THE BEST WORKS OF YOUNG ARCHITECTS FROM BALTIC STATES AWARDED

On 3rd of November 2017, the best works of young architects from Baltic states were awarded in the ceremony held in Vilnius, Lithuania. The award for the best master level work was given to **Marten Peterson** (Estonian Arts Academy, Estonia), and the award for the best bachelor degree work – to **Juta Davidovska** (RISEBA, Latvia).

The event, organized for the 5th time by Baltic Architects’ Unions’ Association (BAUA) aims to highlight the best young professionals presenting the best graduation projects of all the architectural schools from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. This year’s edition features 17 projects from Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (Lithuania), Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania), Vilnius Academy of Arts (Lithuania), RISEBA University (Latvia), Riga Technical University (Latvia), TTK University of Applied Sciences (Estonia) and Estonian Academy of Arts (Estonia).

Traditionally, the two best projects – one best master and one best bachelor project - were selected by the independent (none of them are teaching in participating schools) professional jury members: architects **Aurimas Sasnauskas** (LT), **Eve Komp** (EST) and **Gunta Grikmane** (LV). According to G. Grikmane, “<..the evaluation of young architects from Baltic architecture schools was done in accordance with defined criteria: conceptuality, originality and innovativeness; coherent architectural and urban idea and aesthetics of presentation, emphasizing first two”.

The best master level project “Combinatorics of local materials in the example of peat and oilshale ash” by **Marten Peterson** (Estonian Academy of Arts, Estonia) featured a research on two materials common in Estonia, focusing on the construction methods that derive from the material properties. The author has created a structure composed of elements (prefabricated by robot arm) with controlled distribution of fibres and varying thickness of the walls. The building works as a pavilion for bats in Tallinn Zoo.

„This interesting and very well-presented project stood out for the originality and innovativeness. It is important for a young architect to think "out of the box" and, if necessary, to integrate knowledge from different fields while creating a design. The jury was convinced by Märten‘s attention to sustainability, use of local materials and also the choice of the topic: how to design space for animals who are living in the city.“ – commented jury member Eve Komp.

The work „Visitor Center for the lost Valley of Daugava River“ by **Juta Davidovska** (RISEBA, Latvia) was awarded as the best bachelor level project. The jury member A. Sasnauskas commented: „The work is very consistent. The historic facts give solid ground for the demand of the museum and its location. The new minimalistic volume integrates well into the structure of hidroplant built in 1965. The layout of the program is logic. The image of the museum as a bridge between the past and the present, between the human and the nature is convicing, although the presentation could have been more dramatic. All in all - it is a great example of bachelor level work.“

The jury also selected 2 runners-up for each category, and these are:

* „Socially-oriented architecture method. Refurbishment of elementary school in Palanga“ by **Evelina Vasiliauskaite** (Vilnius Adacemy of Arts, Lithuania) / Master level
* “Supportive environment for people living with dementia and their caregivers” by **Hanna-Liisa Motus** (Estonian Academy of Arts, Estonia) / Master level
* “Conversion of paper manufactory in Kuckuriskes: by **Ieva Viliute** (Vilnius Adacemy of Arts, Lithuania) / Bachelor level
* ‘A non-city’- future scapes of northern Tallinn” by **Maili Tannenberg** (TTK University of Applied Sciences, Estonia) / Bachelor level

During the event, all the participants presented their works to the jury and other audience in a live presentation in Vilnius, the house of Architects Association of Lithuania. The awards were complemented with the exhibition of all the 17 projects, a book and side events, such as public discussion about architectural education in Baltic states, and presentations of the jury members.

The next BAUA Young Architect Award will take place in Estonia, autumn 2018.

The organizers: Baltic Architects’ Unions’ Association (BAUA) / Architects Association of Lithuania, Estonian Union of Architects, Latvian Association of Architects.

Sponsors: Ministry of Culture of Lithuania, Lithuanian Council for Culture, Ministry of Culture of Latvia, “Merks”

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