



IUPA 2020



The International Urban Project Award (IUPA) recognises outstanding urban and architectural works that contribute to public space and life. In 2020, the main criterion was a strong urban design that will withstand challenging times as well as empower the city and its citizens to do so. Presented by Bauwelt and World Architecture Magazine and supported by Messe München and the Architecture Society of China, the IUPA was awarded for the second time by a jury consisting of Zhang Li, Boris Schade-Bünsow, Li Cundong, Jiaming Cao, Kristin Feireiss and Sergei Tchoban. The commitment of the submitted projects was exemplary. Their diversity was encouraging. The winning and shortlisted projects range from South and North America through to Europe, Africa and Asia. Many of them involve different layers of the existing building mass, most of them establish openness to users and uses, all of them have a socio-cultural mission. They demonstrate the strength of forward-looking human-oriented, accessible, mixed-use architecture that works not just as a magnet for communication and communities, but ultimately as a guardian for the public good. tm, my

Along the waterfront, Hunters Point Library joins the Pepsi and Long Island signs. Inside, the stairs switch back from mezzanine to mezzanine, connecting reading areas. Photos: Paul Warchol (top), Steven Holl Architects (bottom, opposite)

First prize
Hunters Point Library, Long Island City 2019
Steven Holl Architects, New York City / Beijing



Located at the East River, against the backdrop of rapidly built skyscraper condominiums, the Queens Public Library at Hunters Point stands as a public building and public park, bringing community-devoted space to the Long Island City waterfront. Resisting recent trends of incorporating public libraries and much-needed social space within high-end residential towers, the Hunters Point Library stands independently, rising with a minimal footprint on its 3,000 square meters site to offer maximum surrounding green space to the local community and becoming an integrated part of the vibrant public park that lines the river's edge. The vertical structure reimagines the traditional library model, providing a diversity of spaces from intimate reading areas to active gathering spaces. The building's aluminium-painted concrete shell is not just a facade but a load-bearing structure, which omits curtain walls and columns. Sculpted cuts are carved out of the facade, showing the movement of people within. The project's separation into children's area, teen area and adult area can be read in the sculpted cuts, one facade opening for each area; yet the programmatic divisions are fluid. **Steven Holl Architects**

Roberto Bannura, Hunters Point Library is about much more than books. What was your extended library concept for the building?
The idea was to compress the actual building, all the functions, inside a very simple volume, and keep the landscape around it free in order to provide a public plaza to the residential community as well as to provide an end to the Gantry Park of the Garden State Park. So it's a project about densification. And about landscape and public space.

Which thoughts did you have on integrating the library into public space?
The site is not big, about 3,000 square meters, and the project size 2,000 square meters. But the idea of stacking functions vertically and interlocking them side by side ensures the greatest amount of public space outside. Mixing functions inside allows both for a clear separation of those functions as well as for flow and interaction between those functions. The space is fluid. One function falls into the next.

How did you deal with facilitating both open spaces and niches?

We pushed the circulation towards the facade. That's why the facade is sort of carved. You can see the movement in the building. So the circulation is on the edges and the programme in the centre. As a result, there aren't too many small, enclosed spaces. Most of them are open spaces for reading and studying. There's only an auditorium that can be enclosed for specific functions, but otherwise remains connected to the atrium.

The small scale of the library stands out in the middle of giant high-rises. How does the architecture relate to the context?
The library represents a public function in a public space against these large-scale residential houses. And the form itself is iconic. You don't need to be large to be seen. Along the East River and the Long Island City, there are other quintessential landmarks like Louis Kahn's Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial and the legendary Pepsi Cola sign. These examples became symbolic of New York without being very large.

Roberto Bannura
is partner at Steven Holl Architects, Beijing



First prize

SESC 24 de Maio, São Paulo, 2017

Paulo Mendes da Rocha, MMBB



Instead of barriers: a seamless flow from the street into the building. Inside, an exhibition hall opens. The former underground garage was turned into a theatre. Photos: Ana Mello

SESC is an institution that brings a variety of cultural, educational, sports, leisure and health programmes together. Its activities are guided by the advancement of social well-being and the democratisation of culture. SESC 24 de Maio houses a complex set of recreation and service facilities. The building occupies the former headquarters of the Mesbla department store in downtown São Paulo in the context of an urban heritage site.

To make the building accessible to the public, the new design had to readapt the building's structure to a completely new set of uses: a large open square with a gallery character was created at ground level as a free passage linking the building to the neighbourhood. The former underground garage was transformed into a cafe and theatre and a vertical circulation system composed of a generous sequence of ramps. Moreover, a variety of open spaces turned into hanging gardens on different levels opens the building to the surroundings, while a series of furniture in a colourful design strengthens the institutional identity in a joyful manner.

Paulo Mendes da Rocha, MMBB, SESC

Marta Moreira, what changes did the original Mesbla building require?

One of the main challenges was to transform the pre-existing commercial building into a new public venue. Regarding legislation, the ramps that configure the main circulation were only possible as it was a renovation. They extend the urban pavement and connect the main atrium in the centre of the building's ground level to the top floor. The pre-existing space now houses the new structure with a swimming pool that defines the open square on the rooftop.

What was your vision for the new building?

Our intention was to contribute to the construction of a more inclusive, egalitarian and interesting city with spaces that can embrace the diversity and unpredictability of life. The project is rooted in an understanding of cities for the citizenry and sets about creating a more collaborative, collective and inclusive city.

Where do you have to pay entrance or be a SESC member to enter?

Almost the entire building has free public access. Since the building is on the corner of two streets, you can cross through it while passing exhibi-

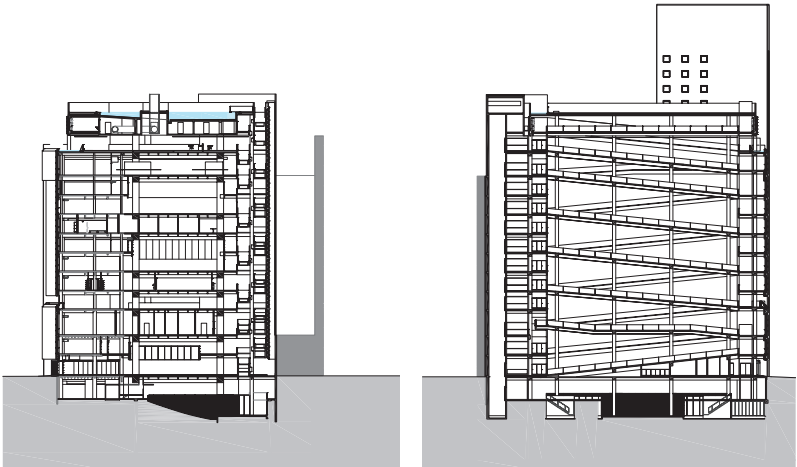
Marta Moreira
is founding partner of MMBB

tions on the ground level. You may also easily access the ramps and visit the many activities which the building contains. The only two areas that can only be accessed by members are the dental clinics and the swimming pool located on the top floor.

São Paulo is notorious for its lack of public space, but SESC 24 de Maio is exactly the opposite: high-quality space for public life. Is the megacity changing?

We believe that the process of transformation and development of cities such as São Paulo is made by slowly adapting to the changes in the habits and way of life of the societies that inhabit them. There are many other abandoned buildings like Mesbla in the city of São Paulo that could also be used to generate more public facilities and urban infrastructure for its enormous population.

The selective demolition of specific parts of the original building maintained its basic architectural elements like the central hall, which was reconfigured with four pillars and a circulation system of ramps.



Sections 1:1500
Air photo: Serjo Soza



Special prize

Future Africa Innovation Campus,
Pretoria, 2018

Earthworld Architects, Pretoria

The Future Africa Innovation Campus provides an integrated work-life environment for post-doctorate students, fostering fellowship, understanding and collaboration between the diverse cultures and disciplines on the African continent. The brief called for a design that would facilitate and enhance interdisciplinary research. The facility should be a place where collective research is done with a strong focus on science leadership development. The campus consists of 280 one-, two- and three-room living units with four living and cooking areas and a crèche, a central hall as well as a research and conference facility including an auditorium, two multi-purpose rooms and six breakaway rooms.

Where conventional universities consist of clusters of buildings with few shared facilities, creating islands and isolation, the Future Africa

Innovation Campus reimagines this typology through centralised spaces for interaction and friendship. The idea of preparing food and sharing thoughts around dinner tables was at the core of the organisation. Housing went against the norm for hostel and communal living environments, where isolated blocks of either 8 or 16 rooms are organised with small kitchen and living areas. Living units are comfortable and allow for private contemplation, but circulation is organised through shared living areas and kitchens. Additionally, the landscape design reintroduces 56 orphan crops, allowing for foraging to explore alternative cuisine, tastes, textures and colours. Precast concrete elements were manufactured 11 km away and brought to the campus for on-site assembly.

André Eksteen



Student homes and shared spaces for work and leisure are connected in a bright, warm architecture with crystalline highlights.
Photos: Lourens Uitenweerde (top)



At the Future Africa Innovation Campus new methods of learning and teaching revolve around lifestyle rather than being concentrated in lecture halls.
Dook Photography (left, centre), RAW Studios (right)

Located on the northern ridge of Strubenskop in Pretoria, the campus allows for interactions with the hilly Highveld landscape.
Air photo: Mighty Fine Production

Special prize

Songyang Culture Neighbourhood,
Lishui, 2020

Jiakun Architects, Chengdu

Situated in the centre of Songyang County, the Confusion Temple and Chenghuang Temple district had been deprived of vitality for decades, lacking economic activities and community management. The renovation project aims to present a complete and continuous historical segment by carefully revaluating existing conditions and relics and protecting them in an urban hierarchy. Based on the consultation with local residents, the design restores the original urban texture, regenerates the public space and opens surrounding pathways into the city. The whole building complex is transformed into an open modern garden yet still holds a traditional flavour. It revitalises the old temples, strengthens the civil culture and enriches the original business with projects such as a bookshop, café, museum and workshop, offering flexible space for public events. **Jiakun Architects**

The design merges architecture and landscape through a five-hectare Z-shaped landscaped swath of trees and grass, connecting the five tanks and tying the different site elements together.
Photos: Wu Qingshan, INSAW Image (top right)



The new open corridor pierces through surrounding pathways to connect the formerly disused complex with the surrounding neighbourhood.
Photo: Bo Wu

Special prize

Tank Shanghai, Shanghai, 2019

OPEN Architecture, Beijing

Along the banks of Shanghai's Huangpu River, five decommissioned aviation fuel tanks and the surrounding site have been given new life and relevance. Together with the newly created underground space and two stand-alone galleries, these iconic tanks were transformed into a vibrant new art and cultural centre. Conceived as both an art centre and open park, the project pays tribute to the site's industrial past. It seeks to dissolve the conventional perception of art institutions with walls that separate museum-goers from others and instead sets out to be an art centre for all – a museum without boundaries. Long, sloping landscaped meadows around each tank gallery offer open access to the street and riverside, inviting visitors and passers-by to move freely between city, nature and art. Amidst the backdrop of Shanghai's many more exclusive cultural projects, this gesture creates surprising – and rare – social inclusivity.

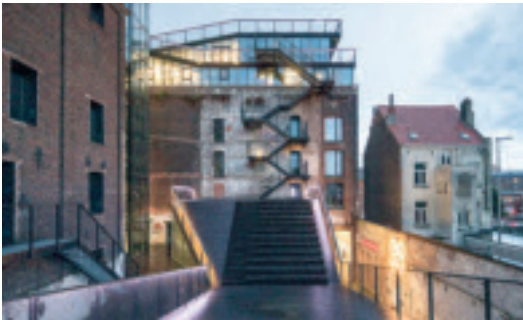
Open Architecture



Shortlist



Charlie Living, Berlin, 2020
Graft, Berlin
With a unit mix of 243 three- to seven-room apartments ranging from 40 to 300 m² in size and 48 ‘serviced apartments’, Charlie Living is the largest newly built predominantly residential project in Friedrichstadt. The design with its high public permeability of accessible paths through to the inner area of the complex, stands in contrast with the otherwise closed block structure of the immediate vicinity. Photo: Bttr GmbH



COOP, Brussels, 2016
Bogdan & Van Broeck, Brussels
Part of the regeneration masterplan of the canal area in Brussels, COOP is the reconversion of a mill dating back to 1903 into a socio-cultural set-up. It hosts an incubator for SMEs linked with an interpretation centre that offers a reading of the past and future heritage of the neighbourhood and an innovation shipyard as a frame for professional training and reinsertion. Photo: Laurian Ghinitoiu



Floating University, Berlin, 2018
Raumlabor, Berlin
Located in the middle of an allotment garden area, Floating University occupied an old rainwater retention basin serving the former Tempelhof airfield. As a temporary inner-city laboratory for collective and experiential learning, the pedagogical experiment invited students, professors, summer schools and self-organised groups to experiment on-site as well as offered a diverse public programme. Photo: Victoria Tomaschko



Jishou Art Museum, Jishou, 2019
Atelier FCJZ, Beijing
The location and design of Jishou Art Museum reinterprets the traditional covered bridge and introduces art as a new programme to this typology. The art museum is composed of two bridges, one on top of the other. The lower level is an open steel truss structure that resembles a roofed street for pedestrians with urban furniture; the upper level is a concrete structure with a painting gallery inside. Photo: Tian Fangfang



Kampung Admiralty, Singapore, 2017
WOHA Architects, Singapore
Kampung Admiralty is Singapore’s first building to bring together a mix of public facilities and services under one roof. The compact site prompted a layered ‘club sandwich’ approach. The result is a ‘Vertical Kampung’ (village) with a community plaza, a rooftop community park and apartments for the elderly as well as several healthcare, social and commercial amenities. Photo: K. Kopter



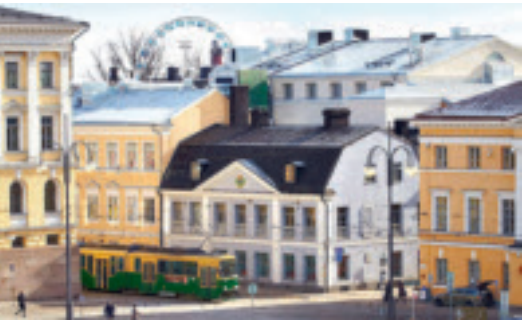
Kö-Bogen II, Düsseldorf, 2020
Ingenhoven Architects, Düsseldorf
The facade is an essential element of the Kö-Bogen II commercial and office building: with 8 kilometres of horn-beam hedges – over 30.000 plants – Europe’s largest green facade is complete. Concluding an extensive urban renewal project, the ensemble signals a departure from the car-friendly era and a turn to people-oriented planning, offering an urban response to climate change, too. Photo: HGEsch Photography



Village Lounge of Shangcun, Shangcun, 2017
SUP Atelier, Beijing
The Village Lounge of Shangcun is a renovation project turning a ruined courtyard into a public space, providing leisure and multi-use space. Local materials and old building sections on-site were used for construction. Local people were encouraged to participate in the process, making the bamboo lounge a public facility with strong roots in the village culture and spirituality. Photo: Xiazhi



West Village, Chengdu, 2015
Jiakun Architects, Chengdu
Measuring 237 by 178 metres, the land use of the West Village block is reserved for community sports. The project aims to integrate a variety of social resources combining sports and leisure activities, cultural and artistic events as well as fashion and creative industries in one local, collective living space. Smaller bamboo courtyards exist within bigger ones, all open to the public. Photo: Arch Exist



Helsinki City Museum, Helsinki, 2016
Architects Davidsson Tarkela, Helsinki
The city block, The Elephant, and its three courtyards have been opened to the public as part of the revitalisation of the former city administration area in the easternmost part of the block. The Helsinki City Museum was relocated to the south-east corner of the Senate Square and now forms a continuation of the public series of city courtyards housing restaurants, galleries and other visitor attractions. Photo: Marko Huttunen



Holiday Inn Express Shougang Silo Pavilion, Beijing, 2018
Li Xinggang, Jing Quan, Li Liang, Zheng Xuhang, Beijing
Once an indispensable cog in the production chain of the Shougang Plant, the Silo Pavilion transforms four industrial buildings into a hotel. It also accommodates the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics Office. The original factory building or ‘Silo’ is used for public spaces, while guest rooms are installed in the ‘Pavilion’ built on top of this, forming a strong contrast between old and new. Photo: Xing Rui



Grimmwelt, Kassel, 2015
Kadawittfeldarchitektur, Aachen/Berlin
The new museum at the Weinberg in Kassel presents the Brothers Grimm’s works. The museum extends the topography of the surroundings with an accessible roof landscape and provides the park with an open stairway that leads up to a terrace. Aiming to keep as much park and public space as possible, it translates the features of the surrounding park into a continuous open space. Photo: Jan Bitter



Shanghai Modern Art Museum, Shanghai, 2016
Atelier Deshaus, Shanghai
Shanghai Modern Art Museum is located at what was the Laobaidu Coal Wharf in Pudong. It reintegrates the horizons of the Huangpu River landscape and gives a new sense of openness to the previously closed-off warehouse. The new walkway serves as an extension to the museum as well as a part of the reconstructed public waterfront space along the river. Photo: Tian Fangfang



Shuiwei LM Apartments, Shenzhen, 2018
Doffice, Shenzhen
Urban villages in Shenzhen consisting of ‘handshake tower blocks’ – so narrow that neighbours can literally shake hands – are increasingly discredited. Doffice’s makeover of 35 such towers seeks to revalue this typical typology by strengthening the community through affordable housing, new connections like corridors in the air, street hierarchy and shared spaces. Photo: Doffice



Vestre Fjord Park, Aalborg, 2017
ADEPT, Copenhagen
Vestre Fjord Park is a recreational learning and experience landscape contributing to the experience of the Danish Limfjord and framing the many potential activities on the water. The vision is to encourage direct contact to the fjord by establishing better accessibility from land to sea with a variety of physical activities and outdoor facilities related to both nature and the city. Photo: Rasmus Hjortshøj