

Jury judgements

The following projects were nominated for the AIT Award 2014: (in alphabetical order)

1st category "Living"

(1st prize: 1 // 2nd prize: 2 // 3rd prize: 2 // special mentions: 2)

1st prize

Project: Kogelhof Villa, NL-Kamperland

Office: Paul de Ruiter Architects, NL-Amsterdam

The "glass villa" is a fascinating architectural object, which reminds of modernist icons in the middle of an extreme landscape in the Netherlands. The project was awarded for its markedly reduced architecture, the fine detailing and the fulfilment of a sophisticated standard. Such an independent, energetically self-sufficient villa can be extremely progressive. Furthermore, the building permit included the obligation to plant 70,000 trees in order to restore the original state of the surrounding landscape. What tension: currently still a detached villa on an almost dramatically flat plain, and in the future a "villa in the forest".

2nd prize

Project: Little Willy (Guesthouse), BE-Brussels

Office: Low architecten, BE-Antwerp

The sophisticated extension of a neoclassical building is amazing. The combination as well as the overlapping of existing and new building sections is impressive. The building structure no longer distinguishes between old and new but creates - in the sequence of rooms - a convincing, modern continuum. The independent project self-confidently forms an urban corner. The high-quality combination of a large number of uses and open spaces on a very small space is also remarkable - and all this is achieved with a building located in the middle of the city.

2nd prize

Project: Bläsiring Residence, CH-Basel

Office: Buchner Bründler Architekten AG, CH-Basel

A convincing townhouse in Basel, surrounded by other townhouses dating from the late 19th century. First of all, the jury acknowledges the courage of the approving authority and the planners, who accepted the verticality as an urban planning solution for a particularly narrow plot. The "vertical house" brings together the surrounding urban environment as an ensemble of individuals in an amazing way. The proposed minimalist floor plans and the reduction to a few classic materials generate a convincing new living environment with a great architectural standard and a very high level of details.

3rd prize

Project: House CJ-5, AT-Vienna

Office: Caramel architekten zt gmbh, AT-Vienna

The jury acknowledges the refined concept of the urban townhouse with its high spatial quality. The beautiful spatial structure with the kitchen being positioned above the stair landings and the compact floor plan sequences on the ground floor, the interior patio as well as the great quality of open space, which were developed from this extremely narrow site, are particularly impressive. An unimagined, excellent approach for compacted housing construction on a very difficult plot structure in the city.

3rd prize

Project: Row House, ES-Olot
Office: RCR Arquitectes, ES-Olot

An existing old townhouse in the middle of a typical Spanish street front in Olot was completely maintained. The jury is fascinated by the complete gutting of the building, which allowed the layout of large new rooms generating a completely changed scale. Practical, sparsely added built-in units characterise the interior. The newly added gallery impresses with a generous spatial feeling. The opening towards the patio generates the ambience of a city loft, which creates completely unexpected, generous rooms behind the old preserved façades. The careful dealing with old and new - through to the roof and the visible old timber construction - illustrate that the new is never an end in itself but always strengthens the existing.

Special mention

Project: Ardmore Residence, SG-Singapore

Office: UNStudio + Terry Munziker (show suite (level 33) & clubhouse), NL-Amsterdam

With a variety of habitable spaces (the designers call it "Living Landscape"), the residential building impresses as a new approach for high-rise building construction in Singapore. The possibilities for the design of a high-rise, which were consistently developed from the floor plans, are skilfully exploited. When looking at the forlorn neighbourhood of the "Ardmore Residence Building" with similar building uses it becomes obvious that high-quality design of high-rises is indeed possible.

Special mention

Project: Plattenbausanierung Regierungsstraße, DE-Magdeburg

Office: arc architekturconzept GmbH, DE-Halberstadt

An existing estate of prefabricated buildings in Magdeburg was refurbished with few but impressive architectural interventions. In this process, the existing buildings were optimised with regard to their energy consumption, whereas the interior structure remained unchanged. The principle of the second façade placed in front of the existing one generates a new architectural quality with pleasant open spaces without the need to repress the history of origin – a convincing example also for other refurbishment projects.

2nd category "Hotel / Gastronomy"

(1st prize: 1 // 2nd prize: 1 // 3rd prize: 1 // special mentions: 1)

1st prize

Project: Marquee for les Cols Restaurant, ES-Olot

Office: RCR Arquitectes, ES-Olot

In Germany, the term "picnic" is rarely connected with architecture – other than in the Spanish town of Olot. The architecture succeeds to turn such a banal and profane activity as a picnic in the open into a special place with an envelope, the transparency and tranquillity of which is unmatched. Furthermore, the jury marvels at the creative idealisation of this "picnic spot". The result is a mysterious, serious, dignified construction, which raises the picnic from the plastic throw-away society to an architectural world of culture - an achievement that amazes the jury. The huge dimension of the sagging roof structure is impressive, almost sacred. The building illustrates that picnics need not be banally folkloristic but can be architecturally reshaped as part of our cultural history.

2nd prize

Project: L'and Vineyards Hotel, PT-Montemor-o-Novo

Office: PROMONTORIO, PT-Lisbon

This imposing hotel building is located in the middle of the Montemor-o-Novo vineyards in Portugal. Having been inspired by the surrounding landscape, the architects created a low-rise, complex and sophisticated hotel building of remarkable quality. The merit of this project is that constructing in the open landscape can be modern and yet able to skilfully translate subtle historical typologies of atrium houses into a new hotel architecture. The jury members especially acknowledge the plain elegance of the complex, which convinced them because of its intensive typological analysis of the new building type "hotel in the landscape".

3rd prize

Project: Hotel Topazz, AT-Vienna

Office: BWM Architekten + MICHAEL MANZENREITER ARCHITECTURE, AT- Vienna

A hotel corner building on an incredibly small and narrow site self-confidently connects to the existing neighbouring building. The portholes seem to date from a different period of time, maybe they were taken from a spaceship that landed in the city, and yet make reference to the different storey heights of the neighbouring buildings and reinterpret them in a self-evident way. The jury criticises the commendable expression for the new hotel building in Vienna's old city for the lack of floor plans proving the interior quality of the building. So the prize awards the façade solution.

Special mention

Project: Pumpenhaus Bochum, DE-Bochum

Office: Dipl.-Ing. Heinrich Böll Architekt BDA DWB, DE-Essen

An existing industrial building was skilfully preserved with its traces of use in the interior, refurbished with simple means and upgraded to serve as a visitor centre. The dexterous reshaping of the factory façade with a new trapezoidal sheet metal envelope is as astoundingly simple as refined. An industrial building is transformed into a modern art and architectural object without negating its history. Respect!

3rd category "Retail / Trade fair"

(1st prize: 1 // 2nd prize: 2 // 3rd prize: 1 // special mention: 0)

1st prize + AIT Special best worldwide

Project: Barcelona Encants Market, ES-Barcelona
Office: b720 Fermín Vázquez Arquitectos, ES-Barcelona

With their roof design for the old "Nous Encants" market, the architects provided an incomparable solution for a roofing of the historic market after 80 years. The sophisticated roof structure as well as its lightness and airiness are reminiscent of 19th century markets. Nevertheless, the architectural vocabulary is future-oriented and fascinating. Mirrors generate colourful, always moving picture puzzles of the market on the underside of the roof structure, which give the goods below an impressive, fascinating exaggeration and create a unique new interpretation of the classic market hall.

2nd prize

Project: Audi at the 2013 IAA, DE-Frankfurt on the Main

Office: SCHMIDHUBER + KMS BLACKSPACE (Kommunikations- u. Bespielungskonzept),

DE-Munich

The concept of the "hanging city" as a trade fair presentation for the car brand is convincing. The jury does not primarily award the architecture of the white cubic building as a trade fair pavilion, but rather acknowledges the interpretation and implementation of the big city and the movement in the interior of the building. Here, architecture is also staged, acts as stage scenery and theatre. This enactment of the big city, which seems to draw on city interpretations from the 1920s, is incredibly impressive at least in the reflected boulevards. The cars in the "living room" of the city are either ironic or reflect desires of a broad class of the population, which would like to have a cup of tea at home with their car.

2nd prize

Project: ICD/ITKE Research Pavilion 2012, DE-Stuttgart
Office: ICD/ITKE Universität Stuttgart, DE-Stuttgart

The combination of biometric design strategies and new production methods of lightweight supporting structures has been achieved in this research project in an impressive way. Additionally, this interdisciplinary project clearly shows that architecture is also research. The amazing quality of this project is that new architectural forms made from innovative materials technologies can arise almost casually in the process.

3rd prize

Project: DTI trade fair booth (imm 2014), DE-Cologne Office: raumkontor Innenarchitektur, DE-Düsseldorf

How boring - the wallpaper! A decorative element that has gone out of style was animated to a new architectural flight of fancy: the architects succeeded to design a trade fair booth, which almost ingeniously applies the theme of "wallpaper" to all areas of our spatial reality. All at once everything is "wallpaper", including the table, chairs and furniture. This wall covering has rarely been so interesting and translated architecturally.

4th category "Office / Administration"

(1st prize: 1 // 2nd prize: 1 // 3rd prize: 1 // special mentions: 3)

1st prize

Project: New Catalonian Institute of Economists HQ, ES-Barcelona

Office: Roldán + Berengué, arqts., ES-Barcelona

A corner building occupying a large urban space and simultaneously closing it off effectively. Besides the convincing urban planning design of the façade facing the square and the street corner, the new institute building also forms a new typology with its combination of vertical public room sequences and penetrations, which exceeds the traditional administration building. The spatial layering is in an astounding way layered with internal, social as well as communicative procedures and merged as a new, urban building system.

2nd prize

Project: World Trade Organization, CH-Geneva Office: wittfoht architekten, DE-Stuttgart

A glass house easily and airily hovers above a plinth partly sunken in the ground next to Lake Geneva. On the basis of an elaborate and detailed concept, the classic glass administration building is transformed into an energy-saving building, which proves all passionate proponents of heat insulation and plaster wrong. The elegance of the building's transparent appearance as well as the qualities of the internal communication and work zones likewise impress the jury.

3rd prize

Project: Formstelle, DE-Töging on the Inn

Office: FORMAT ELF ARCHITEKTEN, DE-Töging on the Inn

The prize awards an excellent project in the administration building sector, which aims to convert old industrial facilities with high-quality architecture and reanimate them with new uses. The minimalist, perforated aluminium façade, which makes reference to the production of the fallow site, is impressive and characterised by a cunningly simple design. The jury also acknowledges the pleasant scale as well as the interplay between perforation and large-scale openings in the façade.

Special mention

Project: ESO Headquarters Extension, DE-Garching Office: Auer Weber Assoziierte GmbH, DE-Munich

The jury acknowledges the gracefully curved, three-storey administration ensemble, which with its organically shaped, circular buildings and interior courtyards harmoniously integrates into the landscape and the neighbouring development. The distinction acknowledges the delicately detailed office façade as well as the elegant internal structure and the high quality of details in the fitout.

Special mention

Project: Offices of Regional Administration and the Development of Local Alabaster,

ES-Hijar/Teruel

Office: MAGÉN ARQUITECTOS, ES-Saragossa

The central administration for the regional marble industry in the Spanish town of Hijar/Teruel initially impresses with the use of marble as façade and fitout element. The translucence of the marble façade creates an imposing picture of possible applications of this exquisite material in contemporary architecture. The floor plan and architectural concept is characterised by an extraordinary layering of the building. Next to the surrounding consisting of banal industrial and secondary buildings, this "jewel made of marble" appears foreign in the urban context - but that's just what good architecture can be about. Respect!

Special mention

Project: UN City, DK-Copenhagen

Office: 3XN + PLH / UN Common Services, DK-Copenhagen

A gigantic project symbolically occupies the tip of a previously still undeveloped harbour landscape in Copenhagen. In the centre of the star-shaped ensemble, the large hall with a detached inserted stair sculpture impressively

structuring the interior, is most impressive. Fitout and façade details are elaborately worked out and correspond to the quality demands on a "UN-City" in Copenhagen.

5th category "Health + Care"

(1st prize: 1 // 2nd prize: 0 // 3rd prize: 0 // special mentions: 2)

1st prize

Project: ICTAM Hospital, Institute of Advanced Medical Techniques, ES-Seville

Office: MGM Morales de Giles Arquitectos S.L.P., ES-Seville

This remarkable project impressively illustrated that hospitals need not necessarily look like hospitals. It is the simple principle of the filter made of perforated sheet metal, which can give the dull grid design of the healthcare industry in the urban context a completely new expressiveness. The external design quality is continued in the internal spatial penetration. A successful, delicately detailed and - with its minimalist material simplicity - very convincing architectural project.

Special mention

Project: Junky Hotel - Housing project for heroin addicts, NL- Amsterdam

Office: Atelier Kempe Thill, NL-Rotterdam

The jury acknowledges the approach to develop architecture for social fringe groups, which restores to those having failed and being addicted to drugs their dignity via the architectural design of the housing project. The design concept for an "open building, which simultaneously needs to be safer for the group of caretakers of the drug addicts and more locked up than a prison, whilst nevertheless being characterised by an almost relaxed, light openness in the interior, is impressive. The project is all the more important since the "Junky Hotel" building type could be a building typology of the future. The waiver of an external effect in favour of the protection of the residents and the invention of "normality" in the cityscape is another important architectural design strategy of this project, which is acknowledged.

Special mention

Project: Parametric Interior Design, DE-Berlin

Office: GRAFT - Gesellschaft von Architekten mbH, DE-Berlin

Fear of dying, stress, disorientation - people who know intensive care units divine the innovations incorporated in this exemplary intensive care unit. The analysis of details, material, shape, and colour is particularly impressive as it is able to use the architectural design to generate a "soothing spatial world" - in an existing building. The project could thus also give an impulse for the modification and conversion of many intensive care units, which have not yet realised this effect of architecture and its significance for the patients.

6th category "Sports / Leisure"

(1st prize: 1 // 2nd prize: 1 // 3rd prize: 0 // special mentions: 2)

1st prize

Project: Kalvebod Waves, DK-Copenhagen
Office: Urban Agency + JDS, DK-Valby

The creative development of a new embankment and hiking landscape as an architecturally skilfully designed leisure and sports world is absolutely convincing. The relaxed layout of the curved, partly wood-clad recreational terrace decks create a unique world of experience above the water. They impressively turn the pedestrian area at the water in front of the adjoining buildings into a vital, delicately shaped and highly detailed landscape.

2nd prize

Project: Tussols-Basil Athletics Track Equipment, ES-Olot

Office: RCR Arquitectes, ES-Olot

A sports building on the edge of an arena, which with its countercyclical architectural design forms the opposite of lightweight, technical-constructively dominated leisure and sports architecture. The mysterious architecture was skilfully implemented with regards to material and light. It creates a place of quiet and serenity and yet expresses a material power and symbolic aura, which the jury misses in many contemporary sports and leisure projects.

Special mention

Project: Pajol Sports Centre, FR-Paris

Office: BRISAC GONZALEZ ARCHITECTS, UK-London

The urban "Sports Centre" impresses the jury with its clear, structured urban configuration in the given context. The jury acknowledges the sophisticated façade structure as well as the elegant, slightly curved design of the roof construction of the halls. The material implementation with wood-clad beams generates a pleasant, stimulating spatial atmosphere, which is additionally supported with daylight control.

Special mention

Project: The Karate Dojo in the Hitotsubashi University, JP-Tokyo

Office: KINO architects, JP-Tokyo

The jury acknowledges the convincing dealing with innovative roof shapes and their constructive merging as a welcoming, calm centre for karate dojo practitioners. The pleasant scale and the modest height development are visually oriented by the neighbourhood, whilst the masterful structural detailing in the interior generates a beautiful atmosphere for a sports building.

7th category "Public Buildings / Education"

(1st prize: 1 // 2nd prize: 2 // 3rd prize: 2 // special mention: 8)

1st prize

Project: Contemporary Art Center Córdoba, ES-Córdoba Office: Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos S.L.P., ES-Madrid

The fascinating museum building initially attracts attention with its simple urban planning disposition along the river. The complex interior structuring of the museum with many sophisticated entrance courtyards and interior courtyards make people feel giddy with all the light, blazing brightness and beautiful elegance. In the interior, the building is an experience due to its impressive spatially tangible roof structure. The limitation to two perfectly processed materials is as remarkable as the spatial structure and the masterful daylight control.

2nd prize

Project: Siegerland Motorway Church, DE-Wilnsdorf

Office: schneider + schumacher Planungsgesellschaft mbH, DE-Frankfurt on the Main

The motorway church impresses with its fine, white crystalline and sculptural shape as well as with its timber vault structure in the interior. The jury acknowledges the courageous approach to contrast the internal shape with the external envelope. A remarkable new expression for a sacred room is created, where the simplicity of the materials generates a tension against the complexity of the construction. The Burger King advertising tower next to the church is the contemporary expression for a bell tower – without bells, vertical, an advertising medium.

2nd prize

Project: Festspielhaus Erl, AT-Erl

Office: Delugan Meissl Associated Architects DMAA, AT-Vienna

A festival hall as if transferred from another planet in the middle of a picturesque landscape in Austria, yet without being strange or unfamiliar. The more the jury dealt with the expressive project, the more the coherence between external and internal expressiveness became obvious. A great piece of work, the floor plans of which show that it is not only characterised by pure expressiveness, but also by great clarity in the functional operational areas and by the convincing composition in the public zones. The material quality impresses with the differentiation of wood in the festival hall and the white plastered, monolithic foyer.

3rd prize

Project: Children's Culture House Ama'r, DK-Copenhagen
Office: Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter, DK-Copenhagen

The unconventional corner building impresses with its creative imagination. Two completely different street developments are connected at the corner with an ingeniously designed kindergarten. That way, the architect creates an unconventional, lively "Children's Culture House" atmosphere – unmistakable in the cityscape, self-conscious in the spatial interior structure and with exciting room sequences. The skilful lighting from the top brings daylight into the depth of the rooms. This house is definitely an unforgettable experience and a characterising influence for all children visiting this kindergarten.

3rd prize

Project: Museum of UDN, TW-Taipei

Office: behet bondzio lin architekten, DE-Münster

The jury acknowledges the concept and the spatial composition of the museum in a high-rise building. The concept is impressive both internally and externally. The interesting museum building, which was conceived with varied spatial impressions is convincing because of both its interior qualities and its external effect towards the urban context.

Special mention

Project: Barneveld Noord, NL-Barneveld Office: NL architects, NL-Amsterdam

A stop becomes an experience and a comfortable architectural space. The upgrading of waiting for busses and trains as part of citizens' everyday life alone deserves recognition. The way this approach was solved here architecturally is very impressive. Patient waiting is staged in the "monument of liberated waiting", which is composed of containers -a multi-storey structure with a tower - and forms a definitely worthy architectural setting.

Special mention

Project: Children's House Schloss, DE-Ditzingen Office: walter huber architekten, DE-Stuttgart

The house for children is a demanding passive house design. The jury acknowledges that the energetic objectives nevertheless allow architectural qualities. The pleasant building structure creates beautiful interior and exterior spaces, the application of the material, for example the wood panelling, is implemented in great detail. The result is a pleasant atmosphere inside a relaxed kindergarten architecture, without wagging the ecological finger and yet with a high ecological aspiration.

Special mention

Project: IULM - Knowledge Transfer Centre, IT-Milan

Office: 5+1AA Alfonso Femia Gianluca Peluffo + Professor Alessandro Schiesaro, IT-Genoa

The periphery approaches the centre of the city, the periphery changes - the project in Milan is acknowledged under this theme. The independent expression of an urban tower in the city and adjoining halls characterised by distinct forms and their independent architecture create a very prominent ensemble on the edge of the city. The jury appreciates the successful search for an expression for a new, more colourful city, which helps to weather the fog in Milan.

Special mention

Project: LOEWE-Research Centre, DE-Frankfurt on the Main

Office: Schürmann Spannel AG, SSP, DE-Bochum

The destruction of 1950s and 1960s architecture happens almost unnoticed in front of the public. The LOEWE Research Centre project opens our eyes for the architectural quality this era has produced. In Frankfurt on the Main, Ferdinand Kramer is at the front line with several buildings. These historically important buildings must not be destroyed or demolished, they are witnesses of the post-war past that is worthy of preservation. The LOEWE Research Centre shows that 60-year old architecture can without further ado be refurbished in a preserving fashion, carefully modified and adapted to new utilisation requirements. The refurbishment project also reveals the qualities hidden in the refurbished monuments. The jury uses this project as an opportunity to vote against the inconsiderate destruction of 1950s and 1960s buildings and to make a case for the preservation and careful refurbishment of these buildings dating from the post-war period – as demonstrated with the LOEWE Centre.

Special mention

Project: Palace of Justice, NL-Amsterdam

Office: FELIX CLAUS DICK VAN WAGENINGEN ARCHITECTEN, NL-Amsterdam

The special mention acknowledges the enormous urban planning concept of a highly condensed waterside urban building at the tip of a headland in Amsterdam. A powerful sculpture is designed above the water, which combines a variety of different uses. A public building in Amsterdam, where the public appearance cannot be ascribed to the use of customary brick. The architects rather looked for a new image for the public character of the building, which they impressively achieved with the mix of uses and the sculptural structure of the palace of justice.

Special mention

Project: Parque Kindergarten, PT-Cascais
Office: PROMONTORIO, PT-Lisbon

The kindergarten in Cascais, Portugal seems like the idyllic world of architecture – especially against the background of the general financial crises and economic distortions in many European countries. The design skilfully implements a wonderful small "town for children". The used materials and the delicate details on the façade and in the interior testify to great skill. It is a kindergarten that uses its scale to cater to the needs of the small users. Nevertheless, the concept is a worthy architecture, which was not "prettified". This demonstrates that kindergartens need not necessarily always be colourful and pink. They can – as the project seriously shows – with a

complex structure and architectural ambition shine all white in the light of the Portuguese sun from the inside to the outside. Respect!

Special mention

Project: Ptuj Performance Center, SI-Ptuj

Office: ENOTA, SI-Ljubljana

An old monastery and church ensemble was refurbished, reconstructed and partly extended. The jury acknowledges the masterful, subtle dealing with the historic traces and their interweaving with contemporary architecture. The design of the new event arena in the former church with the exposed finds dating from earlier eras of the building history is especially recognised. A convincing example of the considerate refurbishment of historic buildings and the architectural renovation in connection with different extension modules.

Special mention

Project: Tchoban Foundation Museum for Architectural Drawing, DE-Berlin Office: nps tchoban voss Berlin + SPEECH Tchoban & Kuznetsov, DE-Berlin

An architect collects architectural drawings and builds a museum for them - this attitude alone is worthy of being recognised. The fact that the museum in Berlin in its independence and conciseness both internally and externally was able to develop such a high quality is the achievement of the planning architect, which is acknowledged by the jury.

8th category "Industry / Commerce"

1st prize

Project: Sewage works, NL-Hilversum

Office: FELIX CLAUS DICK VAN WAGENINGEN ARCHITECTEN, NL-Amsterdam

An existing water treatment plant is extended. An incredibly fascinating architectural project preserves the existing technical industrial buildings and complements them with an identical architectural vocabulary. The result is a fascinating, sculptural world of an almost archaic, mysteriously exaggerated industrial landscape, an architectural artwork of great material power, embedded in the newly created context of the surroundings, which lets the industrial facility merge with the neighbouring residential estate to form a unity.

As per 09/04/2014

Press contact:

Gesellschaft für Knowhow-Transfer in Architektur und Bauwesen mbH Bei den Mühren 70 20457 Hamburg phone: +49 (0)40 / 7070 898-18, Fax: +49 (0)40 / 7070 898-20

email: ait-award@ait-online.de



supported by







