

Awards and Competitions

Gold Medal, the highest award of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), was awarded to architect, Moshe Safdie. The medal is given annually to one international architect whose work has had lasting impact on the theory and practice of architecture. The award was presented to Safdie (74) nearly fifty years after he designed Habitat 67 at the age of 25 - a project considered at the time a world breakthrough in residential buildings. Among the architects who have achieved this medal are Frank Lloyd Wright, Thomas Jefferson, Le Corbusier, Renzo Piano, and Julia Morgan. Safdie's most significant projects are the city of Modi'in, the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa City Hall, the Mamilla Compound, Yad Vashem museum in Jerusalem, Terminal 3 at Ben Gurion Airport and, most recently, Marina Bay Sands Hotel in Singapore. His next project is the Singapore airport. Safdie's name will be engraved on the granite wall of the AIA offices among those of his predecessors.

The conceptual design competition for the Kadima-Zoran Municipality building was won by the Dvoriansky - Livay firm. The commissioned competition was among ten offices, including Elie and Zadik Eliakim, and Yaron Katz (other participants chose to remain anonymous. The winning entry is shown on page 23).

Winners of the Rechter Prize for Architecture 2014 are Architect Danny Lazar for the architectural sequence beginning at the Be'er Sheva North Railway Station, continuing along the pedestrian bridge to the Ben Gurion University gate (designed in collaboration with architect Dafna Matok) and ending at the Physics Department building (designed in collaboration with architect Roni Elroy). Michael Jacobson was awarded the category of young architect for his "Back Window" website. The judges included architects Prof. David Guggenheim (Chair.), Thea Kisselov and Arie Kutz, who remarked that Lazar's architecture doesn't ingratiate itself with passing fads but searches for architectural expression in context and place.

Designed by Baranowitz Kronenberg Architects, the renovated restaurant, Pastel, won the category of "Best Designed Restaurant" at the Space Design Award in China. The Chinese say that there were over 4,000 entries in several categories from 35 countries. The restaurant has three sitting areas - a central hall, a terrace overlooking the recently renovated sculpture garden, and a bar - each with a variety of seating.

Exhibitions

The exhibition "Thinking outside the box - Design from Israel" is on display at the international exhibition at the Ajuda National Palace, Lisbon, Portugal. The Israeli exhibition was presented at the Barcelona Design Week, and then at the Belgrade Design Week.

Located in an abandoned Arab house, The Farm Gallery has four rooms, each of which presents a solo exhibition by a different artist - Rachel Ardos, Amir Rosenberg, Rotem Ritov and Amir Tomashov - each one dealing with the subject of cover, disguise, and concealment characterizing the unknown past of the building. Curator: Rotem Ritov

The exhibition "6 artists, 6 projects" is opening the jubilee celebrations of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. In March, the exhibition "1965 Today" will be shown, and in May - the exhibition "A Brief History of Mankind", inspired by Yuval Harari's fascinating book. A special exhibition will be presented at Heichal HaSefer, devoted to the construction and development of the interesting structure designed by architect Armand Phillip Bartos, in collaboration with architect Frederick John Kiesler. Bartos was chosen in 1955 because he was married to Gottesman's daughter, but he did not disappoint. The onion-like structure, designed to house and exhibit the four scrolls purchased by Gottesman for the museum, is cooled by water sprinklers - teaching us that the relationship between capital and government already started a long time ago.

The concept of the National Library in Jerusalem has finally been exposed. The architects Herzog & de Meuron were selected in an unethical process without too many qualms. And although they are undoubtedly leaders in their field, there isn't enough space to go on (again) about the ills of the feeble connection between the competition, decision makers, ethics, and integrity (much has already been said about it here and elsewhere). Anyway, the six-storey building will be built next to the Israel Museum, on an area of 15,000 square meters above ground and 4 floors underground for storage and parking. The building will also include a visitors' center and a multipurpose hall. The project is funded by the Government of Israel, the Gottesman family, and Yad Hanadiv, whose generous hand is involved in all important national government buildings. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2016 and is expected to be completed in 2019, but with the Foyle-Shtick that characterized the competition management - who knows.

Local architects: Mann - Shinar Architects. **"Warda" (flower in Kurdish)** - a new interactive installation consisting of 4 floral sculptures that respond to the movement of passers-by, was inaugurated in Jerusalem as part of the project "Placeholder". Operated by sensors that activate bellows, the flowers are located on both sides of Jaffa Street at the entrance to the Mahane Yehuda market. **Architect:** Erez Ella.

"With Brush & Paint - Drawings of a Journey through the Landscapes of Israel" - an exhibition by Uri Shetrit, is shown at the Center for North African Jewish Heritage in Jerusalem. Shetrit, a highly experienced architect who grew up on Moshav Dvora in the Jezreel Valley, perceives landscapes as a work of art - the emotional product of farmers who invest their souls in taking bread from the earth. Worth a visit. 14 King David Street.

projects

Dead Sea Observatory. Stretched between two ends of a ridge overlooking the Dead Sea, the building consists of an array of empty spaces with no defined function, representing the meeting between the boundless natural environment and the boundary-based act of design. Three spatial constellations - each made of two blocks, express the unlimited dimension of time as opposed to the disappearance of Man. **Architect:** Ami Shmoeli.

A Community Center in the spirit of "do it yourself" was inaugurated at the heart of the Jessy Cohen neighborhood in Holon. The project - initiative of the Israeli Center for Digital Art located in the neighborhood - consists of a hall (previously a gym) serving as a meeting place and a space for self-creativity, which changes according to needs by means of mobile units equipped with tools for various activities: lectures, film screenings, parties, gatherings, and workshops.

Students

Students from the graphic department at the Kavim School of Design participated in a competition for the design of Architecture Israel panels. Finalists: Adi Goldstein, Ofir Elias, Idan Sudai, Liat Katz, and Koby Wiesel.

The Community Council of the "Lev Ha'ir", in the Nachlaot, Jerusalem, initiated a student competition in the Department of Architecture, of Bezalel, for the design of an ecological greenhouse-coffee shop. Won by Tal Elbaz, the first stage was opened. The second stage is waiting for municipal budgeting.

That's it, please write - ruchi@netvision.net.il