After meeting on 14th and 15th July, the international Jury of the 2022 European Prize for Urban Public Space has chosen the 5 finalists for this year’s award. The winner will be made public at a prize-giving ceremony that is to be held at the CCCB the 14 and 15 November.

With record figures of participation—326 projects—and a high level of representation—35 countries—the Prize confirms the relevance and great importance of public space in the development of cities, in present and future contexts.

The European Prize for Urban Public Space is a biennial, honorific award which, since 2000, has recognised the best projects of creation, transformation, and recovery of public spaces in European cities.

The Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB), which closed its registration period for the European Prize for Urban Public Space 2022 on 17 May with record numbers of participation and a high level of representation. The international Jury has chosen the 5 finalists for this year’s award, which recognises works carried out between 2018 and 2021. The winner will be made public at a prize-giving ceremony that is to be held at the CCCB the 14 and 15 November.

More specifically, there have been 326 confirmed entries for the eleventh award of the European Prize for Urban Public Space, which is a significant increase in comparison with the two previous awards of 2018 and 2016, for which 279 and 276 works were presented, respectively. The countries that have presented the greatest number of works are Spain, Poland, Italy, France, and Portugal. Moreover, notable among the 35 countries represented—one again, a higher number than in previous awards—are the inclusion, for the first time, of Armenia; the return of Cyprus, Iceland, Georgia, and Latvia; as well as the participation of Ukraine.

After its deliberations at the meeting on 14 and 15 July at the CCCB (Barcelona), the international Jury—with the agricultural engineer and landscape designer Teresa Galí-Izard, who teaches Landscape Architecture at the ETH, Zurich, as its president, and consisting of Hans Ibelings, architecture critic, historian, and editor of The Architecture Observer; Eleni Myrivili, who has a PhD in Anthropology and is an advisor on Resilience and Sustainability in Athens; Andreas Ruby, director of the Swiss Architecture Museum in Basle; Paloma Strelitz, architect, creative director of Patch, and founder of Assemble, London; and Spela Videčnik, architect and founding member of the architects’ studio OFIS in Ljubljana; with the support of Lluís Ortega, architect, lecturer at the UPC, and Secretary of the Prize—has decided to select the following works:
Catharijnesingel, 2020. Utrecht, Netherlands. OKRA landschapsarchitect
The restoration of the Catharijnesingel removes vehicular traffic that occupied this street and brings back water to rewild a new public space for the city and make it accessible for cyclists and pedestrians. This project is an excellent example of revitalising the qualities of the city by means of recovering water and its biodiversity. Inspired by the environment, all the elements, including trees, vegetation, paving materials, and street furniture have been meticulously selected and envisage how nature will evolve in future. It introduces a new, natural, and healthy microclimate that will play an important role in the present situation of global climate crisis.

POOL IS COOL, Decoratelier Jozef Wouters
Flow, designed and built with the participation of fifty young people, is the first open-air swimming pool to be constructed in Brussels in forty years. This project introduces a temporary structure that establishes a rich meeting place for enjoying fresh air and water. As a simple, economical, modular system that can easily be built by many hands, it presents a good example of how everyone can participate in creating an active, healthy public space.

Brendeland & Kristoffersen architects, Price & Myers
Lund Cathedral decided to use its properties to develop a public space that would be an alternative to the logic of rapid urbanisation in its surroundings. A courtyard, closed on three sides by walls made of bricks recovered from a demolished factory building, is set in still-undeveloped land on the outskirts of Lund. The owner of the land has decided not to keep pace with the urbanising development of the area, but to let it follow its own course open to the citizens. The courtyard is a first intervention, an anticipation of a gradual evolution of the place: an hortus inconclusus.

Joan Busquets, Pieter-Jan Versluys, BAU
The project for Saint Sernin Square in Toulouse restores eminence to the historic urban fabric of the city. The cars that occupied its surface have been removed, and lost trees are reinstated as organisers of the public space. The simplicity of the proposal, its use of materials, and recognition of the heritage of the site have become the project’s mechanisms for reactivating a new, once-jeopardised public space and regaining its vertical dimension and establishing an area that can accommodate a range of public uses.

Artlērijas dārzi
The urban community garden “Sporta pils dārzi” is the result of a popular initiative to recover an abandoned lot and becomes a new typology of public space. The project consists of a system of seedling distributions and interstitial spaces that will be occupied during events and encounters. The resulting project is a new system, a model of urban space that incorporates productive, cultural and social logics and integrates emerging natural elements as part of the community space.
Selected works

Among the works submitted, the jury has selected 20 projects that will become part of the Archive of the European Prize for Urban Public Space.

Shkodër, Albania
casanova + hernandez architects
This project restores for pedestrians the waterfront of Lake Shkodra, in the first phase of an ambitious plan for rewilding and encouraging new appreciation of this lakeshore area.

Anna Gardens in the Fuzja development, 2021.
Lodz, Poland
Medusa Group
This project recovers space resulting from the demolition of disused elements of an industrial site in order to favour refurbishment of others of great architectural value.

Warsaw, Poland
Aleksandra Wasilkowska
This project allows more than 500 small businesspeople of over 20 nationalities to consolidate their activity and avert their disappearance, by means of a design that enhances spatial organisation and strengthens the area’s character as a marketplace.

Paris, France
Osty et Associés
A new park in a neighbourhood that has grown around an old railway station platform brings new life to the public sphere through an exemplary deployment of several ecosystems, use of water, and a range of facilities for activities and sports.

Cycling and pedestrian connection path, 2018.
Esplugues de Llobregat, Spain
Batlleiroig
The new cycling and pedestrian connection, together with a landscape project, rewild the space around infrastructure and, eliminating a barrier that has been present for the last 60 years, equip a new space for meeting and association.

Exchanging Rooms, 2021.
Olot, Spain
unparell’arquitectes
This project brings new life to the urban fabric by means of an intervention that creates a civic space of a playful nature, with a touch of theatre.
Girona’s Shores, 2021.
Girona, Spain
Marti Franch Batlrori
A series of projects and initiatives recover, develop, and manage Girona’s neglected peri-urban spaces, to transform them into green infrastructure.

Gare Maritime, 2020.
Brussels, Belgium
Neutelings Riedijk Architects, J. de Moffarts, OMGEVING, Sweco | Boydens engineering, Ney & Partners WOW, Bureau Bouwtechniek
This restoration of the Maritime Station reopens it to the public with a series of wooden pavilions and multiuse spaces organised as an interior city.

Fahle Gallery Street, 2021.
Tallinn, Estonia
Kino maastikuarhitektid
The project of recovery of a space between factories as a new covered passageway for breathing new life into an abandoned industrial zone.

Cràter, 2021.
Ljubljana, Slovenia
J. Buscarino, Rok, Agrodivizija, Abandoned Plants Sanctuary, Društvo za permakulturo Slovenije, Trajna, Prostoroz
This project, a model for the temporary reuse of an abandoned site of 4,000m², becomes an urban laboratory for coexistence with nature.

Hot thermal fountains in Baden and Ennetbaden, 2021.
Baden, Switzerland
Bagri Popolari Association
Two natural springs are turned into facilities for recovering a thermal baths area as public space in the city.

Ljubljana, Slovenia
Nina Granda, Matevz Granda
A small urban kiosk, designed by Jože Plečnik is recovered as an appealing space and stimulus for self-organised public programmes.

Local Activity Center, 2019.
Rybnik, Poland
Marlena Wolnik MWArchitekci
This space, which activates and gives visibility to the surrounding community, which mostly consists of single-family homes, provides support for many activities, and also equips a zone that is eligible for community takeover.

Reconstruction of Koliivschyny square, 2021.
Lviv, Ukraine
Oleksandr Hutsuliak, Anastasia Hapanovych, Olha Kryvoruchko
The restoration of this square has produced both a space for memory and an everyday meeting place.
Sallent de Llobregat, Spain
S. Sangalli Borrego, E. Llargués Asensio, R. García Llidó, A. Alcázar Del Águila
Rewilding an industrial zone in Sallent recovers the river and its relationship with the town.

Ruskin Square, 2018.
London, United Kingdom
muf architecture/art
This project reflects the challenges and opportunities of public space by integrating programmatic and landscaping needs, as well as showing an ability to serve the social diversity of the place.

Spoorpark Tilburg, 2019.
Tilburg, Tilburg, Netherlands
KruitKok, Blom&Moors, Timmermans Architecture
A new urban park resulting from interaction between the community of Tilburg and a multidisciplinary team becomes an example of civic participation in defining a large-scale public space.

substandardPLUS, 2019.
Bucharest, Romania
Atelier Ad Hoc Arhitectura
This project is a support facility for homeless people, with mechanisms that will avoid segregation by negotiating between the street and the space of reception and shelter.

Paris, France
ChartierDalix, D&H Paysages
The new area shows the potential of any quality public space project for providing a meeting place by constructing a new urban landscape.

Zurich, Switzerland
mavo Landschaften
This transformation of an industrial area into a residential complex constructs a network of passages and interior gardens that extend the biodiversity of the zone and reduce the impact of urban heat.

The winner of the eleventh award of the European Prize for Urban Public Space will be made public at a prize-giving ceremony that is to be held at the CCCB the 14 and 15 November. The 25 selected works will be published in the online Archive, which brings together the best projects presented for the Prize since it was first awarded in 2000.
Advisory Committee

The European Prize for Urban Public Space is an initiative of the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB), with the collaboration of the following European institutions:

- Arc en Rêve, Bordeaux, France
- Architekturzentrum Wien – AzW, Vienna, Austria
- ArkDes, Stockholm, Sweden
- La Cité de l’Architecture et du Patrimoine, Paris, France
- CIVA, Brussels, Belgium
- Deutsches Architekturmuseum – DAM, Frankfurt, Germany
- Eesti Arhitektuurimuuseum, Tallin, Estonia
- Kortárs Építészeti Központ – Kék, Budapest, Hungary
- Muzej za Arhitekturo in Oblikovanje – MAO, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- The Architecture Foundation – AF, London, United Kingdom

The history of a Prize of European and social vocation

The European Prize for Urban Public Space has a natural home in the European city which, despite its diverse nature, has some shared historic attributes, including a human scale, a compact design, and the mixed character of its uses. In this idea of the European city, public space plays a key role as a collective meeting place imbued with political, economic, and social values that are inseparable from a physical design that accommodates them and makes them possible.

In the 23 years of its history, and eleven awards, the Prize has received 2,532 entries and has so far awarded 19 prizes and 35 Special Mentions.

The Archive of the European Prize for Urban Public Space, an online resource, brings together the best works presented for the award since its inception. With more than three hundred experiences from nearly 200 cities, it is a witness to, and permanent observatory of the construction and evolution of public spaces throughout Europe.
The Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona (CCCB)

The CCCB is a multidisciplinary cultural centre that is devoted to exploring the major issues of contemporary society through different languages and formats, with a wide-ranging programme that includes large thematic exhibitions, lecture cycles, literary encounters, audiovisual screenings, and festivals. Since its very beginnings, the CCCB has fostered reflection on contemporary cities, understanding them as a privileged space of the transformations and challenges of the world today.

The press release and high-resolution images from the Prize may be found at:

>>>>> Link to the press release>>>>>
www.publicspace.org

For further information, reportages and interviews please contact with:

Marta Poch (+34) 656 439 656 · marta@martapoch.com
Mària Suárez (+34) 675 337 268 · maria@martapoch.com

Press Service of the CCCB - Mònica Muñoz-Castanyer
(+34) 933 064 123 · (+34) 606 449 921 · premsa@cccb.org · www.cccb.org