



FRIENDLY  
AND INCLUSIVE  
SPACES AWARDS

## Winners of the 2017 Edition of the UIA Friendly and Inclusive Spaces Awards

The UIA Friendly and Inclusive Spaces Awards were founded to encourage and acknowledge architects who have created exemplary friendly, inclusive and accessible buildings and public spaces. Entries must demonstrate that they have met the highest standards of universal and inclusive design, where the realised designs contribute to the quality of life of all those who may use them.

Awards are given in four categories: New Buildings, Public Spaces, Existing & Historic Buildings and Research. Entries are assessed in two stages, first by an international jury located in each of the UIA's five regions and finally by an international jury including a past award winner.

In 2017 a total of 76 entries were received from 28 countries across five continents. The jury was impressed by the range of project types submitted and by the standard and quality of the shortlisted entries.

The following entries were selected:

### New Buildings:

#### **Medal:**

Entry No. 168 **Coláiste Ailigh** by McGarry Ní Éanaigh Architects, Ireland.

Jury Comment:

*A linear blue incision in a gently rolling landscape – the building sits comfortably as if it had always been there. The school's well-crafted detailing exudes openness and the fully accessible and harmonious circulation areas, social areas and classrooms contribute to attentive learning. The building is notable for its careful use of colour and daylight creating an environment which is uplifting and facilitates both orientation and navigation.*

#### **Honourable Mentions:**

Entry No. 138 **Libertador Station, La Paz Teleferic** by Roberto Ameneiro Galdo Architect, Bolivia.

Jury Comment:

*The large bulk of the cable car station has been intelligently attenuated by inventive use of colour. Careful and sensitive attention to detailing of the physical and visual elements, make for a truly accessible building erected on challenging terrain. A fine example of inclusive spaces and accessible features for all users.*

Entry No.47 **Amanenomori Nursery School** by Aisaka Architects Atelier, Japan

Jury Comment:

*Despite sealing itself off from the outside world the Nursery School is characterised by an intelligent use of relatively restricted multi-level space revealing a richness of design elements. Set within a constricted urban environment, the need for outdoor play areas has been resolved through rooftop open spaces. Accessibility features are also evident.*

Entry No. 39 **Farming Kindergarten** by Vo Trong Nghia Architects, Vietnam

Jury Comment:

*The elliptical rollercoaster-like form of the building represents a powerful architectural statement which also permits access to the rooftop "farm". The landscaped roofscape initiates pre-school children into agriculture through the cultivation of vegetables – a prototype for environmentally sustainable education. The integrated ramped rooftop provides equal access to all children with various abilities.*

Entry No. 51 **Mumuni Library** by Eleni Coromvili, Architect, Zambia

Jury Comment:

*The character of the library in three separate buildings is seamlessly attuned to the character of Zambian indigenous architecture. Reading and learning inside familiar architectural spaces facilitate a happy transition into the world of education. Ramps to the building entrances ensure access to those with mobility aids.*

Entry No. 106 **BE Friendly Space** by Doan Than Ha Architect, Vietnam

Jury Comment:

*A welcoming hub within a dense urban fabric for all citizens to use. Some weaknesses in the planning are offset by the authenticity of the local materials used for its construction e.g. the extensive use of bamboo and the rough surfaces of the terra-cotta walls. The use of earth colours also contributes to its friendliness.*

## **Public Space**

### **Medal:**

Entry No: 134 **Paseo Puerta de Tierra** by SCF Arquitectos, Puerto Rico.

Jury Comment:

*A very well executed transformation of a run-down area into an inclusive multi-sensory promenade with great variety of subtly designed and landscaped gathering spaces in continuous dialogue with the sea and their historical surroundings. Pedestrians, traffic, cyclists and public transport vehicles have been cleverly separated with clearly defined routes and a well-considered signage system.*

### **Honorable Mentions:**

Entry No. 115 **Rehabilitation of Karpenisi Town Centre** by Andreas Lampropoulos, Architect, Greece.

Jury Comment:

*Carefully designed road and pavement surfaces transform the visual impact of the main access roads in this mountainous town, encouraging pedestrian use and diminishing the dominance of the car. Access to the town centre has been greatly improved, particularly for those with mobility impairments and heated pavements ensure it is maintained even in snowy/icy conditions. Installation of tactile ground indicators/guide paths further improve accessibility for people with visual impairments.*

Entry No 50 **Kwun Tong Promenade** by Architectural Services Department, Hong Kong

Jury Comment:

*Despite the overbearing presence of an elevated road immediately above this promenade the design succeeds in achieving a relaxed environment. The human scale of many of the design components represents a deliberate and successful choice to break the linear sea front site into smaller entities. The boardwalk is both inclusive and accessible, however more attention to details to aid people with visual impairments may be required.*

## **Existing and Historic Buildings**

### **Medal:**

Entry No. 131 **Malahide Parish Centre** by Sean Harrington Architects, Ireland

Jury Comment:

*The Centre's facilities are welcoming and fully accessible both indoors and outdoors. The amenities provided cover the diverse needs of a wide cross-section of society – from babies to older people, embracing all faiths. The restrained well-composed design of the extensions is architecturally sensitive to the historic church, with material and colour choices conducive to the feeling of repose that permeates the facility.*

### **Honorable Mentions:**

Entry No. 128 **Sundparken** by CF Moller Architects, Denmark

Jury Comment:

*The refurbishment of this 1970's housing estate represents a strong statement for social inclusion and sustainable development. The steeply sloping site has been cleverly exploited to ensure maximum accessibility to a variety of dwelling types. The original linear terraces have been well articulated with upper level additions in a contemporary idiom boldly emphasising the estate's historical development, highlighting continuity and evolution towards more inclusive housing.*

Entry No 148 **Viva Blue House** by Kenneth Tse, Meta4 Design Forum Ltd, Hong Kong.

Jury Comment:

*A Tour de Force - where an existing community has successfully preserved a traditional Hong Kong cluster of pre-war buildings and a communal lifestyle, radically transforming an inaccessible building complex by introducing external vertical and horizontal barrier-free features and accessible circulation within a small courtyard.*

### **Research**

#### **Honorable Mentions:**

Entry No. 62 **Clear Code Architecture** Authors: Patricio Martínez González, Maximià Torruella Castell, Spain

Jury Comment:

*An interesting strategy for the evaluation of universal accessibility in architecture. The emphasis on medical models of disability perhaps detracts from its potential for wider use. Greater exploration of its applicability to a variety of building types for all users would be useful.*

Entry No 52 **Model for the Design and Evaluation of Accessible Spaces and Participatory Methodology with Users, for the Easy Understanding of Environments and Buildings** Author: Berta Brusilovsky Filer, Spain

Jury Comment:

*The development of an understanding of the impact of the built environment on people with intellectual / cognitive disabilities and people with difficulties in spatial orientation is both challenging and important. There is scope for further development, beyond the use of good wayfinding and signage.*

The Medals and Honourable Mentions will be formally presented on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at the UIA Award Ceremony in Seoul, Korea, during the 26<sup>th</sup> UIA Congress of Architecture.

The medal winning entries, honourable mentions and all shortlisted entries will be exhibited on the UIA Architecture for All Work Programme Stand at the UIA Congress in Seoul from the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

## **Stage 1 Regional Juries**

### Regions I & V

Jane Simpson, United Kingdom  
Joseph Spiteri, Malta  
Fernando Garcia Ochoa Montes, Spain  
Monica Klenovec, Austria  
Jim Cledes, Luxembourg (Honourable Mention 2014)  
Isabella Steffan, Italy  
Magda Mostafa, Egypt (Winner Research Category 2014)  
Phillip Thompson, South Africa

### Regions II & III

Augusto F. Alvarez Fuentes, Mexico  
Gustavo Aguilar Montoya, Costa Rica  
Inara Karklina, Latvia  
Sotiris Papadopoulos, Greece

### Region IV

Akeel Bilgrami, Pakistan  
Allen Kong, Australia (Honourable Mention 2014)  
Masud Rashid, Bangladesh  
Norwina Nawawi, Malaysia  
Stephen, HO Kin Wai, Hong Kong

## **Stage 2 Selection Panel: International Jury**

Vassilis Sgoutas, Greece, Past President UIA (Jury Chairman)  
Krzysztof Chwalibog, Poland, Co-Director UIA Architecture for All WP  
Fionnuala Rogerson, Ireland, Co-Director UIA Architecture for All WP  
Joseph Kwan, Hong Kong, Director Region IV UIA Architecture for All WP  
Eduardo Elkouss, Spain, Director Region III UIA Architecture for All WP  
Krzysztof Ingarden, Poland, (Medal Winner Durban 2014)

Special thanks to both Stage I and Stage 2 juries, to RIAI, SARP and HKIA.