at World Architecture Festival 2014**

The Pinch, China, designed by Olivier Ottevaere and John Lin, The University of Hong Kong, has won the 'Small Project of the Year' award at the World Architecture Festival (WAF) 2014.

Livejudging of the WAF awards took place during the largest global celebration of architecture - the World Architecture Festival, which concluded today at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore.

The Pinch is part of a government led reconstruction effort after an earthquake in September 2012 destroyed the majority of the village houses in Shuanghe village, Yunnan Province, China. Located in the new public plaza, it would serve to activate the community and provide a physical memorial for the earthquake. The design spans across different levels, and acts as a bridge between the rebuilt village and the new plaza.

The building was selected by a jury of some of the world's most dynamic architects and designers.

The jury commended the project, saying "an elegant project that demonstrated research into a material, a building system, making an urban place that has answered a vital need for enclosure, congregation and culture in an earthquake-stricken zone."

This is the 7th year the World Architecture Festival awards have been presented, and by the end of the festival 33 WAF awards will have been announced across the three main sections of Completed Buildings, Landscape and Future Projects.

Previous winners of the World Building of the Year Award include Luigi Bocconi University, Milan, designed by Irish practice Grafton Architects (2008); Mapungubwe Interpretation Centre in South Africa, designed by Peter Rich Architects of Johannesburg (2009); MAXXI (National Museum of the 21st Century Arts) in Rome, designed by Zaha Hadid Architects (2010); Media TIC, designed by Cloud 9 Architects (2011); Gardens By The Bay, designed by Wilkinson Eyre, Grant Associates, Atelier One and Atelier Ten (2012); Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki by Frances-Jones Morehen Thorp (2013).

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## **Cook Robotham Architectural Bureau wins inaugural Colour Prize at World Architecture Festival 2014**

Cook Robotham Architectural Bureau has won the inaugural Colour Prize at World Architecture Festival 2014 for its Departments of Law and Central Administration, Vienna University of Economics and Business project in Austria.

Sponsored by AkzoNobel, who are also Headline Partner of the festival, the prize is the first of its kind to feature on the festival's awards programme, the only criterion is that colour is an integral part of the exterior of the project.

The project comprises a 200 meter long pair of buildings snaking west to east in a series of brightly coloured streaks that cheer up the often grey skies of Vienna's Prater district. The building is designed around Cook and Robotham's strongly held belief (based on many years as University teachers) that a lively and successful college building should have generous and engaging internal spaces that are not just seminar rooms or offices, but places to 'hang out' and possibly encourage you to stay around after class: so these are carved out of the interior and slither around in a similar way to the building as a whole.

Eight projects from around the world were shortlisted for the prize, which was judged by a panel which included Dr Charles Robert Saumarez Smith CBE, Secretary and Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Arts, and Goh Cheok Weng, General Manager for Projects, AkzoNobel Decorative Paints for South East & South Asia.

The judges praised the project, stating that it "demonstrates how learning institutions should be fun and inspiring. This project used colour with energy and total conviction throughout."

Goh Cheok Weng from AkzoNobel added: "The application of colour is of importance in various fields, as it produces moods. A space can be perceived as being friendly, warm, inspiring and dynamic, depending on the colours applied. In the Cook Robotham project, the associative power of colours, the impressions and symbolism, is made on a conscious level. It reiterates our belief

that colour is more than just decoration and protection inducing aesthetic responses; it also induces human responses.”

As the global colour authority, AkzoNobel this week launched the latest edition of Colour Futures, its annual global study of colour trends, providing added impetus for the company's recently launched Human Cities initiative, which has colour as one of its main pillars. Now in its 12th year, Colour Futures underlines AkzoNobel's wealth of colour expertise and deep understanding of the transformative power of colour.

For more information visit: [www.worldarchitecturefestival.com](http://www.worldarchitecturefestival.com)

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## **DSDHA wins inaugural Wood Excellence Prize at World Architecture Festival 2014**

DSDHA has won the inaugural Wood Excellence Prize at World Architecture Festival 2014 for its Alex Monroe Studio, Snowfields project in the United Kingdom.

Sponsored by the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC), the Wood Excellence Prize is the first of its kind to feature on the festival's awards programme, the only criterion is that wood is an integral part of the project.

In 2009 DSDHA were asked to develop a new jewellery studio for designer Alex Monroe in Snowfields, within the Bermondsey Conservation Area in London, to provide a showcase for Alex's growing business which was previously based in Iliffe Yard, alongside DSDHA's architectural studio. The proposal adds a hand-crafted three storey element to the existing Edwardian single-

storey shopfront, providing sales, workshop, studio, meeting and dining spaces as well as a roof terrace with views towards London Bridge.

The festival's jury commended the project, saying "Urban densification is a future necessity. Wood is the answer to problems it brings, thanks to construction speed and prefab efficiency. Architecturally the project fits within its urban surrounding, and becomes a piece of 'urban furniture'."

David Venables, European Director, AHEC said: "In the Wood Excellence Prize there was an excellent spread of shortlisted projects all showing a good variety of wood application. The use of wood in the winning project has real significance because it embraces innovation and for what it has achieved in a difficult location."

The American Hardwood Export Council exhibited at this year's WAF and displayed the results of 'The Wish List' – an ambitious design project featuring a stellar list of architects and designers, including Richard Rogers, Norman Foster, Zaha Hadid, John Pawson, Alison Brooks and Amanda Levete. The project showcases how life cycle assessment tools can be used to create an environmental profile for product design. AHEC recently commissioned Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) research for 19 American hardwood species. Life Cycle Assessment is a scientific tool that helps industry to establish environmental frameworks that have real meaning and assess true sustainability.

For more information visit: **[www.worldarchitecturefestival.com](http://www.worldarchitecturefestival.com)**

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### **Notes to editors**

#### **About WAF**

World Architecture Festival (WAF) is the largest annual festival and live awards programme for the global architecture community.

It is taking place at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore between 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014.

WAF has three central pillars of activity:

- A wide-ranging conference programme, featuring keynote lectures, dozens of expert-led talks and seminars from thought-leading architects and designers from across the globe.
- The world's largest annual awards programme in which practices from around the world compete across 28 award categories for global recognition. Architects of every shortlisted project are invited to attend the festival to give a live presentation to a panel of judges, asserting their case for why their project should win. The winners of each category are put forward to compete for the coveted World Building of the Year award, presided over by the festival's 'super-jury', with the presentation of the award being the culmination of WAF 2014. This year's super jury members are Richard Rogers (chair), Rocco Yim, Julie Eizenberg, Enric Ruiz Geli and Peter Rich.
- Three festival halls where all award entries are displayed in a unique awards gallery and where sponsors and suppliers can interact with delegates, make new contacts and showcase their services and products.

As well as this the festival plays host to an international, live student charrette; parties and receptions in some of Singapore's most exciting locations; exclusive tours to Singapore's most recent architectural sites of interest and a celebratory gala dinner and awards ceremony.

WAF has welcomed over 12,500 attendees to date, including over 2,000 in 2012. The Marina Bay Sands in Singapore, itself a previous WAF Award winner, is WAF's home for the third year running, having been held in Barcelona for four years previously, providing the perfect backdrop to this truly global architectural extravaganza.

WAF are proud to work with Founder Partner, Grohe and Headline Partner, AzkoNobel.

## **WAF awards Programme**

The WAF awards are the global industry benchmark for excellence. Entries are welcome in 29 categories, spanning completed buildings, landscape projects and future projects.

### *Individual Categories:*

#### *Completed Buildings:*

- Civic and community
- Culture
- Display
- Health
- Higher education/research
- Hotel/leisure
- House
- Housing
- New and Old
- Office
- Production/energy/recycling
- Schools
- Shopping
- Sport
- Transport
- Villa

#### *Landscape Projects:*

- Completed designs – rural and urban

#### *Future Projects:*

- Commercial mixed-use
- Competition entries
- Culture
- Education
- Experimental
- Health
- House
- Infrastructure
- Leisure-led development
- Masterplanning
- Office
- Residential

#### *About WAF's organisers - i2i Events Group*

i2i Events Group delivers world-class exhibitions and large scale events in key sectors including home and gift, fashion, retail, healthcare, energy, environment, education, technology and media. Its portfolio of world-wide events includes World Retail Congress, RWM, Spring Fair, Naidex, BVE, Bett and Pure London. It prides itself on opening up possibilities for its customers and each year brings more than 250,000 decision makers together to network, source, test, buy and sell brilliant products, services, ideas and solutions. The company is headed up by Mark Shashoua who joined EMAP as Group MD of EMAP Connect in November 2011 and became CEO of i2i Events Group in March 2012. i2i Events Group is powered by Top Right Group, formerly known as Emap International Ltd.