



European Architectural Medals

Best Diploma Projects **2017**

Jury Report from the 23rd and 24th of November 2017 UAUIM – Exhibition HALL

The final jury members of the EAM-BDP met in the exhibition hall of the UAUIM, in Bucharest, on the 23rd of November at 9.30 am and were briefed by organisers on the final jury procedure.

The President of the jury – architect Luciano LAZZARI - noted that all competitions rules were observed and that there were no disqualified entries. All 156 diploma projects recorded in the competition respected both registration and format.

On these 156 projects coming from 29 countries all 5 jury members operated individually, voting from 1 to 10. The evaluation was expressed online on the competition platform respecting anonymity. The first best 30 diploma projects were then selected by the computer algorithm average. This evaluation and list was noted and validated by the jury.

The jury began by reiterating the objectives of the competition that seeks to acknowledge the **BEST DIPLOMA PROJECT** in architecture, and to recognise the highest level of design knowledge and skill employed in addressing three influential themes of architectural design:

- Problematic approach (intensity in problem solving)
- Social and climate impact (responsibility and resilience)
- Innovative response (originality and excellence)

In particular because this is a student diploma prize the jury were also seeking a project that within the freedom inherent in student work the project could also represent

- Seizing problems with professionalism
- Innovation and originality
- Best practice example

In awarding the prizes the jury feels that these should show the widest possible diversity in selected projects.

On the 23rd of November the jury spent some time looking at some projects that were excluded by the mathematical algorithm, but that were thought worthy of further examination by various members of the jury.

The jury picked 6 projects left out of the short list and after careful debate and discussion, it was unanimously decided to maintain the original 30 shortlisted projects.

Of these, the jury after examination and discussion, arrived at a finalist list of 10 projects. At the end of the first day of deliberation, 8 projects remained to be discussed in the next phase.

On the 24th of November a more detailed group analysis ensued on each of these projects to enable the final medals to be awarded and agreed upon in a consensual discussion.

Faced with a high degree of variety in this year's entries, portraying a range of different approaches and priorities, the jury treated the prizes accordingly, awarding projects that excelled in different ways. Seven finalists were selected with reasoning illustrated below:

031: Negotiating the edge

The project was awarded first prize because it contains within it most of the themes and aims that the Prize sets out to address. It tackles a real problem and provides an imaginative solution within a European urban context that has strong political, social and environmental significance. The proposal to reunite two parts of a city by superimposing a grid that does not destruct or obstruct, but rather superimposes above the low buildings a loose frame that restitches and unites, was considered by the jury to be imaginative while at the same time being pragmatic and realistic.

Moreover, this framework is flexible and expandable, so the relatively low impact of the architecture was considered to be a positive element that allows for real public interaction and involvement, with the possibility of spontaneous and adaptable development over time.

The student presents a well thought analysis, based on historical insight and involvement, creatively suggesting a better way to the future, integrated development of the city.

This projects is awarded with **THE EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL MEDAL FOR BEST DIPLOMA PROJECT**

121: Node

The 'Node' treats a real problem found in all large cities - the need to expand the existing metro system and insert new stations into a consolidated urban fabric.

The project represents an interesting proposal that successfully solves some important aspects:

- good relation with the existing buildings
- functionality and the fluidity of spaces
- access to the surrounding areas
- need for an expressive and attractive public space in both day and night.

Thus, the 'Node' becomes a hub that improves an existing city space, linking the street level with the underground, without significantly transforming the streetscape. So, not only does the project solve the functional challenges of the site in an unassuming manner, but with great artistry and intelligence uses light, materials and textures, to create a new space that is both scenographic and dynamic.

For these qualities this project is awarded with **ACE prize for societal impact.**

078: Biological Research Platform_BicazLake

The proposal aims to reconfigure the existing research station on the same site.

The form finding process starts with the existing simple boat houses and ends with very modest but up-to-date wooden structures with an extremely clear and yet sophisticated exterior skin.

On one side of the peninsula is the research platform, on the opposite side a similar building for tourist and leisure activities, the goal being that of combining the two activities in order to achieve a collective awareness of environmental problems and their possible solutions.

One great benefit of placing the buildings in the water is that of keeping the landscape relatively free and untouched by invasive building activities.

This project is awarded with **EAAE Prize for Intensity and Courage in Problem Solving.**

035: Sizigia

A unique project that from a transcendental cosmic scale translates into the landscape of the Pontevedra estuary of Ria de Arousa. Thus the project evolves from of an undiscovered, wild, natural landscape to a recognisable landmark sculpture, providing a simple essence of public space.

The physical conditions found on the site are superbly transformed into leisure spaces, enriched and enlivened by the changing processes of tide movement.

Using artificial lightweight simple forms of modular 'eucalyptus' construction with varied functions, makes **Sizigia** appear to float over the sea and successfully creates a highly artistic presence in an ever-changing dialogue with water, atmosphere and time.

And therefore receives the **UAUIM Award for the Artistic Quality.**

The Jury also awarded four Honourable Mentions:

060: Benevolent Scarring: An exercise of social and physical palimpsest within a complex urban fabric.

The jury considered the student's proposal to provide a new 'spatial quality of inclusiveness and accessibility' to be very successful in showing how it is possible to think of a more human scale in the design of hospital architecture.

071: Supported transitional housing, Drogheda

This thesis explores the perception and illusion of depth by the collage of different layers. The project is well thought out and beautifully presented, providing convincing proof that architectural quality can be achieved with clarity and pregnancy of shapes and textured surfaces.

077: ASYLUM, Scottish Youth Parliament & Ministry of Education

The project is a scenario for 2042, based on a fear of devolution of the United Kingdom after the submission of Article 50 of the European Union. The author imagines a new building - a Scottish Youth Parliament like 'a mechanism which creates pressure for the Ministry of Education and the Government', and provides solutions for existing problems. The volumes successfully and suggestively create symbolical, upside-down pyramids that emphasise the need for a transformation of the social and political hierarchy, suggesting that 'the base' can be above 'the top'.

088: Powerful Spaces - Precisions on a present system

The primary goal of this project is the creation of a monumental architectural sculpture, containing some conference and office spaces in a very interesting juxtaposition of volumes within its section.

The jury especially appreciated the sculptural qualities of the building.

ACE representative Arch. Luciano LAZZARI, president ACE and jury president _____

EAAE representative Prof. Arch. Karl Otto ELLEFSEN _____

UAUIM representative Prof.Ph.D. Arch. Marian MOICEANU, rector UAUIM _____

Prof. M.D. Arch. Boris KORUZNJAK _____

Prof. Dr.-Ing.Rudolf WIENANDS from Wienands Plan GmbH _____

