

Vernacular Architecture

XIVe EUROPEAN PRIZE OF ARCHITECTURE PHILIPPE ROTTHIER

Press release - 2024



Foundation Philippe Rotthier for Architecture



The theme of the fourteenth edition of the European Prize of Architecture Philippe Rotthier is vernacular architecture.

By ‘vernacular architecture’, the prize means architecture that is the product of a long historical sedimentation and which, in the natural landscape, seems to be the very fruit of geology, architecture that acclimatises, that becomes accustomed, that does not interrupt the course of the wind or the rain, that is not afraid of bad weather and that, like the reed, bends but does not break.

The Prize characteristics

After examining the 189 entries from 48 countries, 20 in Europe and 28 from outside Europe, submitted for their links with vernacular architecture, the jury decided to select 28 projects and to award, among them, a Grand Prize of €20,000, a Prize for Craftsmanship of €8,000 and six prizes of €2,000 for their contribution to the flourishing of vernacular traditions and the crafts associated to them. The jury also distinguished 20 projects.

This year, the jury, chaired by Maurice Culot, paid particular attention to projects that:

- Are locally based and not interchangeable,
- Aim to integrate architecture into a rural or urban context and avoid disruption and provocation,
- As far as possible, use natural materials and traditional, environmentally-friendly techniques,
- Take account of local practices and customs,
- Create public spaces that are recognisable to all (streets, alleys, avenues, squares, etc.),
- Encourage a mix of activities and limit mechanical traffic,
- Reject social segregation in favour of mixed-use buildings where social housing cannot be singled out,
- Save land and spare the countryside.



On Saturday 29 June 2024, after examining the projects submitted on the basis of their links with vernacular architecture, the jury,

Chaired by Maurice CULOT (Architect, town planner, publisher and founder of the Archives d'Architecture Moderne, Belgium) and composed of

Mieke BOSSE (Architect and Director of Scala Architecten, Netherlands),

Julia TREESE (Architect and partner of Sebastian Treese Architekten, winner of the Driehaus 2021 prize, Germany),

Georgia CRISTEA (Architect, United Kingdom),

Harriet WENNBERG (Art historian and executive director of the INTBAU network, United Kingdom),

François GOFFINET (Garden architect, Belgium),

Alejandro GARCIA HERMIDA (Professor of architectural history and executive director of the Fundación Culturas Constructivas Tradicionales, Spain),

Léon KRIER (Town planner and builder, Spain),

Anselm JAPPE (Professor of philosophy and aesthetics, France),

William PESSON (Architect and architectural historian, France),

Mohamad HAMOUIE (Architect, Lebanon),

and Samir YOUNES (Professor of Architecture and Associate Dean of the University of Notre Dame, USA),

Under the watchful eye of the prize's founder, **Philippe ROTTHIER**,

Has decided to award the following prizes:

2024 PRIZE WINNERS

GRAND PRIZE PHILIPPE ROTTHIER

Școala de la Bunești, Romania

Laboratory for learning vernacular architectural practices,

20 000 EUR

by Ana Maria Goilav and Petre Guran

The *Școala de la Bunești* project is a remarkable example of the revival of architecture and culture. Situated in the heart of a Wallachian forest, it involves the construction in stages of several pavilions - guest house, refectory, harbour, kitchen, etc - for and by young people from all over the world with the aim of learning traditional building techniques. Each pavilion is dedicated to a natural material and a specific technique - it is thus a world tour of vernacular architecture that the school of Bunești offers, via Mesopotamian catenary vaults, Caucasian and Egyptian stereotomous prototypes, Vitruvian foundations in burnt oak, Byzantine ductile masonry, Greco-Roman floors in opus lapilli, Oriental tectonic carpentry, Renaissance proportions and classical spatiality. In this veritable laboratory of vernacular architecture, teachers and students work together to build their campus in the form of a training site.

As well as teaching construction methods, the school of Bunești makes a point of restoring the meaning of architecture through the use of ornamental symbolism and by awakening the students' philosophical sensibilities. The *Școala de la Bunești*'s concern to save nature from the consumerist rage of post-modern man and the need to save it from its own hedonistic and technological blindness is expressed in the concept of self-limitation. This is nothing more and nothing less than laying the foundations for a new way of living in society that respects our environment.

Launched in 2008 by Ana-Maria Goilav, a doctor of architecture and lecturer at the Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urban Planning in Bucharest, and Petre Guran, a researcher at the Romanian Academy's Institute of South-East European Studies, Doctor in the history of civilisations at the EHESS Paris, the *Școala de la Bunești* now has 9 pavilions and has seen 1,230 students, 50 professors and 30 craftsmen pass through its doors, making it one of the main places of hope for the revival of vernacular architecture in Europe.



PHILIPPE ROTTHIER PRIZE FOR CRAFTS

De Wilde De Schepper, Belgium

8 000 EUR

by Dirk Mortier

The project De Wilde De Schepper, located in Laarne in East Flanders, fulfils the dual function of leisure pavilion and garden shed. Designed and built by Dirk Mortier, a carpenter, the project is a tribute to natural materials and traditional building techniques. The framework is made entirely of European oak, while the mortise-and-tenon joints and the supporting members are fitted with shoulders. The masonry consists of hand-moulded bricks laid in the English bond, and the walls are rendered with hydraulic lime to allow the building to breathe. Hainaut blue stone was used for the plinths on which the posts rest and for the projection of the intermediate façade.

With this project, Dirk Mortier celebrates Flemish rural architecture, to which he has devoted twenty years of his life. Self-taught, he turned to carpentry at the age of 40, learning the trade by reading books on local construction and handling old tools. Now approaching retirement, he is keen to pass on his experience to younger people, and to this end wants to organise summer courses in his workshop to train the next generation of carpenters. The jury for the Philippe Rotthier prize was sensitive to the vital need to pass on the craft skills that are essential to the survival of vernacular architecture.



MENTIONS 2024



URBAN PROJECT PRIZE - Tornagrain

2 000 EUR

by Ben Pentreath in the United Kingdom



PRIZE FOR RURAL RESTORATION - Kambones1615

2 000 EUR

by Sophia Emmanuel in Greece



CIVIC ARCHITECTURE PRIZE

- **Extension of the Town Hall of Koerich**

2 000 EUR

by Colum Mulhern Architecture Traditionnelle in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg



PRIZE FOR NEW VERNACULAR CONSTRUCTION

- **Naturdorf Bärnau**

2 000 EUR

by Schönberger Architektur, Alfred Wolf & Andreas Mann in Germany



PRIZE FOR INTEGRATION INTO THE LANDSCAPE

- **Kalderimi X2**

2 000 EUR

by Boulouki in Greece



PRIZE FOR THE REVIVAL OF VERNACULAR TECHNIQUES - Citadel Kasbah Agadir Oufella

2 000 EUR

by Salima Naji in Morocco

NOMINATED 2024

The jury also decided to award the following twenty nominations to the projects that caught its attention:

Hosh El Etem in the Historic Center of Birzeit

by RIWAQ, Palestine

Super-Cayrou

by Encore Heureux Architectes, France

Woodstock

by BC Architect, Belgium

Monastery of Bunesti

by Dorel Cordos, Roumania

Individual house in Charleston

by Liberatos Architects, United States

Dar Al-A'Mir

by Hosam Jiroudy, Saudi Arabia

Post Disaster Rural Regeneration

by Dr Yasmeen Lari, Pakistan

GHESC The Village Laboratory

by Fondazione Canova, Italy

Aldourie Castle & Estate

by Ptolemy Dean Architects, United Kingdom

Park View Woodstock

by Adam Architecture, United Kingdom

Project 1 Nimman

by ONG-ARD Architects, Thailand

Can Ferrereta

by Bastidas Architecture, Spain

House in Wikno

by Piotr Olszak, Poland

Workshop for a Basket Maker

by Brunelle Dalbavie, France

Sigena

by Paco Luis Marcos, Spain

Icomb Place Solar Ceiling

by Philip Gaches, United Kingdom

Architect and Artist's Studio
by Artem Nikoforov, Russia

Ambres distillery
by Atelier Saint-Benoît, France

Rehabilitation of the Monastery of São João de Cabanas
by Fernando Manuel Cerqueira Barros, Portugal

Conversion & Extension of a Residential House for an Artist
by Colum Mulhern, Luxembourg

PRIZEWINNERS CEREMONY & EXHIBITIONS

The Foundation Philippe Rotthier for Architecture invites you to the prize-giving ceremony and exhibition preview, which will take place in Brussels on 26 October 2024 in the presence of the prize-winners and eminent personalities.

Programme for 26 October 2024

11:00 - Award ceremony - CIVA auditorium - Rue de l'Ermitage 55, Brussels

12:30 - Opening of the exhibition - La Loge - Rue de l'Ermitage 86, Brussels

The projects of the winners and nominees will be exhibited at
La Loge in Brussels and at the Béguinage in Bruges.

Exhibition at La Loge

26 October to 10 November 2024

Wednesday to Sunday from 14:00 to 18:00

Exhibition at the Bruges Beguinage

Begijnhof 30, 8000 Brugge - 26 October to 4 November 2024

Saturday and Sunday from 14:00 to 17:00

Please confirm your attendance at the prize-giving ceremony by e-mail before 1 October 2024.

*

The 2024 Prize publication will be available online in pdf format from 26, October 2024.

European Prize of Architecture Philippe Rotthier

Created in 1982, the European Architecture Prize Philippe Rotthier rewards works of collective and cultural value, rooted in their region, using natural materials in a durable way, drawing on the genius of the European city in dialogue with the past and history.

The prize-winning works are selected by juries composed of leading European figures and have included the writers Adrien Goetz and Françoise Lalande, the journalists Sergio Frau and Katia Pecnik, the designer Matali Crasset, the historians Bruno Foucart, Charles Jencks and David Watkin, the artist Bernard Métais, and the architects Anna Heringer, Christian Biecher, Ben Bolgar, André Jacqmain, Léon Krier, Michael Lycoudis, Dimitri Porphyrios, Paolo Portoghesi, Rudy Ricciotti, Oscar Tusquets and Roland Castro.

Juries, chaired by Maurice Culot, have often chosen to select sometimes little known works and to recognise original approaches, such as those by François Spoerry and his lacustrine architecture, by Abdel-Wahed El-Wakil for his mosques and Eusebio Leal Spengler for the restoration of the city of Havana or by the film-maker Emir Kusturica for his Küstendorf village in Serbia. Towns and institutions have also been awarded the Philippe Rotthier Prize, including Bayonne, Le Plessis-Robinson and Val d'Europe in France, Palermo in Italy, Poundbury in the United Kingdom, Dresden in Allemagne, and the Äkroken campus in Sweden.

Philippe Rotthier, prize founder

Philippe Rotthier was born in 1941. After qualifying as an architect, in 1964 from the École de la Cambre in Brussels, Philippe Rotthier worked with the architect André Jacqmain and in 1967 was a founding member of the Atelier d'Architecture de Genval. In 1973, he settled on the island of Ibiza where he built and renovated 80 houses in the vernacular style. His method of architectural design and production have been the subject of a number of publications (Ibiza. Le Palais Paysan, 1984; Maisons sur l'île d'Ibiza, 1990; Architectures Arquitecturas Ibiza, 1997; XXX à Ibiza, 2003). In 1982 he founded the European Prize for the Reconstruction of the City and in 1986 the Fondation pour l'Architecture in Brussels. In 1985 he founded the Taller d'Estudis de l'Hàbitat Pitiús in San José that works to protect the traditional Ibiza habitat. In 2011, he founded the Architecture Museum, La Loge in Brussels, dedicated to contemporary creation. Since 2006 he has divided his time between Ibiza, Brussels and Polynesia where, on a motu on the island of Tahaa, he built his own home using local materials. In 2012, Philippe Rotthier and the Fondation des Générations Futures set up the HERA prize, which "rewards Masters-level thesis or dissertations that adopt a systemic, 360° approach to sustainable development in order to advance architectural thinking and/or practice. More concretely, the aim is to find solutions for a more sustainable way of building and living for the planet and its inhabitants".

Contact

Organiser - La Table Ronde de l'Architecture asbl

www.rotthierprize.com

contact@rotthierprize.com

Instagram @rotthier_prize

contact@latablerondearchitecture.com - 0032 475 95 95 15

13 Sint Annarei, 8000 Bruges, Belgium

Fonds pour l'architecture asbl & Fondation Philippe Rotthier pour l'Architecture

Rue de l'Ermitage 55 Kluisstraat, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

