

AZURE

DESIGN | ARCHITECTURE | INTERIORS | CURIOSITY

AZUREMAGAZINE.COM

MILAN FURNITURE FAIR
What we saw and loved p. 84

HIGH-TECH LIGHTING
17 illuminating options p. 90

OLYMPIC STYLE
Why London looks so cool p. 38

BRILLIANT BIKE SHELTERS
Coming to a city near you p. 40



THE BEST INTERIORS ARCHITECTURE FURNITURE LIGHTING CONCEPTS STUDENT AWARD

CAN/US \$7.95 JUL/AUG 2012
PM40048073 R09064





Architecture on your mind?
Browse our Profiles of Selected
Architects for inspiration. Plus
Agenda, Reviews and Jobs.
world-architects.com



**MEET
THE JURY**
2012
AZ AWARDS

YOU NEED A VERY SPECIAL BUNCH TO JUDGE THE AZ AWARDS.

They must be at the top of their game, with an excellent sense of what's happening in architecture and design around the world, and they must be curious, rigorous and fearless. Here's the group that gave it their all for the 2012 awards (above, from left to right): architect Imola Bérczi of UNStudio, Brigitte Shim of Shim-Sutcliffe Architects, interior designer Elaine Cecconi of Cecconi Simone, product designer Jeffrey Bernett, landscape architect Jennifer Guthrie, and manufacturer Mike Keilhauer.

The tough job of selecting winners from among 621 entries was made even more challenging this year by the fact that the overall calibre was higher and hence we chose more finalists. Along with an increase in overall numbers, more countries - 30 in total - were represented. Although North American entries predominated, there was a notable spike in submissions from such new realities as India and South America. What's more, up-and-comers are beginning to give established firms a run for their money.

Throughout the painstaking process, our jury demonstrated grace and respect - for one another as well as for the entrants. The AZ Awards' interdisciplinary content requires it to be evaluated by practitioners from all of the fields represented in the 14 categories. Each jury member brought a unique perspective to the process, and when one had the benefit of direct experience it was offered and received in a spirit of collegiality. In Jeffrey Bernett's words, it was "an opinionated group, but not a contentious one."

To best serve the awards' overarching objective - to celebrate excellence - the jury opted to shift some entries and add new categories. Commercial and institutional architecture was subdivided into projects over and under 1,000 square metres, allowing each to compete with others of a similar scale. The jury also ruled that there would be no winner named in the landscape architecture category. Tough job indeed.

But this is just the sort of decision that makes awards important and valuable: the measuring up of one's work against a qualified, respected view of what constitutes excellence. All of the projects selected for presentation in the 2012 AZ Awards Annual - whether finalist or winner - meets and exceeds that mark. Azure is thrilled to present the best in architecture and design from around the world.

- Nelda Rodger, Editor