

Jay A. Pritzker 1986 Laureate Gottfried Böhm Ceremony Speech

Some years ago, Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe said that, "Science and art belong to the whole world and before them banish the barriers of nationality." Your presence here from so many different countries is symbolic of the various banishing of barriers of nationality and certainly the prize was established as being for the whole world. Our jury has bestowed the prize on architects from Mexico, Austria, Great Britain, the United States and tonight the Federal Republic of Germany. Goethe however said, "Science and art belong to the whole world." I think more than any other profession architecture can lay claim to both of those disciplines.

The late Lord Clark of Saltwood expressed the hope that establishing this prize would focus public attention on what he and Your Highness described as a human endeavor by which our civilization will be judged in the future. Another famous English writer, John Ruskin said, "Architecture is the printing press of all ages and gives a history of the state of society in which it was erected. When we build let us think we build forever."

This magnificent Goldsmith Hall designed by Phillip Hardwicke is testimony to that. It stood here for over a century and a half and the founding guild existed even earlier. I understand by nearly seven more centuries. We thank Goldsmith for their hospitality and we do not overlook the significance of hallmarking only those items up to standard. Instead of leopard's head our mark of excellence tonight is a sculpture by another Englishman, Henry Moore, which is the symbol of the architecture prize. On behalf of my family, I take great pleasure in presenting this to our 1986 Laureate, Gottfried Böhm.

© The Hyatt Foundation / The Pritzker Architecture Prize

For more information, please contact:

Eunice Kim
Director of Communications
The Pritzker Architecture Prize
Tel: +1 240 401 5649
Email: eunicekim@pritzkerprize.com