

Media release

Zurich, Switzerland – April 20, 2015

Global Holcim Awards competition announces winners for 2015

Sustainable design improving communities: top prizes for public space, social integration and resilient infrastructure

The winners of the 4th Global Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction have been decided – the trophies and USD 350,000 prize money go to projects in Colombia, Sri Lanka and the USA. All three prizes recognize architectural interventions that deliver tangible benefits to local communities: Turning a decommissioned water reservoir into a park in Medellín, rebuilding social fabric through a community library in Ambepussa following Sri Lanka’s civil war, and creating public zones and flood-protection for the island of Manhattan.

The USD 2 million Holcim Awards is the most significant international competition for sustainable design and takes place every three years. The 4th cycle attracted more than 6,000 entries for projects to be built in 152 countries. The jury of international experts led by **Mohsen Mostafavi**, Dean of the Graduate School of Design (GSD) at Harvard University, USA selected the winners from the 15 projects which had been awarded the top prizes in the five regional Holcim Awards competitions in 2014.

Global Holcim Awards jury member **Alejandro Aravena** of Elemental, Chile underlined the overall quality of the project entries in particular: “The Holcim Awards has not just been able to bring sustainability to the attention of the people but it has raised the standard and the quality of how professionals have to deal with it”, he said. Jury member **Meisa Batayneh Maani** of maisam architects and engineers, Jordan drew attention to the variety of the projects: “The competition sheds light on the way people live in different regions of the world and celebrates their specific ambition to live better lives. By doing so, the Holcim Awards disseminates information, showing the world what’s going on”, she said.

Turning a water reservoir into public space

A project for a public park in Medellín, Colombia that creates urban spaces around a series of water tanks to form a “socio-technical” landscape of magnificent beauty won the gold prize. The design by **Mario Camargo** and **Luis Tombé** of **Colectivo720** in Cali, together with **Juan Calle** and **Horacio Valencia** of **EPM Group** (Empresas Públicas de Medellín), all Colombia opens up hidden infrastructure within the city to create a civic space at the intersection of architecture, landscape, infrastructure, and urban design. The public space and pre-existing elements are transformed to create an outdoor auditorium and venues for a range of community activities that highlight the value of water as an important resource of urban life.

Head of the Global Holcim Awards jury 2015, Mohsen Mostafavi, commended the project for its focus on improving the quality of life in the city. “The jury applauds the careful integration of the ensemble into the physical and social fabric of Medellín – in a scheme that is a model for best practice that could be emulated by other cities in Latin America and around the globe”, he said.

For project details and video comments by the jury see: www.holcimfoundation.org/Projects/articulated-site

Building post-war skills through a community library

Silver was awarded to a project in the rural town of Ambepussa near Colombo, Sri Lanka that aims to reintegrate soldiers into post-war Sri Lankan society. The community library by **Milinda Pathiraja** and **Ganga Ratnayake** of **Robust Architecture Workshop** in Colombo is made of rammed-earth walls and recycled materials. With the support of the army, young men were coached in building techniques through the construction process.

Mohsen Mostafavi explained that the value of the project centers on transforming a discharged army without mission into a motivated workforce at the service of society using a set of concrete measures including the introduction of an educational program and the deployment of particular construction techniques. “There is significant value in the basic message of the scheme – and the construction of a library that builds both the physical and social fabric of a community”, he said.

For project details and video comments by the jury see: www.holcimfoundation.org/Projects/post-war-collective

The “Dryline” protection and additional public amenities

A large-scale, integrated flood protection system to address the vulnerability of New York City to coastal flooding won the Global Holcim Awards Bronze. The “Dryline” project by a consortium headed by **BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group** (Copenhagen/New York) and **One Architecture** (Amsterdam), in collaboration with the City of New York, proposes a protective ribbon in Southern Manhattan using a series of raised berms and other measures to create public spaces along the water’s edge. The infrastructural barrier incorporates a range of neighborhood functions that foster local commercial, recreational, and cultural activities.

Mohsen Mostafavi praised the project for turning a problem into an opportunity. “The project makes a political statement by means of an architectural and urban proposition – where tangible solutions to the effects of climate change can be created, where New York City is a prototype from which similar strategies in susceptible regions around the globe could be pursued”, he said.

For project details and video comments by the jury see: www.holcimfoundation.org/Projects/the-dryline

Living up to “target issues” for sustainable construction

The international Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction competition seeks innovative, future-oriented and tangible construction projects to promote sustainable responses to the technological, environmental, socioeconomic and cultural issues affecting building and construction. The next competition will open for entries in mid-2016.

To compare the diverse submissions, the juries use the “target issues” for sustainable construction which have been identified by the Holcim Foundation. They address the triple bottom line of environmental performance, social responsibility and economic efficiency and also cover architectural quality and the suitability for broad-scale application and multiplication of the project’s features.

The Holcim Awards competition has been run by the Swiss-based Holcim Foundation since 2004, and is supported by Holcim Ltd and its Group companies in around 70 countries. Holcim is one of the world’s leading suppliers of cement and aggregates (crushed stone, gravel and sand) as well as further activities such as ready-mix concrete and asphalt including services.

Members of the Global Holcim Awards jury 2015

- Marc Angélil, Senior Dean, Chair of Architecture & Design, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich), Switzerland
- Alejandro Aravena, Partner Architect and Executive Director, Elemental, Chile
- Maria Atkinson AM, Founding CEO, Green Building Council of Australia and Sustainability Business Advisor, Australia
- Meisa Batayneh Maani, Founder and Principal Architect, maisam architects and engineers, Jordan
- Yolanda Kakabadse, President, WWF International, Ecuador
- Mohsen Mostafavi (Head of Jury), Dean, Graduate School of Design (GSD), Harvard University, USA
- Matthias Schuler, Professor of Environmental Technology, Graduate School of Design (GSD), Harvard University, USA; and Founder, Transsolar Energietechnik, Germany
- Rolf Soiron, Chairman, Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction, Switzerland

Winning projects and teams of the Global Holcim Awards 2015

- **Global Holcim Awards Gold 2015** – USD 200,000
Articulated Site: Water reservoirs as public park, Medellín, Colombia
Mario Camargo and Luis Tombé, Colectivo720, together with Juan Calle and Horacio Valencia, EPM Group (Empresas Públicas de Medellín) all Colombia
- **Global Holcim Awards Silver 2015** – USD 100,000
Post War Collective: Community library and social recuperation, Ambepussa, Sri Lanka
Milinda Pathiraja and Ganga Ratnayake, Robust Architecture Workshop, Sri Lanka
- **Global Holcim Awards Bronze 2015** – USD 50,000
The Dryline: Urban flood protection infrastructure, New York City, USA
Bjarke Ingels and Kai-Uwe Bergmann, BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group (Denmark/USA) and One Architecture (Netherlands)

This media release is also available in German, French, Spanish and Sinhala

Further information on the winning and finalist projects including high resolution images for download and video comments by the jury is available at: www.holcimawards.org

Media contact

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Global Holcim Awards winners 2006-2015

2015



Global Holcim Awards Gold: Articulated Site – Water reservoirs as public park, Medellín, Colombia
Mario Camargo and **Luis Tombé**, Colectivo720, Cali, Colombia



Global Holcim Awards Silver: Post-War Collective – Community library and social recuperation, Ambepussa, Sri Lanka
Milinda Pathiraja, Robust Architecture Workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka



Global Holcim Awards Bronze: The Dryline – Urban flood protection infrastructure, New York, USA
Kai-Uwe Bergmann, **Bjarke Ingels**, BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group, New York, USA
and **Matthijs Bouw**, One Architecture, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2012



Global Holcim Awards Gold: Secondary school with passive ventilation system, Gando, Burkina Faso
Francis Kéré, Kéré Architecture, Berlin, Germany



Global Holcim Awards Silver: Urban remediation and civic infrastructure hub, São Paulo, Brazil
Alfredo Brillembourg and **Hubert Klumpner**, Urban-Think Tank (U-TT), São Paulo, Brazil



Global Holcim Awards Bronze: Urban renewal and swimming-pool precinct, Berlin, Germany
Tim Edler and **Jan Edler**, realities:united, Berlin, Germany



Global Holcim Innovation 1st prize*: High-efficiency concrete formwork technology, Zurich, Switzerland
Matthias Kohler and **Fabio Gramazio**, Gramazio Kohler Research, ETH Zurich, Switzerland



Global Holcim Innovation 2nd prize*: Low-cost apartments incorporating smart materials, Hamburg, Germany
Frank Barkow and **Regine Leibinger**, Barkow Leibinger, Berlin, Germany



Global Holcim Innovation 3rd prize*: Efficient fabrication system for geometrically complex building elements, London, United Kingdom
Povilas Cepaitis, AA School of Architecture, London, United Kingdom

2009



Global Holcim Awards Gold: River remediation and urban development scheme, Fez, Morocco
Aziza Chaouni and **Takako Tajima**, Bureau EAST, Los Angeles, USA



Global Holcim Awards Silver: Low-impact greenfield university campus, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Kazuhiro Kojima, Coelacanth and Associates, Tokyo, Japan



Global Holcim Awards Bronze: Sustainable planning for a rural community, Beijing, China
Yue Zhang, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China



Global Holcim Awards Innovation prize*: Self-contained day labor station, San Francisco, USA
Liz Ogbu and **John Peterson**, Public Architecture, San Francisco, USA

2006



Global Holcim Awards Gold: Main station Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany
Christoph Ingenhoven, Ingenhoven und Partner Architekten, Dusseldorf, Germany



Global Holcim Awards Gold: San Rafael-Unido, Urban integration project, Caracas, Venezuela
Silvia Soonets and **Isabel Pocaterra**, Proyectos Arquí5, Caracas, Venezuela



Global Holcim Awards Silver: Waterpower – Renewal strategy for the Mulini Valley, Amalfi, Italy
Luigi Centola, Centola & Associati, Salerno, Italy



Global Holcim Awards Bronze: Greening the Infrastructure at Benny Farm, Montreal, Canada
Daniel Pearl, L'OEUF (L'Office de L'Eclectisme Urbain et Fonctionnel), Montreal, Canada

*Global Holcim Innovation prizes were conferred by request of the jury 2009 and to mark the centennial of Holcim in 2012; they recognize the development of new construction materials and methods