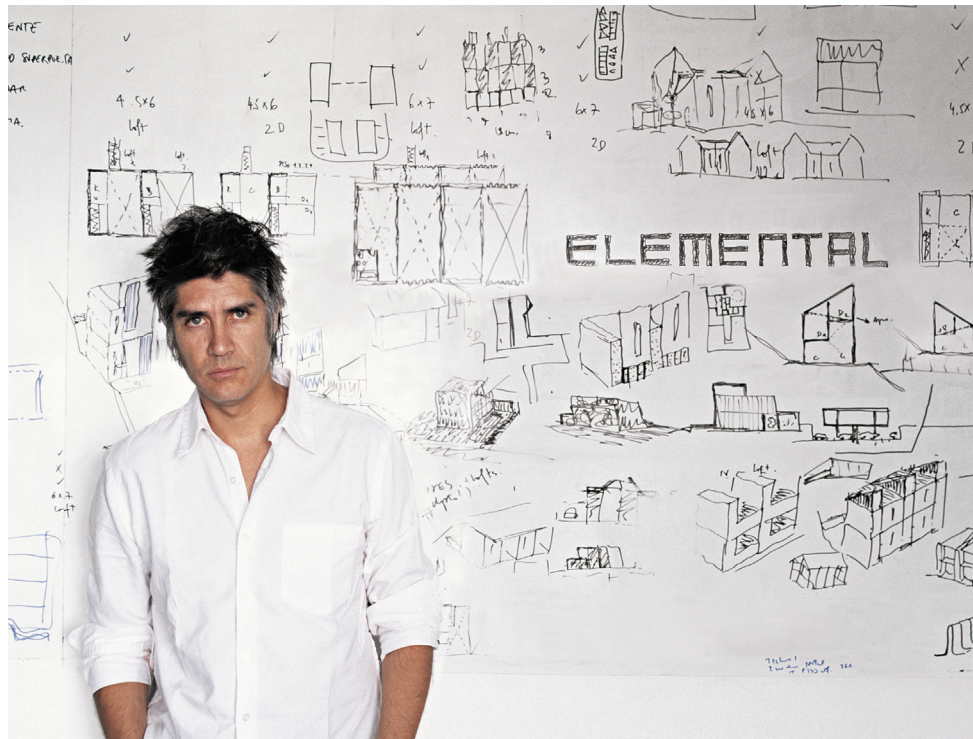


The Pritzker Architecture Prize

2016 Laureate
Alejandro Aravena
Chile

Media Kit



Alejandro Aravena
Photo by Cristobal Palma

For images, videos, and more information, please visit pritzkerprize.com.

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2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize Media Kit

Media Release Announcing the 2016 Laureate

Alejandro Aravena of Chile receives the 2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize

He practices architecture as an artful endeavor in private commissions and in designs for the public realm and epitomizes the revival of a more socially engaged architect.

Chicago, IL (January 13, 2016) — Alejandro Aravena of Chile has been selected as the 2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate, Tom Pritzker announced today. Mr. Pritzker is Chairman and President of The Hyatt Foundation, which sponsors the prize. The formal award ceremony for what has come to be known internationally as architecture's highest honor will be at United Nations Headquarters in New York on April 4, 2016.

The 48-year-old Aravena is an architect based in Santiago, Chile. He becomes the 41st laureate of the Pritzker Prize, the first Pritzker Laureate from Chile, and the fourth from Latin America, after Luis Barragán (1980), Oscar Niemeyer (1988), and Paulo Mendes da Rocha (2006).

Mr. Pritzker said, "The jury has selected an architect who deepens our understanding of what is truly great design. Alejandro Aravena has pioneered a collaborative practice that produces powerful works of architecture and also addresses key challenges of the 21st century. His built work gives economic opportunity to the less privileged, mitigates the effects of natural disasters, reduces energy consumption, and provides welcoming public space. Innovative and inspiring, he shows how architecture at its best can improve people's lives."

Aravena has completed remarkable buildings at the esteemed Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago, including the UC Innovation Center – Anacleto Angelini (2014), the Siamese Towers (2005), Medical School (2004), School of Architecture (2004), and the Mathematics School (1999). These energy-efficient buildings respond to the local climate with innovative, efficient facades and floor plans and offer the users natural light and convivial meeting places. Currently under construction in Shanghai, China, is an office building for healthcare company Novartis, with office spaces designed to accommodate different modes of work — individual, collective, formal and informal. In the United States, Aravena has built St. Edward's University Dorms (2008) in Austin, Texas.

Since 2001, Aravena has been executive director of the Santiago-based ELEMENTAL, a "Do Tank," as opposed to a think tank, whose partners are Gonzalo Arteaga, Juan Cerda, Victor Oddó, and Diego Torres. ELEMENTAL focuses on projects of public interest and social impact, including housing, public space, infrastructure, and transportation. ELEMENTAL has designed more than 2,500 units of low-cost social housing. A hallmark of the firm is a participatory design process in which the architects work closely with the public and end users. ELEMENTAL is also known for designing social housing that they call "half of a good house," in which the design leaves space for the residents to complete their houses themselves and thus raise themselves up to a middle-class standard of living. This innovative approach, called "incremental housing," allows for social housing to be built on more expensive land closer to economic opportunity and gives residents a sense of accomplishment and personal investment.

In response to being named the 2016 Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, Mr. Aravena emailed: "Looking backwards, we feel deeply thankful. No achievement is individual. Architecture is a collective discipline. So we think, with gratitude, of all the people who contributed to give form to a huge diversity of forces at play. Looking into the future we anticipate Freedom! The prestige, the reach, the gravitas of the prize is such that we hope to use its momentum to explore new territories, face new challenges, and walk into new fields of action. After such a peak, the path is unwritten. So our plan is not to have a plan, face the uncertain, be open to the unexpected. Finally, looking at the present, we are just overwhelmed, ecstatic, happy. It's time to celebrate and share our joy with as many people as possible."

2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize Media Kit

Media Release Announcing the 2016 Laureate (continued)

The 2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize Jury Citation states in part, “Alejandro Aravena has delivered works of architectural excellence in the fields of private, public and educational commissions both in his home country and abroad.... He has undertaken projects of different scales from single-family houses to large institutional buildings.... He understands materials and construction, but also the importance of poetry and the power of architecture to communicate on many levels.”

Aravena and ELEMENTAL have designed the Metropolitan Promenade (1997 - ongoing) and Bicentennial Children’s Park (2012), both in Santiago. After the 2010 earthquake and tsunami that hit Chile, ELEMENTAL was called to work on the reconstruction of the city of Constitución; their work there includes emergency relief work, a master plan, Villa Verde (incremental housing, 2013), and the Constitución Cultural Center (2014). Other works include a Montessori School (2001) in Santiago, Chile; “Chairless” furniture (2010) for Vitra in Weil am Rhein, Germany; Monterrey Housing (incremental housing, 2010) in Monterrey, Mexico; Las Cruces Pilgrim Lookout Point (2010) in Jalisco, Mexico; Calama PLUS master plan (2012 - ongoing) in Calama, Chile; Writer’s Cabin for the Jan Michalski Foundation (2015) in Montricher, Switzerland; and Ayelén School (2015) in Rancagua, Chile.

Alejandro Aravena is the Director of the Venice Architecture Biennale 2016, titled “Reporting from the Front,” set to open in May 2016.

The Chair of the Jury of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, Lord Peter Palumbo, said that, as the jury visited Aravena’s projects, they felt a sense of wonder and revelation; they understood that his is an innovative way of creating great architecture, with the best yet to come. Referencing John Keats’ poem “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer,” Lord Palumbo said, “Stout Cortez stared at the Pacific with eagle eyes, whilst the Pritzker jury felt like some watcher of the skies when a new planet swims into his ken: And although not silent upon a peak in Darien, they looked at each other with a wild surmise, captivated, stunned, and overwhelmed by the work of Alejandro Aravena and the promise of a golden future.”

2016 Award Ceremony at United Nations Headquarters in New York

Each year the award ceremony is held at a culturally or historically significant venue around the world. The award ceremony for Alejandro Aravena will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on April 4, 2016. The location has particular significance as one of its lead designers was 1988 Pritzker Prize Laureate, Oscar Niemeyer. This marks the third time the ceremony will be in New York.

Pritzker Architecture Prize Jury

The distinguished jury that selected the 2016 Pritzker Laureate consists of its chairman, The Lord Palumbo, architectural patron, Chairman Emeritus of the Trustees, Serpentine Galleries, former Chairman of the Arts Council of Great Britain, London, United Kingdom; and alphabetically: Stephen Breyer, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Washington, D.C., USA; Yung Ho Chang, architect and educator, Beijing, The People’s Republic of China; Kristin Feireiss, architecture curator, writer, and editor, Berlin, Germany; Glenn Murcutt, architect and 2002 Pritzker Laureate, Sydney, Australia; Richard Rogers, architect and 2007 Pritzker Laureate, London, United Kingdom; Benedetta Tagliabue, architect and director of EMBT Miralles Tagliabue, Barcelona, Spain; and Ratan N. Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group, Mumbai, India. The Executive Director of the Pritzker Prize is Martha Thorne, Dean, IE School of Architecture & Design, Madrid, Spain.

About the Pritzker Architecture Prize

The Pritzker Architecture Prize was founded in 1979 by the late Jay A. Pritzker and his wife, Cindy. Its purpose is to honor annually a living architect whose built work demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision and commitment, which has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture. The laureates receive a \$100,000 grant and a bronze medallion.

2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize Media Kit

Media Release Announcing the 2016 Laureate (continued)

The field of architecture was chosen by the Pritzker family because of their keen interest in building due to their involvement with developing the Hyatt Hotels around the world, and because architecture was a creative endeavor not included in the Nobel Prizes. The procedures were modeled after the Nobels, with the final selection being made by the international jury with all deliberations and voting in secret. Nominations are continuous from year to year with hundreds of nominees from countries all around the world being considered each year.

Visit pritzkerprize.com for more information and images.

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2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize Media Kit

Jury Citation

Alejandro Aravena is leading a new generation of architects that has a holistic understanding of the built environment and has clearly demonstrated the ability to connect social responsibility, economic demands, design of human habitat and the city. Few have risen to the demands of practicing architecture as an artful endeavor, as well as meeting today's social and economic challenges. Aravena, from his native Chile, has achieved both, and in doing so has meaningfully expanded the role of the architect.

Born in 1967, and practicing since 1994, Aravena has consistently pursued architecture with a clarity of vision and great skill. Undertaking several buildings for his alma mater, the Universidad Católica de Chile, including the Mathematics School (1998), Medical School (2001), the renovation of the School of Architecture (2004), Siamese Towers (2005) and more recently the UC Innovation Center – Anacleto Angelini (2014). Each building shows an understanding of how people will use the facility, the thoughtful and appropriate use of materials, and a commitment to creating public spaces to benefit the larger community. In the Angelini Innovation Center, the maturity of this architect is apparent. A powerful structure from a distance, it is remarkably humane and inviting. Through a reversal of convention, the building is an opaque concrete structure on the exterior and has a light filled glass atrium inside. With the mass of the building at the perimeter, the energy consumption is minimal. The interior has many places for spontaneous encounters and transparency that enables viewing activity throughout. Aravena has created a rich environment of lively, interesting and welcoming spaces.

Alejandro Aravena has delivered works of architectural excellence in private, public and educational commissions both in his home country and abroad, including the United States — a residence and dining hall at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas — and as far away as Shanghai, China for the pharmaceutical company Novartis. He has undertaken projects of different scales from single-family houses to large institutional buildings. In all his works, he approaches the task with a freshness and ability to start without any predetermined idea or form. He understands materials and construction, but also the importance of poetry and the power of architecture to communicate on many levels.

What really sets Aravena apart is his commitment to social housing. Since 2000 and the founding of ELEMENTAL, he and his collaborators have consistently realized works with clear social goals. Calling the company a “Do Tank,” as opposed to a think tank, they have built more than 2,500 units using imaginative, flexible and direct architectural solutions for low cost social housing. The ELEMENTAL team participates in every phase of the complex process of providing dwellings for the underserved: engaging with politicians, lawyers, researchers, residents, local authorities, and builders, in order to obtain the best possible results for the benefit of the residents and society. An understanding of the importance of the aspirations of the inhabitants and their active participation and investment in a project, as well as good design, have contributed to the creation of new opportunities for those from underprivileged backgrounds. This inventive approach enlarges the traditional scope of the architect and transforms the professional into a universal figure with the aim of finding a truly collective solution for the built environment.

The younger generation of architects and designers who are looking for opportunities to affect change, can learn from the way Alejandro Aravena takes on multiple roles instead of the singular position of a designer to facilitate a housing project, and by doing so, discovers that such opportunities may be created by architects themselves. Through this approach, he gives the profession of architect a new dimension, which is necessary to respond to present demands and meet future challenges of the field.

Alejandro Aravena epitomizes the revival of a more socially engaged architect, especially in his long-term commitment to tackling the global housing crisis and fighting for a better urban environment for all. He has a deep understanding of both architecture and civil society, as is reflected in his writing, his activism and his designs. The role of the architect is now being challenged to serve greater social and humanitarian needs, and Alejandro Aravena has clearly, generously and fully responded to this challenge. For the inspiration he provides through his example and his contributions to architecture and humanity past and future, Alejandro Aravena is the recipient of the 2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize.

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Jury Members

The Lord Palumbo (Chairman)

*Architectural patron, Chairman Emeritus of the Trustees, Serpentine Galleries
Former Chairman of the Arts Council of Great Britain
Former Chairman of the Tate Gallery Foundation
London, England*

Stephen Breyer

*U.S. Supreme Court Justice
Washington, D.C.*

Yung Ho Chang

*Architect and Educator
Beijing, The People's Republic of China*

Kristin Feireiss

*Architecture Curator, Writer, and Editor
Berlin, Germany*

Glenn Murcutt

*Architect and Pritzker Laureate 2002
Sydney, Australia*

Richard Rogers

*Architect and Pritzker Laureate 2007
London, England*

Benedetta Tagliabue

*Architect and Educator
Barcelona, Spain*

Ratan N. Tata

*Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group
Mumbai, India*

Martha Thorne (Executive Director)

*Dean
IE School of Architecture & Design
Madrid, Spain*

2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize Media Kit

Biography

Alejandro Aravena was born on June 22, 1967, in Santiago, Chile. He graduated as an architect from the Universidad Católica de Chile in 1992. In 1994, he established his own practice, Alejandro Aravena Architects. Since 2001 he has been leading ELEMENTAL, a “Do Tank” focusing on projects of public interest and social impact, including housing, public space, infrastructure, and transportation.

ELEMENTAL has built work in Chile, The United States, Mexico, China and Switzerland. After the 2010 earthquake and tsunami that hit Chile, ELEMENTAL was called to work on the reconstruction of the city of Constitución, Chile. Aravena's partners in ELEMENTAL are Gonzalo Arteaga, Juan Cerda, Victor Oddó and Diego Torres.

Alejandro Aravena is the Director of the Venice Architecture Biennale 2016. He was a speaker at TEDGlobal in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2014. He was a member of the Pritzker Architecture Prize Jury from 2009 to 2015.

In 2010 he was named International Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and identified as one of the 20 new heroes of the world by Monocle magazine. He is a Board Member of the Cities Program of the London School of Economics since 2011; Regional Advisory Board Member of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies; Board Member of the Swiss Holcim Foundation since 2013; Foundational Member of the Chilean Public Policies Society; and Leader of the Helsinki Design Lab for SITRA, the Finnish Government Innovation Fund. He was one of the 100 personalities contributing to the Rio +20 Global Summit in 2012.

Aravena was a Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Design (2000 and 2005); and also taught at Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia (2005), Architectural Association in London (1999), and London School of Economics. He has held the ELEMENTAL Copec Chair at Universidad Católica de Chile since 2006.

Author of *Los Hechos de la Arquitectura* (*Architectural Facts*, 1999), *El Lugar de la Arquitectura* (*The Place in/of Architecture*, 2002) and *Material de Arquitectura* (*Architecture Matters*, 2003). His work has been published in more than 50 countries, Electa published the monograph *Alejandro Aravena; progettare e costruire* (Milan, 2007) and Toto published *Alejandro Aravena; the Forces in Architecture* (Tokyo, 2011). Hatje-Cantz published the first monograph dedicated to the social housing projects of ELEMENTAL: *Incremental Housing and Participatory Design Manual* (Berlin, 2012) launched at the 12th International Architecture Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia.

#

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Fact Summary

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- 2016** Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate
- 2015** Alejandro Aravena Director of XV Venice Architecture Biennale 2016 (Italy)
Design of the Year, Architecture Category, Awarded by the Design Museum, London (UK)
- 2014** Zumtobel Group Award for PRES Constitución (Austria)
World Green Building Council Chairman's Award for PRES Constitución project (USA)
- 2013** Finalist in New Center for Contemporary Arts of Moscow Competition (Russia)
- 2012** 1st Prize in Tehran Stock Exchange Building International Competition (Iran)
- 2011** Holcim Award for Sustainable Construction Latin America: Silver Medal (Switzerland)
Index: Award, for the social housing project in Monterrey, Mexico (Denmark)
- 2010** Brit Insurance Architecture Award (UK)
Curry Stone Design Award (USA)
- 2009** Marcus Architecture Prize (USA)
- 2008** Silver Lion at the XI Venice Architecture Biennale (Italy)
Global Award for Sustainable Architecture Finalist (France)
- 2006** Erich Schelling Architecture Medal (Germany)

LECTURES AND PANELS

- 2015** Open Innovation Forum, Moscow, Russia, October
Futuna Lectures series, Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington, New Zealand, March
Prishtina Architecture Week, Prishtina, Kosovo, July
Rio Academy, Rio Janeiro, Brazil, July
- 2014** TED Talk: My Architectural Philosophy? Bring the Community Into the Process. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, October
- 2013** Keynote Speaker Holcim Forum on Sustainable Construction, Mumbai, India, March
- 2012** *FestArch*, Perugia, Italy, June
MIT 18th Annual Belluschi Lecture which has had in previous years Fumihiko Maki, Kazuyo Sejima, Peter Zumthor, Thom Mayne among others, April
361 Degree Conference Mumbai, India, March
- 2011** YEM Housing Conference, Istanbul, Turkey, October

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Fact Summary (continued)

- 2011** HOLCIM Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October
London Design Museum Annual PUMA Lecture, London, October
Urbanized Documentary Screening at the London School of Economics, October
INDEX Award Winners Talk, Copenhagen, Denmark, September
CNN Interview, August 16th
MA Gallery Lecture, Tokyo, Japan, July
Tokyo University Lecture, Japan, July
Keynote Speaker SCX Climatic Stock Exchange of Santiago, Chile, April
- 2010** Master in Collective Housing, Madrid, Spain, November
Palermo University, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October
Design Lab, Helsinki, Finland, September
Arquitectura y Sociedad Foundation, Pamplona, Spain, together with Renzo Piano, Jacques Herzog, Glenn Murcutt among others, June
Conference, Holcim Forum, Mexico City, Mexico, April
Presentation, Community of Residential Homes in the Lower Ninth Ward, Brad Pitt's *Make It Right Foundation*, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, March
Marcus Prize, Wisconsin, USA, January

EXHIBITIONS

- 2015** Designs of the Year, Design Museum, London, United Kingdom
XIX BIENAL ARQUITECTURA Y URBANISMO, Valparaíso, Chile
GA INTERNATIONAL 2015, GA Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Di ogni ordine e grado: L'architettura della Scuola, Triennale di Milano Xtra, Milan, Italy
- 2014** GA HOUSES PROJECT 2014, GA Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
MATIÈRE GRISE / GREY MATTER, Pavillon de l'Arsenal, Paris, France
DESIGNING SCARCITY, Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2013** Pilgrim Route, National Museum of Modern Art, Pompidou Center, Paris, France
Architecture in Straitened Circumstances, Bielefelder Kunstverein, Bielefeld, Germany
Metamorphosis, Experimenta Design Biennale, Lisbon, Portugal
Lookout: Architecture with a View, Swiss Architecture Museum, Basel, Switzerland
The Modesty: Architecture in Straitened Circumstances, DAZ German Architecture Center, Berlin, Germany

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Fact Summary (continued)

- 2012** XIII Venice Biennale, Invited by curator David Chipperfield to present along with Frank Gehry, Rem Koolhaas, Norman Foster, Zaha Hadid, Peter Zumthor, Alvaro Siza, Eduardo Souto de Moura, Kazuyo Sejima, Jean Nouvel and Rafael Moneo among others
- 2011** *Design for the other 90%*, Whitney Museum, New York, USA
MA Gallery Monographic Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
Pompidou Collection for *Mirador Las Cruces* project in Mexico, Paris, France
- 2010** MoMA New York, USA, *Small Scale, Big Change: New Architectures of Social Engagement*
- 2008** Architectural Design for the new facilities of a children's workshop on the Vitra Weil am Rhein Campus, Germany
XI Venice Architecture Biennale, awarded the Silver Lion
Exhibition Elemental, 1st Moscow Biennale
Exhibition Elemental, Milan Triennial
Exhibition, Philadelphia Design Center, USA
- 2007** Biennial of Sao Paulo, Brazil
Monographic Exhibition X, Extension Center, Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile
Geological Baldness, Lisbon Triennial, Portugal
Made in Chile, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, USA
- 2004** Monographic Exhibition X in Harvard GSD's central lobby, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
Monographic Exhibition of professional work between 1994 -2004 in the Navarra University, Pamplona, Spain
- 2003** *Espai Contemporanei in Xile*, Architects Association of Cataluña, Barcelona, Spain
- 2002** 3rd Archilab Congress, *Otherwise-ness: Emergency Housing*, Orléans, France

SELECTED PRESS BY COUNTRY

Japan (A+U, GA Document; also, Toto has published a book called *Alejandro Aravena, The forces in Architecture*, Tokyo, 2011)

UK (cover of Icon), Monocle and World Atlas of Contemporary Architecture, 10x10 Vol.2, 21st Century Architecture and World Interiors for Phaidon. Alejandro Aravena has been included in Kenneth Frampton's 4th edition of *Modern Architecture; a critical history*)

Italy (Casabella, Lotus, Abitare, The Plan and Domus, and Electa has published a monography called *Alejandro Aravena, Progettare e Costruire*, Milan, 2007)

Spain (*Verb-Crisis* by Actar, Arquitectura Viva, VIA)

Germany (Detail, Arch+, Taschen *Architecture Now 6* and *Architecture Now Houses*)

Russia (Monitor, Project Russia, Projekt International)

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Ceremony Venue

2016 ceremony will be at United Nations Headquarters, New York, New York, USA

The United Nations Headquarters complex in New York, overlooking the East River, has been the official headquarters of the United Nations (UN) since its completion in 1952. The principal organs of the UN have their seats there, including the General Assembly and Security Council. While located in New York City, the complex is technically extraterritorial and is under the sole administration of the UN. United Nations Headquarters is notable for its history, architecture, gardens, outdoor sculptures, and artworks from around the world.

From the UN-commissioned film "[A Workshop for Peace](#)": In the years after World War II, the founders of the UN sought to build a headquarters "as a symbol of hope that a union of nations can come together in one place to make peace." Their goal was to design a headquarters that would express the vision of a future without war. Wallace K. Harrison (USA) was appointed chief architect with the title of Director of Planning. Assisting him was a Board of Design Consultants: Nikolai G. Bassov (Soviet Union); Gaston Brunfaut (Belgium); Ernest Cormier (Canada); Charles-Edouard Jeanneret, known as Le Corbusier (France); Liang Seu-Cheng (China); Sven Markelius (Sweden); Oscar Niemeyer (Brazil); Sir Howard Robertson (United Kingdom); G. A. Soilleux (Australia); and Julio Vilamajo (Uruguay).

#

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Previous Laureates

Frei Otto, 2015 Laureate

Germany

Presented at the New World Center, Miami Beach, Florida

Shigeru Ban, 2014 Laureate

Japan

Presented at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Toyo Ito, 2013 Laureate

Japan

Presented at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston, Massachusetts

Wang Shu, 2012 Laureate

The People's Republic of China

Presented at the Great Hall of the People, Beijing, The People's Republic of China

Eduardo Souto de Moura, 2011 Laureate

Portugal

Presented at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, Washington, D.C.

Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, 2010 Laureates

Japan

Presented at the Immigration Museum, Ellis Island, New York Bay

Peter Zumthor, 2009 Laureate

Switzerland

Presented at the Palace of the Buenos Aires City Legislature, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Jean Nouvel, 2008 Laureate

France

Presented at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Richard Rogers, 2007 Laureate

United Kingdom

Presented at the Banqueting House, Whitehall Palace, London, United Kingdom

Paulo Mendes da Rocha, 2006 Laureate

Brazil

Presented at the Dolmabahçe Palace, Istanbul, Turkey

Thom Mayne, 2005 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park, Chicago, Illinois

Zaha Hadid, 2004 Laureate

United Kingdom

Presented at the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia

Jørn Utzon, 2003 Laureate

Denmark

Presented at Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando, Madrid, Spain

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Previous Laureates (continued)

Glenn Murcutt, 2002 Laureate

Australia

Presented at Michelangelo's Campidoglio in Rome, Italy

Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, 2001 Laureates

Switzerland

Presented at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia

Rem Koolhaas, 2000 Laureate

Netherlands

Presented at the Jerusalem Archaeological Park, Israel

Norman Foster, 1999 Laureate

United Kingdom

Presented at the Altes Museum, Berlin, Germany

Renzo Piano, 1998 Laureate

Italy

Presented at the White House, Washington, D.C.

Sverre Fehn, 1997 Laureate

Norway

Presented at the construction site of the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain

Rafael Moneo, 1996 Laureate

Spain

Presented at the construction site of the Getty Center, Los Angeles, California

Tadao Ando, 1995 Laureate

Japan

Presented at the Grand Trianon and the Palace of Versailles, France

Christian de Portzamparc, 1994 Laureate

France

Presented at The Commons, Columbus, Indiana

Fumihiko Maki, 1993 Laureate

Japan

Presented at Prague Castle, Czech Republic

Alvaro Siza, 1992 Laureate

Portugal

Presented at the Harold Washington Library Center, Chicago, Illinois

Robert Venturi, 1991 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at Palacio de Iturbide, Mexico City, Mexico

Aldo Rossi, 1990 Laureate

Italy

Presented at Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy

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Previous Laureates (continued)

Frank O. Gehry, 1989 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at Todai-ji Buddhist Temple, Nara, Japan

Oscar Niemeyer, 1988 Laureate

Brazil

Presented at the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois

Gordon Bunshaft, 1988 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois

Kenzo Tange, 1987 Laureate

Japan

Presented at the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas

Gottfried Böhm, 1986 Laureate

Germany

Presented at Goldsmiths' Hall, London, United Kingdom

Hans Hollein, 1985 Laureate

Austria

Presented at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California

Richard Meier, 1984 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Ieoh Ming Pei, 1983 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York

Kevin Roche, 1982 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois

James Stirling, 1981 Laureate

United Kingdom

Presented at the National Building Museum, Washington, D.C.

Luis Barragán, 1980 Laureate

Mexico

Presented at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C.

Philip Johnson, 1979 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C.

About the Medal



The bronze medallion awarded to each Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize is based on designs of Louis Sullivan, famed Chicago architect generally acknowledged as the father of the skyscraper. On one side is the name of the prize. On the reverse, three words are inscribed, "firmness, commodity and delight." These are the three conditions referred to by Henry Wotton in his 1624 treatise, *The Elements of Architecture*, which was a translation of thoughts originally set down nearly 2000 years ago by Marcus Vitruvius in his Ten Books on Architecture, dedicated to the Roman Emperor Augustus. Wotton, who did the translation when he was England's first ambassador to Venice, used the complete quote as: "The end is to build well. Well-building hath three conditions: commodity, firmness and delight."

2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize Media Kit

History of the Prize

The Pritzker Architecture Prize was established by The Hyatt Foundation in 1979 to annually honor a living architect whose built work demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision, and commitment, which has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture. It has often been described as “architecture’s most prestigious award” or as “the Nobel of architecture.”

The prize takes its name from the Pritzker family, whose international business interests, which include the Hyatt Hotels, are headquartered in Chicago. They have long been known for their support of educational, social welfare, scientific, medical and cultural activities. Jay A. Pritzker, who founded the prize with his wife, Cindy, died on January 23, 1999. His eldest son, Thomas J. Pritzker, has become chairman of The Hyatt Foundation. In 2004, Chicago celebrated the opening of Millennium Park, in which a music pavilion designed by Pritzker Laureate Frank Gehry was dedicated and named for the founder of the prize. It was in the Jay Pritzker Pavilion that the 2005 awarding ceremony took place.

Tom Pritzker explains, “As native Chicagoans, it’s not surprising that we are keenly aware of architecture, living in the birthplace of the skyscraper, a city filled with buildings designed by architectural legends such as Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, and many others.”

He continues, “In 1967, our company acquired an unfinished building which was to become the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. Its soaring atrium was wildly successful and became the signature piece of our hotels around the world. It was immediately apparent that this design had a pronounced effect on the mood of our guests and attitude of our employees. While the architecture of Chicago made us cognizant of the art of architecture, our work with designing and building hotels made us aware of the impact architecture could have on human behavior.”

And he elaborates further, “So in 1978, when the family was approached with the idea of honoring living architects, we were responsive. Mom and Dad (Cindy and the late Jay A. Pritzker) believed that a meaningful prize would encourage and stimulate not only a greater public awareness of buildings, but also would inspire greater creativity within the architectural profession.” He went on to add that he is extremely proud to carry on that effort on behalf of his family.

Many of the procedures and rewards of the Pritzker Prize are modeled after the Nobel Prize. Laureates of the Pritzker Architecture Prize receive a \$100,000 grant, a formal citation certificate, and since 1987, a bronze medal. Prior to that year, a limited edition Henry Moore sculpture was presented to each Laureate.

Nominations are accepted from all nations; from government officials, writers, critics, academicians, fellow architects, architectural societies, or industrialists, virtually anyone who might have an interest in advancing great architecture. The prize is awarded irrespective of nationality, race, creed, gender or ideology.

The nominating procedure is continuous from year to year, closing in November each year. Nominations received after the closing are automatically considered in the following calendar year. The final selection is made by an international jury with all deliberation and voting performed in secret.

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The Evolution of the Jury

The first jury assembled in 1979 consisted of the late J. Carter Brown, then director of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.; the late J. Irwin Miller, then chairman of the executive and finance committee of Cummins Engine Company; Cesar Pelli, architect and at the time, dean of the Yale University School of Architecture; Arata Isozaki, architect from Japan; and the late Kenneth Clark (Lord Clark of Saltwood), noted English author and art historian.

The jury that selected the 2010 laureate comprised the Chairman from England, Lord Palumbo, well-known architectural patron and former chairman of the Arts Council of Great Britain, former chairman of the Tate Gallery Foundation, former trustee of the Mies van der Rohe Archives of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and chairman of the trustees, Serpentine Galleries; Alejandro Aravena, architect and executive director of Elemental, Santiago, Chile; Carlos Jimenez, a principal of Carlos Jimenez Studio and professor at the Rice University School of Architecture in Houston, Texas; Glenn Murcutt, architect and 2002 Pritzker Laureate; Juhani Pallasmaa, architect, professor and author, Helsinki, Finland; Renzo Piano architect and 1998 Pritzker Laureate, of Paris, France and Genoa, Italy; and Karen Stein, writer, editor and architectural consultant in New York, and former editorial director of Phaidon Press.

As the year 2011 began, Renzo Piano and Carlos Jimenez retired from the jury. Another Pritzker Laureate from 2004, Zaha Hadid, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, and Yung Ho Chang, architect and educator of Beijing, The People's Republic of China, were all announced as new jurors.

Others who have served include the late Thomas J. Watson, Jr., former chairman of IBM; the late Giovanni Agnelli, former chairman of Fiat; Toshio Nakamura, former editor of A+U in Japan; and American architects including the late Philip Johnson, Frank Gehry and Kevin Roche; as well as architects Ricardo Legorreta of Mexico, Fumihiko Maki of Japan, and Charles Correa of India, the Lord Rothschild of the UK; Ada Louise Huxtable, author and architecture critic of the Wall Street Journal; Jorge Silvetti, architect and professor of architecture at Harvard University; Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi, architect, planner and professor of architecture from Ahmedabad, India; Shigeru Ban, architect and professor at Keio University, Tokyo, Japan; and Victoria Newhouse, architectural historian and author, founder and director of the Architectural History Foundation, New York, New York; and Rolf Fehlbaum, chairman of the board of Vitra, Basel, Switzerland.

Martha Thorne became the executive director of the prize in 2005. She was associate curator of architecture at the Art Institute of Chicago for ten years. While there, she curated such exhibitions as *The Pritzker Architecture Prize: The First Twenty Years*, as well as *Modern Trains and Splendid Stations and Bilbao: The Transformation of a City*. The author of numerous books and articles on contemporary architecture, she also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Graham Foundation and is currently on the board of the International Archive of Women in Architecture. This past year she was named Associate Dean for External Relations, IE School of Architecture, Madrid, Spain.

Bill Lacy, architect and advisor to the J. Paul Getty Trust and many other foundations, as well as a professor at State University of New York at Purchase, served as executive director of the prize from 1988 through 2005. Previous secretaries to the jury were the late Brendan Gill, who was architecture critic of The New Yorker magazine; and the late Carleton Smith. From the prize's founding until his death in 1986. The late Arthur Drexler, who was the director of the department of architecture and design at The Museum of Modern Art in New York City, was a consultant to the jury for many years.

Pritzker Ceremonies Through the Years

Soon after establishing the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1979, the Pritzker family began a tradition of moving the award ceremonies to architecturally and historically significant venues throughout the world. Befitting a truly international prize, the ceremony has been held in fourteen countries on four continents spanning from North and South America to Europe to the Middle East to Far East Asia.

For the first two years of the Prize, the ceremony was held at historic Dumbarton Oaks in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. where the first Laureate Philip Johnson designed a major addition to the estate. Indeed, for six of its first seven years, the prize was awarded in the District of Columbia. Its fourth year, the ceremony traveled for the first time — to the Art Institute of Chicago — but it wasn't until 1986 that the Pritzker was awarded internationally. That year, the ceremony was held in London.

Since then, the Pritzker Prize ceremony has been held at international venues more often than in the United States. Europe has hosted the ceremony ten times in seven countries, twice each in the United Kingdom, Spain and Italy. The Pritzker ceremony has visited some of the Old World's most beautiful and historic locales, old and new, from the 9th century Prague Castle in the Czech Republic to Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum, opened in 1997.

Beyond Europe and the U.S., the prize has traveled twice each to the Middle East, East Asia and Latin America. Last year the Prize ceremony was held for the first time in China. Coincidentally, Chinese architect Wang Shu was the Laureate and received the award in Beijing's Great Hall of the People. Shu was not the first architect to be so honored in his home country but as ceremony locations are usually chosen each year long before the laureate is selected, there is no direct relationship between the honoree and the ceremony venue.

As architecture is as much art as design, the Pritzker Prize ceremony has been held in numerous museums especially in the United States. New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fort Worth's Kimball Museum and Washington D.C.'s National Gallery of Art have hosted the Pritzker. Libraries too, have been a popular venue choice, including 2013's site: the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. Other examples include the Harold Washington Library in Chicago, the Library of Congress and the Huntington Library, Arts Collections and Botanical Gardens near Los Angeles. The other ceremony held in Los Angeles took place at the Getty Center in 1996, which was designed by Pritzker Laureate Richard Meier. At the time, the museum was only partially completed.

The Prize ceremony often visits newly opened or unfinished buildings. In 2005, the ceremony was held at the new Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Chicago's Millennium Park, which was designed by Laureate Frank Gehry. It was the second Gehry-designed building that hosted the ceremony, the first being the Guggenheim Museum in Spain. Frank Gehry himself was awarded the Prize in 1989 at Todai-ji in Nara, Japan. Along with Monticello in Virginia and the Palace of Versailles in France, this 8th century Buddhist temple is one of three UNESCO World Heritage sites to host the ceremony. Other historically-important venues for the Pritzker include the Jerusalem Archaeological Park. With the ceremony at the foot of the Temple Mount, it was the Pritzker's oldest venue. The Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, comprised of palaces of the Russian czars, hosted the 2004 ceremony that honored the first female winner of the Award, Zaha Hadid. For the Pritzker Prize's first visit to Latin America in 1991, the ceremony was held at the Palace of Iturbide in Mexico City where the first Emperor of Mexico was crowned.

Modern-day heads of state have been among the many dignitaries to attend Pritzker ceremonies. U.S. Presidents Clinton and Obama attended ceremonies in Washington in 1998 and 2011 respectively. The former ceremony was held at the White House. The King of Spain attended the 2003 ceremony at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid. The Prime Minister of Turkey and the President of Czech Republic also each attended ceremonies when held in their respective countries.

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Pritzker Ceremonies Through the Years (continued)

Like the architects it honors, the Pritzker Prize has often bucked convention, holding its ceremonies in unique spaces. In 1994, when French architect Christian de Portzamparc received the prize, the community of Columbus, Indiana was honored. Because of the support of then-Pritzker juror J. Irwin Miller, numerous notable architects designed buildings in the small Midwest city. In 2010 the ceremony was held in the middle of New York Harbor at Ellis Island's Immigration Museum. Eight years before, the ceremony took place on one of the seven traditional hills of Rome in Michaelangelo's monumental Piazza di Campidoglio.

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