

MEA2013

MEDITERRANEAN
SUSTAINABLE
ARCHITECTURE

International Design Competition

JUNE 2013 – ATHENS GREECE

WWW.MEA2013.GR

Awards Profile



The MEA2013 is a new international design competition for buildings completed over the last five years in the Mediterranean zone.

This competition is an opportunity to point out innovative sustainable design projects realized in an area where climate and economic conditions are akin. Its goal is to enhance exchange of ideas on environmentally conscious design, enriching the ecological sustainability approach. It also aims at highlighting projects that follow the principles of sustainability in architecture mainly through environmentally responsive passive design solutions. Implementation of natural systems and mild technologies is more welcome than high performance applications, also important but inexpedient to apply in locations devoid of a strong industrial base, as are most of the Mediterranean ones. Mostly welcome are projects that deal with regional sources, enhancing the individual identity of regions and promoting diversity, immediately linked to the spirit of ecology. Original and seminal projects are requested, which improve life standards and have low impact on the environment, both ecological and cultural.

MEA2013 honors the most innovative and creative design solutions in the following categories:
civic / urban / residential / healthcare / cultural / leisure / commercial design.

Supporters:
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Curators



Agnes Couvelas

Architect, NTUA (National Technical University of Athens).

With constant consideration of the Greek islands' microclimate and culture, she has designed and completed numerous projects including the In Situ Museum at Naxos, the House of the Winds and the Museum of Prehistoric Thera at Santorini, a daycare center at Crete, a private residence at Andros, and a vacation house at Ithaca.

Her implemented studies in urban and landscape design include the Marathon Archaeological Park (realized on the occasion of the Athens Olympic Games), the Evriali Ecological Park, and the Agia Triada Public Square.

She lectures in Greece and abroad.



Manolis Iliakis

Architect-Spatial Designer.

MA Architecture & Spatial Culture, Middlesex University. Aufbaustudium, Kunsthochschule Halle/Bauhaus Kolleg. BA Interior Architectural Design, Vakalo College. Art&Design.

Scholar of Goethe Institute, Danish Institute, J.F. Costopoulos Foundation. Recently he participated in the 7th Biennale of Young Greek Architects.

His implemented studies in architectural and spatial design, include projects for commercial and private spaces. He is writing articles about sustainable architecture.

He teaches Architectural Composition in Vakalo College of Art and Design and is an Accredited Lecturer of Derby University. The organization of workshops for architects and dancers is part of his teaching activities.

Curators Note



MEA2013, the International Design Awards Competition, is honoring innovative and creative design solutions completed during the last five years in the Mediterranean zone, where climate and economic limitations are akin.

Forty-one (41) projects realized around the Mediterranean were submitted by the end of April, aiming to enhance exchange of ideas on environmentally conscious design, and enrich the ecological sustainability approach. All participating projects should follow the principles of sustainability in architecture, mainly through environmentally responsive passive design solutions. Selected proposals demonstrate good appreciation of the competition objectives, with sensitive handling of local context and climate. It is worth noting that despite the diversity of origin and approach, all awarded projects promote the dialogue on the implementation of mild strategies of sustainability, which is much more than just energy efficiency.

Beyond its declared focus on sustainable architecture, an important objective of this competition is to sail away from the dominant standards of our time and draw attention to peripheral creations; away from the race to catch up with the global narrative, to the slow, subtle process of coping with the rigor of the natural ecosystem that embraces the innovative, transformative and local. In fact, contrary to what one might think, implementation of sustainable strategies in design enhances originality. And, the use of contextual parameters, acts as a generator and inspiration for good architecture. The submissions and awards reveal case studies with both unities and diversity of building in present and future time.

Evidently, the humanistic dimension of sustainability, by sensitive handling of local context and climate, expands well beyond the shores of the Mediterranean basin.

Origin of entries



Shortlisted Submissions

Alexandros Vaitzos, Voronoi's Corral, Greece
 Ángela García de Paredes, UPI Kid University in Gandia, Spain
 Area Progetti, una2 architetti associati, Andrea Michelini, Laura Ceccarelli, Golder Associates, Rosignano Marittimo Public Library, Italy
 Bosch.capdeferro architectures, Collage House, Spain
 Chrysostomos Theodoropoulos, Towerhouse, Greece
 Ecosistema Urbano, Ecopolis Plaza
 Francisco Valbuena, Lucia: A zero energy building from University of Valladolid, Spain
 Gabriel Verd Gallego, 26 Bioclimatic Social Housing in Umbrete, Spain
 Gfra architecture, Ecomuseum, Greece
 Katja Lavrisa, Residential and cultural building Ribiski trg, Slovenia
 Ludovico Micara, New teaching workshops and classrooms for the Faculty of Architecture of Pescara, Italy
 Luis Velasco Roldan, Bioclimatic Penthouse, Spain
 Magen Arquitectos, Environmental Department of Zaragoza City Council, Spain
 Manuel Diaz Jimenez, Marines, School and Centre for integrated formation and advice on environmental agriculture, Spain
 Manuel Ocaña del Valle, Casa Mediterraneo, Spain
 Marcos Gonzalez, CT house, Spain
 Matthew Zych, Vakko Fashion Center and Power Media Center, USA
 Maurizio Bradaschia, MIDJ offices and showroom, Italy
 Mestura Arquitectes, University Apartment Building in the Mediterranean Park of Technology, Spain
 Roula Kotsilati, Five houses at Parnassus Mountain, Greece
 Sergio Sebastian Franco, 12 landscape interventions in the Region of Calatayud, Spain
 Sophia Vyzoviti, Recyclable Corporate Decor, Greece
 Tomas Ghisellini, The Court Of The Trees, New Primary School, Italy
 Touraterre, Atelier Loubatas, France
 Traverso-Vighy architetti, tvzeb, Italy
 Viktoria Lytra, Mill House In Thessaly, Greece
 Vincent Kraft, de la Saulx, Casas Camaleon, Spain

Awards

Participant's Name	Project Name	Country	Price
Civic			
Magen Arquitectos	Environmental Department of Zaragoza City Council	ESP	1
Ecosistema Urbano	Ecopolis Plaza	ESP	2
Manuel Ocaña del Valle	Casa Mediterraneo	ESP	3
Urban There are no shortlisted submissions			
Residential			
Mestura Arquitectes	University Apartment Building in the Mediterranean Park of Technology	ESP	1
Gabriel Verd Gallego	26 Bioclimatic Social Housing in Umbrete	ESP	2
Luis Velasco Roldan	Bioclimatic Penthouse	ESP	3
bosch.capdeferro architectures	Collage House	ESP	Honorary Mention
Healthcare There are no shortlisted submissions			
Cultural			
Angela Garcia de Paredes & Ignacio Pedrosa	UPI Kid University in Gandia	ESP	1
Tomas Ghisellini	The Court Of The Trees New Primary School	ITA	2
Francisco Valbuena	Lucia: A zero energy building from University of Valladolid	ESP	3
Area Progetti, una2 architetti associati, Andrea Michelini, Laura Ceccarelli, Golder Associates	Rosignano Marittimo Public Library	ITA	Honorary Mention
Leisure			
Touraterre	Atelier Loubatas	FRA	1
Commercial Design			
Traverso-Vighy architetti	tvzeb	ITA	1



Environmental Department of Zaragoza City Council

Environmental Department of Zaragoza City Council is located in a plot with a very special value based on the relationship between the city and the urban banks of the Ebro River.

The building tends to form a landscape to suggest an intense relationship with the landscape and express the environmental commitment understood as a quality intrinsically linked to function. Thus, it merges into the topography of the area, forming an extension of the public space inside-it and on its roof, and connecting the different levels of pre-existing urban space.

The roof is an essential element within the conception of the building. It integrates wood-paved public-areas, embedded solar and photovoltaic panels, and green-planted zones.

It illustrates the possibilities of a single material, wood, as essential material and homogeneous cladding, configuring surfaces that seem to be woven, in a careful and sensory-based use of the material.



Location: Spain
 Total Cost: 2.934.222 €
 Plot Area: 1948 m²
 Total Plot Area: 6849 m²
 Study Group: Beatriz Olona, Jose Luis, Sanchez Velazquez
 Structural Engineer: Jose Sainz Sopena
 Electrical Design: Rafael Gonzalez Barriada

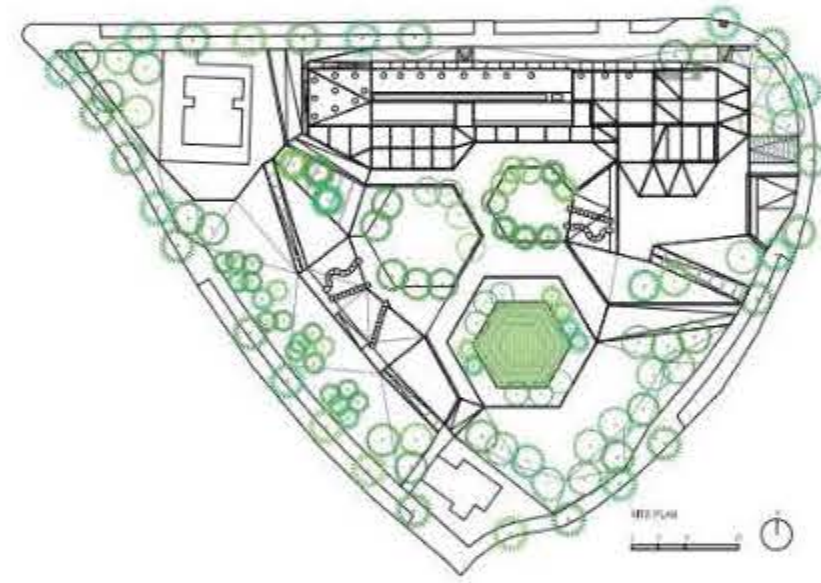
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Ecópolis Plaza

Ecópolis Plaza is conceived as a source of learning for citizens, educating on energy saving and optimization of natural resources. The project integrates ecology in everyday life, without turning it into an exceptional phenomenon more akin to a theme park or museum. In this project, the architecture is challenged beyond formal experimentation, to transform a vacant lot in the outskirts of Madrid into a space for social interaction. Ecópolis Plaza brings together on the same site a kindergarten, a ludic space for kids, and a public space. The solution combines passive energy saving systems together with active systems, providing the highest eco-label (A grade) of Spanish law. In addition all the waste water from the building is naturally purified by a macrophyte lagoon incorporated in the public space. This recycled water is stored under the ground within a gravel tank and then used for all the irrigation needs of the garden. This artificial landscape emulates a natural riverbank. The surrounding topography creates an enclosure and buffer area protecting the building and users from the aggressive industrial environment. Ecópolis Plaza has received several awards among which is a Best Practice from the United Nations Habitat program.

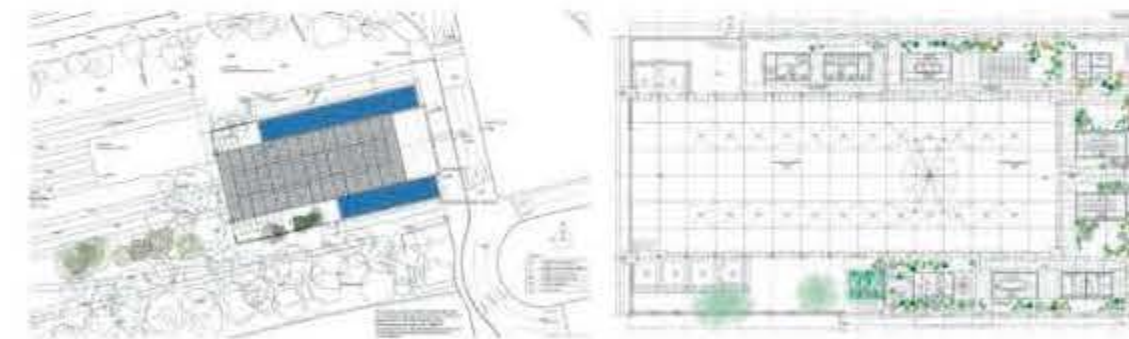


Location: Madrid, Spain
 Total Cost: 2.700.000 €
 Plot Area: 3000 m² (building) + 7.500 m² (public space)
 Total Plot Area: 10500 m²



Refurbishment of the old Benalúa Station and insertion of Casa Mediterraneo Headquarters

Casa Mediterraneo is a diplomatic institution committed to foster the Mediterranean Villages' common identity. Its new Headquarters are to be set within the old Benalua railway station, in Alicante, for the institution demanded new spaces where to develop a wide range of events. The former platform hall is the main space of the building. A 1500 sqm, longitudinal space is intended to become an experience hall. By means of the ubiquitous Mediterranean Sun and some additional technical interventions its spatial properties evolve. A Klein-blue, translucent roof filters the incoming sunlight which, after reverberating through a vibrant, circular-patterned aluminium lattice, dyes and excites the old walls and floor, flooding the space and turning it into a sea of blue shadows. The conventional programme is fitted into an array of small pavilions scattered along the perimetral aisles. These are equipped and climatized. The rest of the building is not climatized. Though sheltered, the spaces are not closed, allowing a constant flow of fresh air inside.



Location: Alicante, Spain
 Total Cost: 1.525.000 €
 Plot Area: 3425 m²

ECOSISTEMA URBANO:

Belinda Tato | Jose Luis Vallejo | Michael Moradiellos | Domenico di Siena | Jaime Eizaguirre | Luisa Zancada | Ion Cuervas-Mons | Benjamín Castro | Masatoshi Oka | Johannes Kettler | Javier de Paz | Julia Casado | Álvaro Ferrer | Emilio García | Andrea Franceschi | Ioannes Busca | Pau Munar | Ignacio Cabezas

www.ecosistemaurbano.org
 info@ecosistemaurbano.com



Architect: Manuel Ocaña del Valle
 Collaborators: Miguel Molins Jiménez, Karolina Kurzak, Adriana Cepeda, Paloma Montoro, María Ortiz-Muyo, BeDV Arquitectos, Yolanda Herranz

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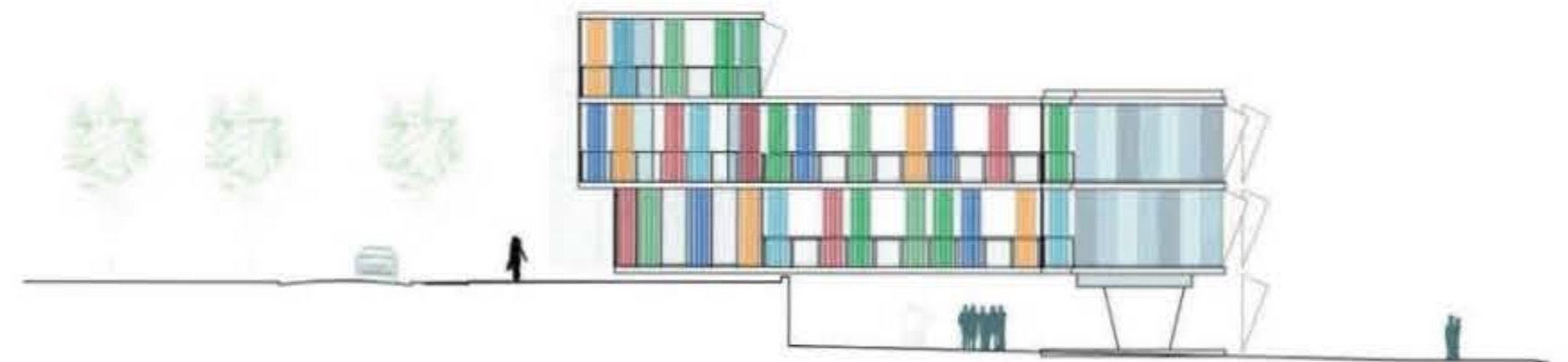
University Apartment Building in the Mediterranean Park of Tecnology

The apartments, located in a university campus dedicated to teaching, research and technology transfer, occupy a privileged space, between the main square and the free spaces and lake beyond.

The geometric matrix consists of two longitudinal blocks with a ground floor plus two stories, positioned on the east-west axis. The northern block has the same level as the main square while the southern is in dialogue with the lake. Those blocks generate a central patio for community relations.

The different levels are connected by open staircases and walkways and ending on common terraces with views of the lake and interior patio. Longitudinal corridors runs along the north side of the building so that all living spaces, have cross-ventilation, can face south onto the patio and gardens.

Systems that would minimize environmental impact were chosen, like on-site prefabrication of the structural beams, industrial prefabrication of the bathrooms and Biomass is used as a renewable energy source.



Location: Castelldefels, Barcelona, Spain
 Total Cost: 5.600.000€ (924€/m²)
 Plot Area: 6.055.83 m²

MESTURA ARQUITECTES:
 Humbert Costas Tordera i Manuel Gómez Triviño
 Jaime Blanco Granado i Carlos Durán Bellas i Josep M.
 Estapé i de Roselló

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mestura@mestura.es





26 Bioclimatic Social Houses

The main planning effort was directed towards a passive energy operating of the buildings, since the construction costs and the sale price for each house, made impossible the installation of active technology systems. The structure simplicity, and the use of materials easily available on site and well-known by local building workers, have been the central choices; big thermal mass in the foundation, walls and roofs in vaults, allow us to isolate from heat in summer and from cold in winter. The proposed distribution allows us to have always direct sunlight and natural cross-ventilation. Letting the sun come in, taking advantage of the seasonal variation of its angle of incidence, and protecting ourselves with vegetation and typical regional horizontal awnings during the summer, promote a huge quality of the built space.

A first reading of the external elevations offers a compact image, inside the house, on the contrary, full volumes follow up empty ones.



Location: Calle Hermanas de la Caridad Umbrete, Seville, Spain
Total Cost: 1.312.118 €
Plot Area: 2335,22 m²
Total Plot Area: 2696,75 m²



Gabriel Verd Gallego in collaboration with Simone Solinas

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estudio@gabrielverd.com

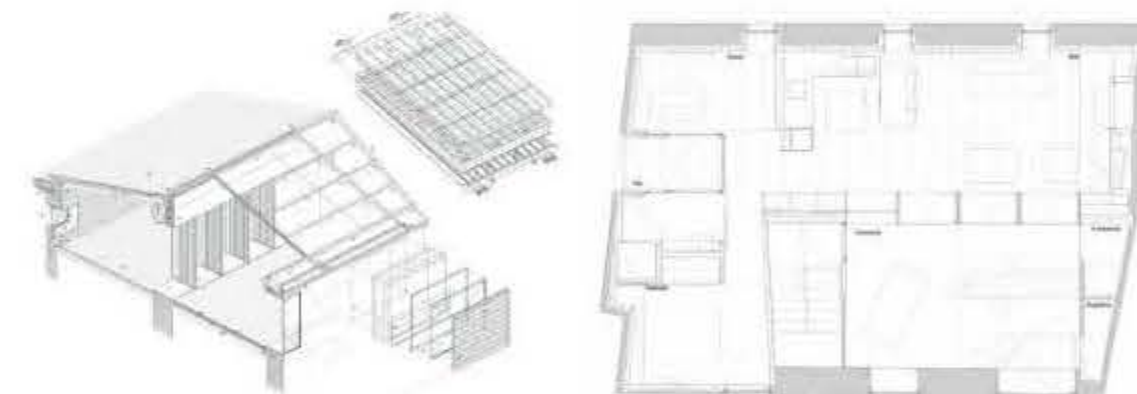


Bioclimatic Penthouse

This home combines traditional elements and contemporary environmental strategies to offer a quiet comfortable space any time of year. The living area faces to a sunny winter garden. The sliding wooden roof allows the solarium to be quickly transformed in an open terrace with or without a shaded porch. The solar protection opens or closes this indoor/outdoor space to the town and the fields' views.

The private area contains the bedroom, a bathroom and a study. These rooms surround a patio. The curtains and movable glazed doors allow selecting different levels of intimacy between the rooms and the communication with outdoor climate conditions.

Energy consumption by combining natural systems and artificial mechanical of the residence reduces the consumption by 25%. That is compared to normal ratios in conventional residence. This shows that it is possible to propose alternatives in the field of rehabilitation or renovation of buildings that allow alternative or complementary energy solutions to the conventional and traditional solutions and professional involvement in the construction sector in sustainable projects.



Location: Mallorca, Spain
Total Cost: 150.000 €
Plot Area: 75 m²
Total Plot Area: 100 m²
Construction: 2008-2012

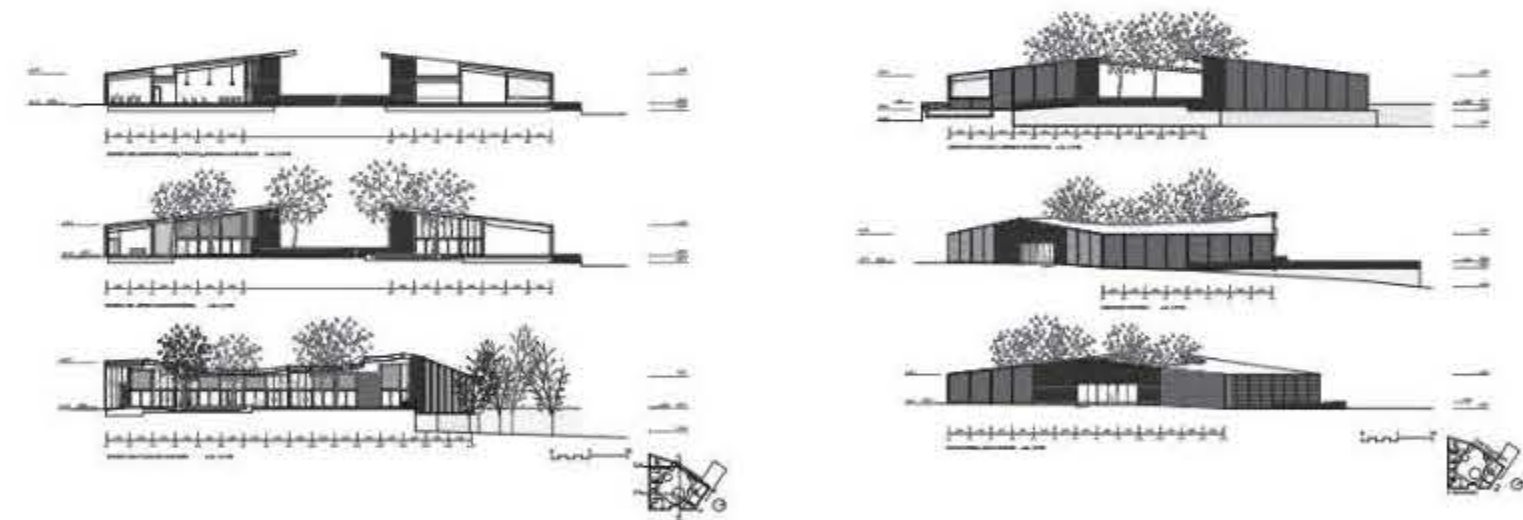


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UPI Kid University in Gandía

The Kid University in Gandía (UPI) is an experimental initiative proposed by the Municipality of Gandía. The UPI is not a conventional kindergarten, but a group of specialized classrooms and workshops located in a natural setting where kids can develop their creativity and have fun beyond a school context. The proposed volume does not alter the Ausías March Park's layout. Indeed, it respects the position of six existing white mulberry trees, arranging the classrooms around them and shaping a central lobulated courtyard. This courtyard is the core of the Kid University, linking open spaces, covered areas and indoor rooms. Towards the exterior, the building exhibits a sober and continuous facade, serving as a sort of palisade, that avoids building up fences. White coloured ceramic tiles build up both facades and roof.



Project 2010. Construction 2010 - 2011
Location: Parque Ausías March, Gandía, Valencia
Total Cost: 1.436.880,98 €
Plot Area: 1075 m²
Total Plot Area: 1075 m²
Project team: Álvaro Oliver, Álvaro Rábano, Lucía Guadalajara, Ángel Camacho, Laura Pacheco

Paredes Pedrosa, arquitectos.
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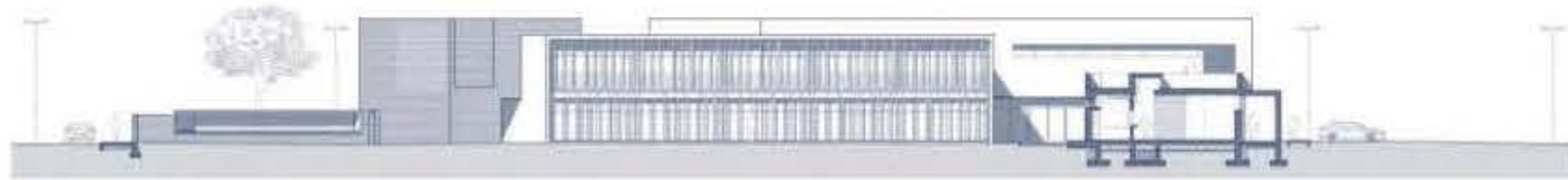


The Court Of The Trees New Primary School

Saving a pre-existing precious garden from destruction, a border-building is generated by the composition of elementary volumes made of exposed brick and white plaster, showing massive fronts onto the streets. A discreet and essential architectural language builds up the old impression of a "defensive" construction with a compact and seemingly impenetrable basement in touch with the urban land. In the very heart of the project, a green court, protected and safe, is exclusively dedicated to children, free to run among the living trees.

A simple slow-ventilation system for collection, regimentation and conduction of natural air currents within the building prevented the installation of an expensive mechanical forced air replacement plant. Ultra-thin solar panels and an invisible photovoltaic integrated system give the complex energy independence and the opportunity to sell every surplus to the national network.

Location: Cenate Sotto (Bergamo), Italia
Total Cost: 3.140.000,00 €
Plot Area: 2.680 m²
Total Plot Area: 5.900 m²



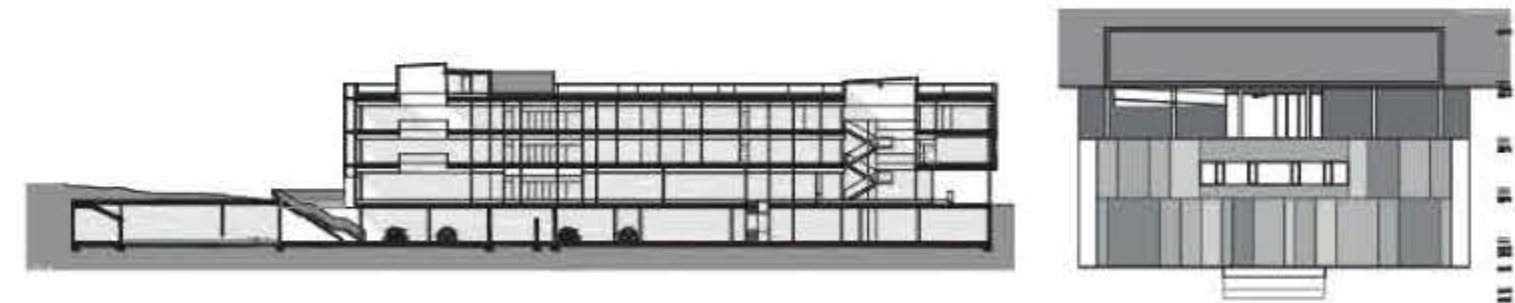
Tomas Ghisellini Architects
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Lucia: a Zero Energy Building from Univesity of Valladolid

ZERO CO₂ emissions and ZERO ENERGY building, will house scientific centres and related work modules. It shows strategies in bioclimatic design (oriented envelop and forms, significant improvement of daylighting, strong insulation, vegetation to create microclimate, low environmental impact construction materials, photocatalytic tiles...) to reduce significantly the energy demand. USE ONLY RENEWABLE ENERGIES integrated in design (biomass, photovoltaic and geothermal), including electricity produced by cogeneration by local biomass, with an affordable cost. It will provide the springboard for research into social aspects of building sustainability (social, dissemination and educational subjects, waste and water management...) and it will constitute a prototype on which to test the bases for environmental methods and assessment for buildings. It has external certification, opting to LEED-NC PLATINUM and more than 4 leaves VERDE. Funding come from Junta de Castilla y León (Program of Infrastructure of Research and Technological Development 2010-2012), and the European Regional Development Fund.

Location: Campus Universitario Miguel
Delibes, Spain
Total Cost: 8 225.413.36 €
Plot Area: 7500 m²
Total Plot Area: 7500 m²

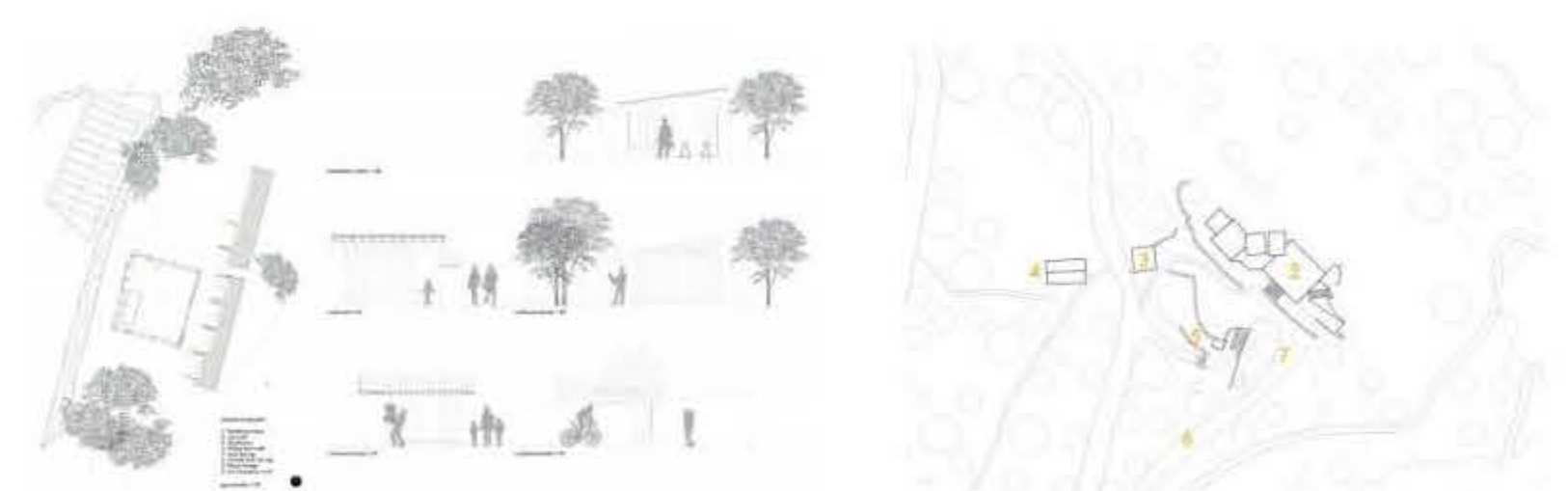


Francisco Valbuena García / Unidad Técnica de Arquitectura (Universidad de Valladolid)
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Atelier Loubatas

TOURATERRE is an international group of professionals and passionate people involved in designing, experiencing and building with raw earth techniques. This building is the result of 2012's September workshop, where 13 young architects gathered in southern France to design and build a carpenter's workshop for a local organization called Loubatas, during three weeks. The idea was to build an economical building, total budget of 5.000€, in a very short time where the use of raw earth would be relevant for ecological, structural and constructive reasons. The building is divided in two volumes with a passage in-between. The work space is squared, regular and faces the forest with a window frame, while straw earth walls protect it from the Mistral wind. Second, a long and thin fitted storage wall, to keep tools and materials. Both were built using raw-earth techniques, the first in straw-clay and the second in wattle and daub.



Location: Chemin du Loubatas, France
Total Cost: 5.000 €
Plot Area: 35 m²
Total Plot Area: 145 m²



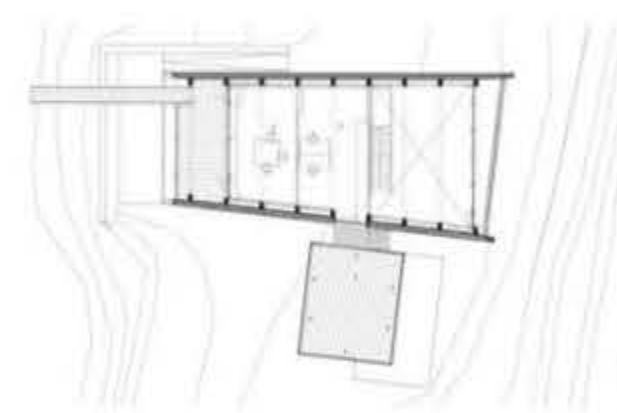
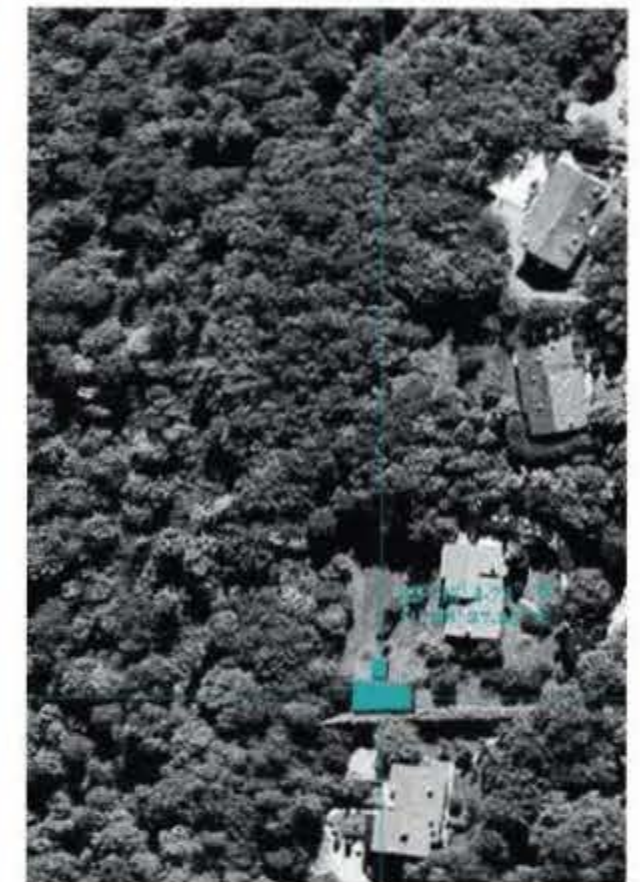
Workshop Touraterre 2012 Team Architects: Adrien Jacques le Seigneur | Antoine Killian | Tânia Teixeira
Head of Study: Florian Herold | Study Group | Aleksandra Denis | Camille Esteve | Christina Lambrou | Marion Pave | Esteve Mazier
Agnieszka Wirkonas | Marie Barthe | Sofian Besthal | Hai Ou

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touraterre@gmail.com



tvzeb

Nestled in the wooded hills of Vicenza, tvzeb was conceived to feature a new environmentally-sound architecture studio. The goal was to develop a low-impact building that blended into the surrounding natural setting and exemplified the visual, renewable energy and user well-being. The building's form and direction were designed on the views and simulations aimed at capturing the seasonal variants of temperature and sunlight to enhance building performance. Its structure was manufactured in parts made from recyclable and/or recycled materials that can be dismantled according to the concept of potential reversibility. Tvzeb will be entirely powered by internal energy sources (wood combustion, solar and geothermal energies) which will render the building completely self-sufficient, thereby fulfilling the European Directive 2010/31/EU that prescribes all new public buildings from 2020 to be zero-energy buildings.



Location: Costabissara (VI), Italy
Total Cost: 400.000 €
Plot Area: 150 m²
Total Plot Area: 5300 m²

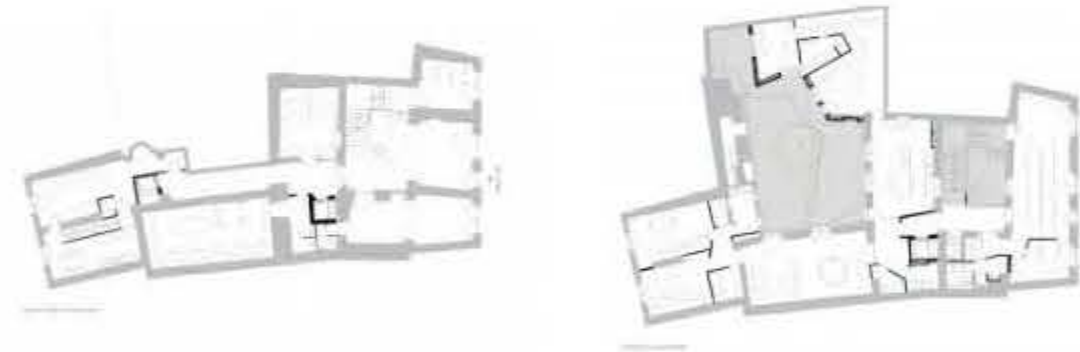
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Collage House

Renovation always means establishing a relationship of sorts with the past, with the pasts that are accumulated in the space of the intervention. And also with the future, with that imaginary idea of the location we would like to tend towards. But above all it means a great capacity to work with the present. To erase or to design: to eliminate, clean, repair, reconstruct, replace, incorporate, add... Successive discoveries continually require different and complementary responses. The relationships between old and new spaces are gradually brought about, often in real time, as are those between the workers who one day put up the walls and those who now remake them. The endless superimposition of time, desire, skills, materials, strategies, of individuals. And more than anything, a growing confidence in a necessarily open design system (in this instance, collage) capable of harmoniously integrating the histories of each bit of the process into a single whole.



Location: Girona, Catalunya, Spain
 Total Cost: 2.000.060 €
 Plot Area: 1.515,00 m²
 Total Plot Area: 1.515,00 m²
 Builder: Capdeferro constructor, s.a.
 Collaborators:
 Joan Anglada, project leader
 Josep Grau, construction chief
 Blazquez Guanter, s.l.p., structural consultants.

Ramon Bosch, Bet Capdeferro
www.boschcapdeferro.net
arquitectures@boschcapdeferro.net



Rosignano Marittimo Public Library

Winner of an international competition in two phases, the project meets the client's requirements of sustainability, environmental respect and high performances. It represents one of the first public buildings in Italy that makes use of the straw-bales technology, furthermore keeping the construction cost on the average of Italian public buildings and strongly lowering the operation costs. A building where users can find not only library services, but also comfort and integration between architectural and technological features: the adoption of passive strategies improves the energy performance of the building, and has come to strongly differentiate the appearance. The library itself is a symbol: of knowledge, of awareness, of broad-mindedness, of the intelligent fruition of resources; a sort of monument to sustainability and to environmental respect, realized by way of the laminated timber structure, the straw-bale walls and the natural ventilation systems.



Location: Tuscany, Italy
 Total Cost: 4.828.576 €
 Plot Area: 1950 m²
 Total Plot Area: 2.300 m²

AREA PROGETTI srl | una2 architetti associati | Arch. Laura Ceccarelli
 Arch. Andrea Michelini | Golder Associates srl

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Judging Committee



Ali Abu Ghanimeh

Dr. Ali Abu Ghanimeh is an Architectural critique and writer. He graduated in architecture from the University of Rome in 1987 (Rome-Italy) and authored an international study of Andrea Palladio's architecture in 1994 (Vicenza-Italy). In 1997 he got his PhD in History of Architecture from the University of Rome (Rome-Italy).

Dr. Ali started his professional Experience in 1990, where he restored and rehabilitated Arar's house, one of Jordan's most prominent poets, in Irbid in cooperation with arch.Raed Al Tall.

Now he is the head of the Architecture Department at the University of Jordan and the General Secretary of Aqaba Biennale for Mediterranean Architecture 2013. During the previous years of his employment he has been the Dean of the faculty of Engineering in Al Al-Bayt University (2010/2011) and the dean of the Institute of Architecture and Islamic Art in the same University (2008-2010). Through the years (2003-2005) and (2007-2008) he has been the chairman of the Architecture Department in the University of Jordan.

In addition to that he has been the Assistant Coordinator for Med-Campus project 139 for touristic coastal development in the Mediterranean Countries in the period (1993-1996). Dr. Ali was the mayor's advisor for architecture affairs in Greater Amman Municipality for four years starting 2002. After which, and during the period (2008-2010), he has been the council member of the Consultation, Technical and Community Service Center in Al Al-Bayt University, an advisor for Local Development and Local-International Cooperation Affairs AToukan Architecture with Mario Pisani in 2001, "Stones and Temples" in 2003, and "tourism and Sustainability" in 2005. He wrote some of these in Arabic, English and/or Italian. In 2011 he was awarded by Antonietta Labisi for his cultural and educational role in Mediterranean Countries (Catania- Italy), that is apart from his start of Public Lecturing and conferences (which started in 1992).

English and/or Italian. In 2011 he was awarded by Antonietta Labisi for his cultural and educational role in Mediterranean Countries (Catania- Italy), that is apart from his start of Public Lecturing and conferences (which started in 1992).



Antonio Ortiz

Antonio Ortiz is an architect by the School of Architecture of Madrid since 1971. He has been a visiting professor at the Lausanne and Zurich polytechnics as well as in Harvard, Cornell and Columbia universities as well as in the School of Architecture of Pamplona. He has held the Kenzo Tange Professorship at Harvard's G.S.D. and since 2004 has been an honorary professor at the University of Seville and occupied the Catedra Blanca at the School of Architecture.



Antoine Zammit

Antoine Zammit is a practising architect and civil engineer from the University of Malta with a post-graduate degree in Town and Country Planning and a specialisation in Urban Design from the Bartlett School of Planning, University College London. Antoine has worked on projects in Italy, the Republic of Ireland and Malta. He has recently set up his own urban design consultancy, studjurban (<http://www.studjurban.com>), with the prime intention of championing high quality urban design on the island. Antoine also currently lectures in spatial planning and urban design at the Faculty for the Built Environment of the University of Malta. He previously worked as a junior architect on the Manoel Island and Tigné Development with the Maltese consultancy aom Partnership (2002-2004), was a Senior Associate at Malta-based architectural firm TBA Periti (2005-2010), was a member on the Planning Appeals Board (2006-2011) and a Council member of the Maltese Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers (the Kamra tal-Periti, 2005-2007). Antoine is currently completing his PhD research at University College London, under the supervision of Prof. Matthew Carmona and Dr. Elisabete Cidre, which examines the relationship between urban design quality and the Maltese planning system.



Günkut Akin

Professor at Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Bilgi University (since 2010); holds a professional degree in architecture from the Academie of Fine Arts, Istanbul (1974) and Ph.D. from the Technical University, Istanbul (1985); has taught history-theory courses in undergraduate and graduate levels in the same university during 30 years (1978-2008). Areas of interest varied over time from archaeological sources of vernacular architecture to the medieval and ottoman architecture of Turkey and lastly to its modern architectural culture. Besides the variety of these more or less empirical subjects, the epistemology of architecture remained his most continuous research area. His recent published articles include topics from the 19th and 20th centuries.



Panagiotis Tournikiotis

Panagiotis Tournikiotis is the professor of architectural theory at the National Technical University of Athens, School of Architecture. He has studied architecture, town planning, geography and philosophy in Athens and Paris. He has authored many books including The Historiography of Modern Architecture (MIT Press, 1999) and Architecture in our times (Futura, 2006). His recent work investigates the reinvention of the city centre in metropolitan Athens.

Judging Procedure



Environmental Department of Zaragoza City Council

Integration with nature, social stairs, overall design, simple yet powerful design language
Ali Abu Ghamineh

As a building, which houses the Environment Service of Zaragoza and aims to have a pedagogical role in the environmental commitment the project is quite involved with some passive energy solutions. Also the choice of materials was made with attention to the same criteria.

The project contains at the same time an extensive and tranquil public place, which is formed like an amphitheater and propose an intensive relationship with the landscape. The roof of the official building is designed as a viewpoint at different levels and looks like an extension of the outer public place. Both the building and the amphitheater are clad with the same ipe-wood which gives to the whole formation an integrated, tactile and sculptural quality. Almost a poetic project.
Gunkut Akin

An interesting project that fits in neatly within the existing topography and is aesthetically appealing. Environmentally, however, the project appears to rely more on add-ons to the built fabric (such as solar panels), as opposed to trying to design integrative measures that reduce unnecessary heat gains/losses in summer/winter respectively (exceptions include the green roof and integration of insulation within the external fabric).
Antoine Zammit

Zaragoza fills both terms with a high quality architecture well placed in the Mediterranean context and a moderate but efficient sustainability
Panagiotis Tournikiotis



Ecopolis Plaza

Lack of sustainable solutions, emphasis on technology, rich design language
Ali Abu Ghamineh

Much is done for passive solar control, which can be called quite innovative and are probably effective. Also the purification of waste water is an ecological achievement. The colorful, light and pleasantly breezy appearance is attractive for children.
Gunkut Akin

A highly interesting project that proactively takes sustainability on board, through its design elements, construction, and function. It scores high on quality of life elements, combining play with instilling an environmental awareness among its users. In presentation terms this project is very clearly presented and all aspects may be easily comprehended. This project has a clear edge over the other projects presented in this category.
Antoine Zammit

Ecopolis Plaza is an extensively but mostly technically sustainable building, fitting within a technical structure that is hardly Mediterranean
Panagiotis Tournikiotis



tvzeb

Very good architectural design yet lack of sustainable solutions
Ali Abu Ghamineh

Beginning with an efficient orientation a low-impact building with all consequences of the term is achieved: Renewable energy, recycled and recyclable materials etc. And all these are made in a very innovative and subtle way. Very well blended into the surrounding natural setting. The only project of the competition, where we are able to speak about the context. Excellent formal expression. All the aesthetic criteria above find their answer!
Gunkut Akin

Intelligent sustainability and masterly contextual architectural fitting perfectly to the Mediterranean
Panagiotis Tournikiotis

This is an almost faultless project, in both its design and environmental strategy, which contains various design features in order to both reduce the energy demands and to generate energy. The combination of various alternative energy sources is clearly explained/illustrated within the provided visuals, and it may be reasonable to expect that the final outcome, which is also aesthetically sensitive to its context, contributes to an elevated quality of life for its users.
Antoine Zammit



Casa Mediterraneo in Alicante

Lack of sustainable solutions, emphasis on technology
Ali Abu Ghamineh

No sustainable interventions are declared. The small glass pavilions built in large quantities in the main hall of the old train station are equipped with air condition devices, without any critical attitude, at least by writing the text of the entry. Whereas the main portion of the text is about a seemingly progressive concept of restoration, little is thought on its function. If considered for a long term, contrary of the proposed hypothesis, the more one pulls an old building to the present, the less one gets a truly experience.
Gunkut Akin

A very interesting rehabilitation project, and certainly a very commendable effort, although one cannot help but feel that more could have been done in order to exploit the existing properties of the built fabric; a number of interventions come across as being more aesthetic than environmentally-led. The old and the new are however carefully thought-out and provide a very interesting and complementary whole.
Antoine Zammit

Alicante is excessively Mediterranean, and hardly sustainable
Panagiotis Tournikiotis



26 bioclimatic social housing in Umbrete

Good sustainable sections, simplicity of design yet lack of interesting spaces
Ali Abu Ghamineh

The thermal insulation in the walls and ceilings, some awnings and aluminum mesh-work are standard solutions. The cross-ventilation in the first floor is only possible, if there is no car parked in the entrance loggia and the doors on its both sides are not closed for security reasons, at least in the night. Cross-ventilation also doesn't work in the bedrooms. If compared with the plans below, the openings of the upper bedroom do not correspond to each other, as shown in the longitudinal section. The height (2.53 m.) and the horizontal dimensions of the rooms in both floors are too low and narrow. Although there is a low-cost housing, the quality of life cannot be disregarded by this way.
Gunkut Akin

This is a strong project, and it is very commendable that social housing requirements are paired up with environmental targets. There is an intimate and positive relationship between the built fabric and the unbuilt spaces, doubling up with a good study of public-private interfaces. The end result is a well-studied and neatly designed project that works well overall, while providing a further positive aesthetic contribution. The project does not stop at identifying basic environmental principles; rather, it strives to achieve multiple objectives – balancing, for instance, daylight provision with temperature levels. It is evident that much study has gone into this project, from its conceptual development to its design detailing.
Antoine Zammit

Low cost and low tech simply social and sustainable architecture fitting well to the Mediterranean culture and way of life
Panagiotis Tournikiotis



Bioclimatic Penthouse

Overall balanced design; architecture, ecology, and technology
Ali Abu Ghamineh

This is the only residential project worth to be called as innovative in terms of passive energy solutions. The feeling of ease is the very valuable result of this design. Like an experience, that have to be unexpected by definition, this apartment transforms the roof of the ordinary building to an intimate and charming dwelling. The two terraces are successfully incorporated in the layout of the penthouse, to give an airy atmosphere to the whole flat.
Gunkut Akin

This is a very good project that is not pretentious but strikes the right chords with its well-crafted design solutions. The use of design elements that are modified according to the climatic conditions, such as the retractable roofing, and the use of this space for both cooling and heating purposes, gives fitness for purpose all year round, maintaining a stable environment throughout. This project goes a long way to show that simple solutions may be equally effective, while maintaining a good sense of the aesthetic, and result in savings. It is also a very good message to get across – in that if everyone had to adopt such measures, setting very achievable targets, this could lead to a significant outcome on the big scale.
Antoine Zammit

The bioclimatic penthouse architecture is simple and practical, well responding to sustainability, both in bioclimatic and material terms. Good example
Panagiotis Tournikiotis

Judging Procedure



UPI Kid University in Gandia

Good integration with nature yet not as many passive solutions
Ali Abu Ghamineh

Some usual passive energy strategies, like taking advantage of the shadows of existing trees or the attenuation of solar irradiation with the help of ceramic cladding. Charming school, low scale, good proportions of the patio, curled white ceramic cladding, woodwork instead of metal. Lovely atmosphere for the children.
Gunkut Akin

This project achieves a high result on the basis of simple yet effective design decisions. Basing primarily on the central atrium and the benefits provided through the deciduous trees, it strikes a balance between the summer and winter months in terms of the different requirements therein. Passive design is therefore the defining factor in this project, together with the choice of materials deployed on the facade, which in turn has some interesting design outcomes.
Antoine Zammit

Kid University involves a moderate sustainability based on nature and mild Mediterranean climate literally embraced in terms of architecture
Panagiotis Tournikiotis



Rosignano Marittimo Public Library

Good sustainable sections, simplicity of design yet too much emphasis on technology
Ali Abu Ghamineh

Seems very progressive, since the environmentally conscious attitude determined all the design process. It is no doubt that the ecological criteria of the competition have been fully met. Although perhaps a little bit overplayed. Moreover it is difficult to call it inventive. Because different techniques are mechanically put together, including even bulky straw bales. Interesting is the inner spatial organization of the building, with three different blocks and the cracked path. The irregular spatial disposition of functions and furnishings remind the architectural landscape in the State Library of Scharoun in Berlin. But the difference is important: The library in Rosignano lacks different levels in the open space and the single-storey outer shell is too regular. The stated goal, to reach a strongly differentiated appearance through passive energy strategies didn't become a reality in this project.
Gunkut Akin

This is a very good project, particularly regarding the sensitivity of built form, the choice and frugality of materials used and the implementation of an endemic construction technology that exploits local materials in order to achieve optimum results in terms of passive design – this includes the use of straw-bale technology and green roofs. Natural ventilation is also given much thought, via the well-crafted wind tower and solar chimneys, and an attempt is also made at integrating these structures comprehensively within the rest of the built fabric rather than additional elements. The overall design is interesting and marries nicely with the function of the building, increasing the awareness of its users as to environmental issues.
Antoine Zammit

Fully sustainable library in a quite ordinary architecture.
Panagiotis Tournikiotis



Lucia. A zero energy building, Univ. of Valladolid

Sterile design with no clear presentation of where ecology fits in
Ali Abu Ghamineh

This building is like a manifest of environmentally conscious architecture. Self-sufficient, low environmental impact, zero CO2 emissions. The highest standard to cover all the sustainability demands of the competition. The building is a research itself. A critique of the architectural qualities looks by this case as if it is unnecessary. But to be tongue tied in front of the overwhelming technique and to be obliged to a general responsibility to the earth is an uneasy and problematical situation.
Gunkut Akin

The integration of research/knowledge and practice/project is an interesting approach, as it puts to fruition the research principles, while at the same time acting as a test base for future research. The principles of passive design are well developed and implemented, and certainly this is a very strong project overall, with a great performance overall in terms of energy savings (and resulting LEED certification) and the intelligent reuse of water, in both cases managing to close the energy loop. It is hoped that once fully completed and fitted the finished product will additionally be of a high quality in terms of materials and aesthetics.
Antoine Zammit

Lucia is a rationally sustainable architecture designed on the basis of intelligent Mediterranean principles far away from regionalism
Panagiotis Tournikiotis



Atelier Loubatas

Application of ecological solutions, simple yet elegant design, strong social participation
Ali Abu Ghamineh

Compliments not only on the result, a built object, moreover also on the building process and the commitment-organization behind the work. Clay is a very old and excellent ecological material with minimum heat transfer and environmental impact. To keep the memories alive on it through letting the young people building themselves with this material is a very good idea to raise the awareness to the ecology. The imperfection of the building is meaningful in a world of technological perfection, where also the environmental issue is a matter of the market. The value of this project is in its sincerity.
Gunkut Akin

This project is commendable from multiple viewpoints. It is primarily commendable from a deep awareness and sensibility of sustainability, primarily in terms of materiality and the close regard to the local context. It is also highly commendable in terms of the collaborative spirit that characterises this project, and the application of theory to practice in a very tangible manner. This project epitomises the spirit of sustainable initiatives, that are 'hands-on' and 'achieve-able' and even though the final outcome might not have exceptional aesthetic qualities it nonetheless deals with the issues at hand in a sensitive manner that must be given due regard.
Antoine Zammit

Loubatas is a sustainable and Mediterranean project which is mostly inspiring
Panagiotis Tournikiotis



Collage House in Gerona

Interesting concept yet weakness of application
Ali Abu Ghamineh

The existing house left little opportunity for climatic interventions. The thermal mass of the thick walls and small openings are very efficient for the indoor thermal comfort. The patios are successfully incorporated in the renewed building to enhance the desirable microclimate through the surrounding open spaces and multiple cross-ventilation. The only unacceptable thing is the use of radiant heating presumably with un-renewable energy sources. Because this entry is not a new product, our assessment has to be based on the quality of restoration. I quote the statement of the architect(s) in the submitted text: "The new added layer intends nothing more than joining, as naturally as possible". The results of this valuable approach can be seen in the quality of interventions. Carefully dialog with the existing building and not a hegemonic superimposition fulfills almost all the aesthetic criteria written above.
Gunkut Akin

As with other projects of this genre, there is much merit in considering the reuse and rehabilitation of built fabric, and certainly one may comment positively about both the frugality and aesthetic outcomes of this project. There is not much discussion, however, about more induced energy-conscious measures to supplement and improve the performance of the building system, for a greater quality living experience. Talk about only requiring to use the existing passive systems offered by the current fabric come across as being quite a simplistic approach as a result of this.
Antoine Zammit

The 'collage house' is an exemplary intervention looking forward to reusing an old house that is definitely sustainable and Mediterranean. It can be a pilot project for future interventions in old cities that are willing to regenerate beyond rehabilitation.
Panagiotis Tournikiotis

Judging Procedure



University Apartment Buildings UPC

Comprehensive and complete design both architecturally and ecologically
Ali Abu Ghamineh

Beginning with an efficient orientation of the two blocks a considerable portion of climate control mechanisms is used. Both the blocks and the apartments are well ventilated. Some efforts are made to minimize the environmental impact.

A breezy look is achieved. Not only through the actual openness of the layout to the environment, but also through the light and cheerful materials. A critique can be made, because of the disadvantage in terms of lake-view of the ground and first floors of the northern block.
Gunkut Akin

This is a good project based on sound principles even though the environmental aspects that are taken on board are somewhat simplistic. The environmental concept primarily revolves around the use of the atrium, the positioning of the corridors and the orientation of the individual units. The overall outcome is interesting, in spite of the modularity which is somewhat inevitable in this project typology, particularly through the diversity in the shading devices used for the individual apertures.
Antoine Zammit

Student apartments in Barcelona are functionally and literally sustainable and designed to fit with a Mediterranean disposition
Panagiotis Tournikiotis



The Court of the Trees - New primary school

Unclear ecological solution presentation, although good emphasis on social ecology
Ali Abu Ghamineh

Efficient, passive climatic control and renewable energy solutions are achieved through multiple mechanisms, such as natural air ventilation, solar panels, photovoltaic systems. Valuable in this entry is the naturalized consciousness in terms of sustainability. No extra attempt to demonstrate the trendy appliances, which actually are only useful "infrastructures" and not a subrogation for the whole architectural creation.

The position of the primary school between the built core of the city and the landscape is according to the explanation of the entry emphasized with two different design strategies. An acute angle "cutting right in the heart of the action" on one side and "a quiet and protected courtyard facing the hills" on the other. But the linear borders of the facades at the courtyard are too clear cut, without semi open spaces in both floors and informal accesses to facilitate more involvement with nature. More opaque and sheltered than open and free. A mature and sophisticated design. But for a primary school too formal inside.
Gunkut Akin

This is a truly remarkable project and scores highly on all counts, from the well-thought passive design strategy to the final aesthetic output. This project is even more commendable given its nature, and the need to make such environmental achievements accessible to people to understand from a young age. It may certainly be argued that the exposure of children to such designs may instil a greater acknowledgement and appreciation of sustainability as a way of life, thus improving their quality of life experience. There is a strong design ethos, very well-explained within the boards, and it is clear that much thought has been given to both the built and unbuilt elements that work together in a positive and balanced manner.
Antoine Zammit

The primary school is intelligently sustainable and both functionally and materially Mediterranean. Well designed architecture
Panagiotis Tournikiotis

Evaluation

Project Name	Ali Abu Ghanimeh	Antonio Ortiz	Antoine Zammit	Gunkut Akin	Panagiotis Tournikiotis
Civic					
Environmental Department of Zaragoza City Council	8	5	6,67	9	9
Ecopolis Plaza	6	5	8,33	7	6
Casa Mediterraneo	5	6	7,67	4	6
Residential					
University Apartment Building in the Mediterranean Park of Tecnology	9	8	6,5	9	8
26 Bioclimatic Social Housing in Umbrete	7	8	8,67	5	9,5
Bioclimatic Penthouse	8	7	7	10	9
Collage House	6	7	6,67	9	10
Cultural					
UPI Kid University in Gandia	7	8	7,83	7	8,5
The Court Of The Trees New Primary School	6	6	8,67	8	9,5
Lucia: A zero energy building from University of Valladolid	5	6	8,17	10	8,5
Rosignano Marittimo Public Library	7,5	6	8	7,5	6
Leisure					
Atelier Loubatas	8	5	10	7,33	9
Commercial Design					
tzzeb	7,5	6	9,67	10	10

Honorary Committee



Dimitris Fatouros

Born in Athens in 1928, graduated from the School of Architecture of the National Technical University of Athens in 1952. Studied painting alongside N. Chatzikiriakos-Gkikas from 1947 until 1953. Completed his Master's thesis with P. Michelis throughout the years 1955 to 1958. Worked as a tutor in N.T.U.A.'s School of Architecture from 1959 to 1996, when he became a professor emeritus. Worked as a professor in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki's School of Architecture from 1959 until 1996, when he became a professor emeritus. Served as Dean of A.U.T.H. from 1983 to 1988. During the years 1966-1967 he became a Visiting Fellow of Yale University's School of Architecture. He has taught and given many lectures in numerous European and American universities. Alone or in collaboration with other architects, he has studied various public and private buildings such as Peiraeus's Indoor Swimming Pool, Lagkada's Junior and Senior High school along with V. Giannakis, the Archeological Museums of Kavala, Filippoi and Poligiros with Giannis Triantafillidis, the National Gallery with P. Milonas, etc. He has received awards in Greek and international architecture competitions. His work has been presented in various architecture exhibitions in Greece and elsewhere in Europe and there have been many tributes to his work. Many of his books have been published and he has published many papers in books and magazines both in Greece and abroad.



Karin Merete Skousboll

Architect M.A.A., Associate professor at Royal Academy of fine Arts, School of Architecture, Design and Conservation
Diploma from School of Architecture, Cph + Post-Doc, Paris.
International projects in USA, France and Greece and Italy.
In DK: Cph. County, Ministry of Environment, Housing and Building assoc.
1992-96 chairman of the advisory board for the Oerestad planning.
Assistant professor since 1970 at School of Architecture CPH. Leader of inst.3D 1987-97, Vice dean of the School 1993-96 and now with Dep. 8: Architecture, Experiment and Technology. Guest-professor at Universities in USA and Sweden.
Lectures, papers and courses in DK and abroad. Guide for study- & post-educational tours in Europe, USA and Asia.
Research of contemporary architecture and urban planning in France, Greece and Nordic countries, urban re-conversion in Europe and 'Architecture, Body and Space'.
Partner | Studio 90 drawing office 1973-87, consulting office since 1988.
Member Art Council, Royal Academy, Danish Cultural Institute and Architects' Union's admission board a.o.



Mario Pisani

Mario Pisani (Rome 1947) architect, historian and critic, Professor at the Faculty of Architecture "Luigi Vanvitelli," Aversa, at the IAA International Academy of Architecture in Sofia, Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Architecture in Msida, Malta. Academy of Fine Arts in Hangzhou, China. He holds lectures, seminars and conferences in many foreign universities (Amman, Paris, La Valletta, Iasi, Malaga) and Italian (Milan, Florence, Perugia, Rome, Naples, Salerno, Reggio Calabria, Palermo). He has collaborated with the CNR and the Venice Biennale. He is been a member of juries in national and international competitions. Editor of the quarterly Living Earth, his essays have appeared in Palladio, L'Arca, Domus, Controspazio, L'Industria delle Costruzioni, Eupalino, Materia, Demetra, Art Forum of New York and Artics of Barcelona. Updated the item The city and architecture Encyclopaedia of Art in the volume dedicated to the Postmodern. He is the author of over 20 books and more than one hundred fifty essays. He received the First Prize in the National Competition for the expansion of the Cemetery of Terni (1986, in progress) to Piazza Pagano to Potenza (1987), Piazza Annunziata in Acri (Cs) (2001/2003), Piazza Giustino Fortunato Rionero in Vulture (2009) (Pz). He has organized the exhibition Italy Now Architecture in Italy 2000-2010 presented in Tokyo (September 2011), Novi Sad (December 2011), in Toronto and Vancouver (March 2012).



Richard England

Malta born architect, worked as student-architect with Gio Ponti. He is also a poet, sculptor, photographer and artist and author of several books on art and architecture. Six monographs have been published on his work. He holds professorships at universities in the U.S.A, U.K. and Europe. He is Vice-President of the International Academy of Architecture, an Officer of the Order of Merit of Malta and an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a recipient of numerous International Prizes including the 2000 Belgrade Architectural Triennial Gold Medal, the C.I.C.A. Silver Medal and 2006 IAA Grand Prix.

Comments on MEA2013 Awards

The results of MEA2013 Awards, International Design Awards, organized by the Green Building Magazine, are of great interest. The high number of participants and the quality of the selected proposals as well make it a big event.

In addition, the attention of the designers is to the countries bordering on the Mediterranean shores and the new technologies that allow real energy saving. Moreover it would be wrong to see only this element: all is important for the future of the new generations. And it is not a coincidence that often these architectures are made by young designers.

The works that we had the opportunity to analyze, many of which were unknown to both the general public and to professionals one, not only have the advantage of using a new technology but testify the relentless pursuit of man towards new scenarios where live in all its forms is able to empathize with the need to understand and protect Mother Earth.

I think from the Mediterranean, the cradle of civilization, comes a message to the entire planet: it reminds us to live in balance, without waste, with the right attention of the values that these lands, in danger of disappearing, generated.

Mario Pisani

My immediate reaction is that the works which have received prizes are of an extremely high standard and well worthy of their awards.

After viewing the entries selected, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Judging Committee for their choice of project awards. May I also add that I was delighted to participate in this prestigious award as a member of the Honorary Committee.

Richard England

Comments on projects



Environmental Department of Zaragoza City Council

The building sits on a very exposed site at the riverbank and it does relate well to the context seen from above. Yet seen from the lowest level the black base seems much too voluminous and bulky in relation to the total composition. The project does show a strong expression not least by the consequent use of wood inside and outside, which gives the upper part a feeling of a coherent landscape. Karin Merete Skousboll

It seems to me very much a project which recalls in its elegant use of timber Zumthor's iconic Swiss baths. It seems from the images and text that this is an excellent example of phenomenology in architecture allowing the building and its spaces to be sensed by its users by all of their five senses. Richard England



26 bioclimatic social housing in Umbrete

A very sympathetic design and scale for social housing. The outlay is quite simple and functional, but at the same time has a poetry and fascinating play between solid and transparency. Seems to me that the design is extremely careful in every aspect and has taken the sustainability as a positive challenge that has given the housing an extra dimension and living quality. Karin Merete Skousboll

Modernistic Mediterranean typology. Richard England



Ecopolis Plaza

A very interesting concept with its fusion of the plaza-design with a kindergarten - The very open and untraditional design and construction endows the total composition with a fresh and positive open attitude for play and multiple uses inside/outside. It is very colourful and warm in its expression and as project it is very skilfully performed - also as to the ecological sustainability. As kindergarten one may have doubts about the scale of the construction in relation to kids, but its playful and light atmosphere is quite convincing anyway.

Karin Merete Skousboll
I like in particular the gaiety of Ecopolis Plaza. The architecture attests to a particular sensitivity to the place they where involved. Mario Pisani



Collage House in Gerona

The project is a super interesting example of a skilful infill in a medieval city setting and representing a very intense and imaginative play of materials and their expressions into very surprising and beautiful composition. It is fascinating how inside and outside varied surfaces are made complementary and kind of equal so that the whole makes a homogeneous puzzle. Karin Merete Skousboll



Casa Mediterraneo in Alicante

Very simple, but also very refined and beautiful blue hall - the untraditional choice of colour for the mighty roof-space endows the place with a grandiosity and kind of dreamlike atmosphere that seems to unite history and presence with future in a fascinating way. In doing so it presents a fascinating example of using the principles of sustainability in a way where the basically rational focus of the reconversion is lifted to an innovative and imaginative level. Karin Merete Skousboll

I like in particular the fine renovation of the Civic Cultural Alicante. The architecture attests to a particular sensitivity to the place they where involved. Mario Pisani



Atelier Loubatas

A sympathetic and very simple project, which is indeed nearly absorbed in the nature. Obviously the very process dealing with nature's own resources and learning from them has been important. As to architecture it is not so convincing as total composition, but the architect should have some points for the experiment and 'try it out-attitude. Karin Merete Skousboll

Comments by honorary committee members



Bioclimatic Penthouse

A very interesting type of project, which opens perspective of living qualities in lofts and roof-landscapes all over – the exposure to the sky and total daylight and the extreme and changing climatic situations during the seasons are indeed a challenge. The project is extremely strict modern in style, but still cosy, friendly and well adapted to the roof-landscape in the vernacular situation. At the same time a relevant, very simple and very refined example of living architecture.
Karin Merete Skousboll



UPI Kid University in Gandia

A very sympathetic project in its concern for space and scale – it has an overall fascinating concept shaped and moulded around the inner courtyard as a central and common focus point for the spaces. It represents a very delicate way of dealing with different degrees of transparency that gives a soft and qualitative character to the settings. And the project presents very clearly the architect's consideration of climatic precautions.
Karin Merete Skousboll

Very impressive layering diagrams and overall a very positive user-friendly and site-orientated building.
Richard England



Rosignano Marittimo Public Library

The energy 'performance' of the building has strongly come to differentiate the concept and appearance, which - in my opinion - does give the result a quite disharmonious expression as to architecture. Especially the exterior to me is much too demonstrative in its design and composition and the signal elements on the roof do not have any appeal or relation with the rest. I do admit that the interiors create a very airy and bright atmosphere which is sympathetic, but I wonder if this is in fact very suitable for a library where some peace and quiet is also a needed quality. The process of the construction is shown step by step in the presentation to show the overall concern of construction and sustainability, but a selection would have been better – too insisting!
Karin Merete Skousboll



The Court of the Trees - New primary school

The project has a convincing neo-modernistic expression – nearly reinterpreting the style of Italian rationalism of Terragni and Libera. Admitted, that the concept has a careful interacting with the site given by the trees as the title underlines. Especially the whole ground floor to the courtyard endows the school environment with a positive relation between the classroom and the green space. The rhythmic timber frames here create a lively façade which also serves well as an acoustic and thermal membrane. As a building for primary education and school kids I do still think though, that it acts with too much force and an overwhelming scale and consistency that is not so fruitful for nowadays' learning environments.
Karin Merete Skousboll

Playful and inviting interiors.
Richard England



Lucia. A zero energy building, Univ. of Valladolid

The building has a very exposed and favourable situation. Of course it has got the start of rivals in the competition by having zero energy as its given goal and definite solution. It is obvious from the submitted material that this aspect of the project has been the overall guideline through the design process, which also makes it a worthy candidate for nomination. Architectural it seems to be very on-line with contemporary no-nonsense style. - an industrialized and yet elegant expression. Inside it has a very airy and colourful atmosphere filled with daylight and whiteness, which must be positive and giving energy for a university environment.
Karin Merete Skousboll



University Apartment Buildings UPC

The project seems to me to be exaggerated in as well its scale as its architectonic expression. I acknowledge though that the architects have worked in an interesting and thorough way with the difficult theme of students' housing which has to be fairly cheap and plain. The two façades are indeed like belonging to two different projects - the strongly coloured is to me quite banal and discount-like, the other shady façade with its projected parts is more successful, but will allow a limited view out. In general it represents a prefab factory-like architecture which is not so suitable for housing.
Karin Merete Skousboll



tvzeb

The building has a very persuasive concept and simple form, which clearly reflects the given context and topography. It had a genuine and conscious selection and treatment of the materials which suits the entire composition very well and it seems to work very intensively with the daylight. Unfortunately I could not read the text, but I am very positive to give this project some kind of acknowledgement for the thorough way it has been worked out.
Karin Merete Skousboll

I like in particular the refinement of tvzeb. The architecture attests to a particular sensitivity to the place they where involved.
Mario Pisani

