

FAKRO inspires, 2016

The competition task involved providing a concept for renovation and reconstruction of an existing public utility building. It had to refer, wherever possible, to the broader context of architecture in the social, cultural and economic realm.

On October 12th, a jury of professionals gathered to view all of the entries. They were faced with a broad spectrum of high quality proposals offering ideas for the renovation of buildings that have either been neglected or which could inspire local or national debate. These included offices, hospitals, schools, factories, city centers, military establishments, watchtowers and churches.

The jury consisted of:

Indira van 't Klooster (NL), chair - editor-in-chief of *A10 new European Architecture Cooperative*, author of *Reactivate! Innovators of Dutch Architecture* (2013) and *Forty and Famous, 10 interviews with young European architects* (2016)

Anna Yudina (FR) – architecture and design author, curator, editor-in-chief of *Monitor*, author of *Lumitecture* (2016), *Furniture* (2015) and *Phase: the Architecture of Jakob+MacFarlane* (2013)

Sabina Sujew (PL) – Master of Arts, Export Manager of FAKRO

Criteria:

- The proposal had to add to the transformation of a vacant or disused building by creating a vibrant community space
- The building had to be designed so that its realization could be made possible through use of available technology, pushed to the limits
- The designed building had to be functional, energy-efficient, full of light, user and environmentally friendly
- The body of the building had to blend fully with its surroundings
- The building had to incorporate a wide range of FAKRO products (pitched or flat roof windows, loft ladders and window accessories)

Anonymity

All plans were submitted with a number and a motto/title and therefore judged anonymously.

Results

The jury selected three winners and three projects which were felt to be worthy of special mention.

First Prize - € 5000

Re-inhabit - Transformation of the Ordnance Factory in Seville, Spain

Antonio Torres Sanz

The transformation was of a pavilion built originally as part of the Ordnance Factory of Seville in 1929. It had been unused for 26 years and closed to the public. Torres Sanz's proposal was to transform the building within the context of the increase of single-parent families and migration, transient workers and impoverishment, combined with the need to repair the damage caused by urban speculation, the increasing gentrification of urban centres and phasing out of existing built heritage. It sought to offer an alternative to disused industrial buildings by re-inhabiting space with

experimental, social and temporary residences that meet social inclusion policies while preserving the integrity and value of a building.

Jury:

This proposal preserves the values of industrial heritage and proposes its active reintegration in order to meet contemporary social needs. As such, it adds cultural diversity as a form of enrichment and social harmony in the development of our cities. The jury admired the social commitment, conceptual value and architectural detail that went into this design. The lovely interior spaces maximize use of daylight and create a healthy indoor climate through a clever ventilation system and effective energy reduction measures. The products have been carefully integrated within the building, which offers a valuable alternative to gentrification from which the people that live in the area actually benefit.

Second Prize - € 3000

Casa Migrante, Italy

Filomena Visone

Visone sought to combine two problems and solve them in a single design proposal: the use of obsolete sheds in Fiumefreddo (Italy) and the socio-economic issues arising from the influx of migrants and refugees. The proposed temporary shelter is simple but comfortable, offering private living space on the first floor, as well as communal space on the ground floor. The communal space can be used for workshops but also provides gardens to grow and sell food. Once the refugee crisis is solved the apartments (for single and double occupancy) can be rented out to tourists that visit a seaside village which has a medieval city centre and beautiful natural scenery.

Jury:

The idea to make use of these abandoned sheds for immediate use in the refugee crisis was very well thought out, both conceptually and architecturally. It is small-scale and self-sustaining so doesn't place any additional burden on the community, and by creating this new space it removes pressure on hotels in the village so that they can be used again by tourists. The architecture is simple and pragmatic, making use of photovoltaic panels and roof windows for light and energy efficiency. Designed as the houses are for temporary use it might be difficult to adapt them for more permanent use, but the communal spaces could create both a source of income and a means to produce and interact.

Third Prize - € 2000

Public Market, G520202072, Thailand

Warat Rodpechprai

Things change fast in Thailand and old buildings usually disappear to make way for modern ones. Rodpechprai offers a solution for preserving small traditional market places in a densely populated urban context. The market place is integrated within a new housing scheme, added public space and a sky train station. The innovative way that roof windows have been used solves the problem of small openings and the need for daylight by introducing concave lenses to diffuse it effectively. Trees and water systems provide a healthy indoor climate and as only small roof windows are proposed the indoor space are not susceptible to overheating due to the greenhouse effect.

Jury:

This proposal was very appealing as it solves the problem of 'shoebox spaces' with small windows that would normally be too dark to use effectively. The ingenious system of concave lenses maximizes use of light while keeping the interior cool. The greenhouses with trees provide both attractive public spaces and a healthy indoor climate. All in all, it's a well thought out environment that creates space, light and comfortable indoor areas, though we felt that the housing scheme had not been used to its full potential.

Special mentions

SH-IT Shelter, Italy

Davide Roth

Jury: Despite the unfortunate name of this project (which may be worth rethinking), it showed how commitment and outrage can result in a good idea. The fierce accusation of this entry, describing the Aiazzone Factory as a "monster" and expressing concern about small businesses and young job seekers as the most crisis-impacted groups of Italian society, provides the basis for an intelligent proposal to transform a factory complex that has never been used. It seeks to transform its status as a forlorn, forgotten and dystopian area. Roth turns it into a combination of housing and workspaces with public areas that will attract potential clients for newly-created businesses and local companies, and foster a sense of community among its inhabitants.

A better learning space, USA

Jeffrey Clancy

Jury: How to address the problem of bad indoor environments. Clancy's proposal is a tribute to all those state-owned buildings always built with inadequate budgets that can be improved by simple but effective means of upgrading. By doing so, its users will get triple value: user friendliness, a healthy indoor climate and environmental value.

Light Tower, Spain

Isabel Gomez Garcia and Javier Serrano Fajardo

Jury: The power of poetry. Gomez Garcia's and Serrano Fajardo's design is an intelligent reminder that all buildings, however small and overlooked, can become valuable spaces, when a touch of poetry is combined with the simple addition of top lights.