

International VELUX Award 2012 for students of architecture

Scope

Daylight in architecture is an ever relevant topic. Daylight has been used for centuries as the primary source of light for the interior and architects have always been interested in – and fascinated by – daylight; yet daylighting can be a difficult discipline to approach, understand and master.

Today buildings are major energy consumers and strategies for reducing energy use and carbon emissions are called for, such as using sunlight as a source of energy and light. A key challenge is here: how to transform the existing building stock – not only in dense city context – but also in the suburban residential areas. And energy strategies should always include specific focus on the health and wellbeing of people who work and live in buildings.

The award

The International VELUX Award 2012 for Students of Architecture wants to encourage and challenge students of architecture to explore the theme of daylight in its widest sense – and to create a deeper understanding of this specific and ever-relevant source of energy and light. "Light of Tomorrow" is the overall theme of the International VELUX Award. The award seeks to challenge the future of daylight in the built environment with an open-minded and experimental approach. Therefore, the award seeks to widen the boundaries of daylight in architecture, including aesthetics, functionality, sustainability, and the interaction between buildings and environment.

The award is not restricted to the use of VELUX products. Projects can, however, challenge the use of VELUX products in a sustainable future – within the scope of the award.

The award celebrates and promotes excellence in completed study works. These works can be made as works complying with the prize scope of rethinking the values of conscious daylighting design – including any scale from a small component to large urban context – with focus on people's living or working environment.

The award encourages projects that celebrate the privilege of being a student; with curiosity and with the willingness to take a risk and thinking 'out of the box' – as well as considering the social, sociological and environmental dimension of light.

The award wants to acknowledge not only the students, but their teachers as well. Therefore, the teachers of the projects are awarded parallel to the students. The award, given every second year since 2004, is organised in co-operation with UIA, International Union of Architects, and EAAE, European Association for Architectural Education.

Themes

The award contains no specific categories, but entries may focus on:

- Concepts with focus on sunlight as a natural source of light and energy
- The contribution of daylight to high visual quality and interior comfort that support people's lives and living conditions
- The rethinking of daylight in urban or suburban living context
- The importance of sunlight and daylight for sustainable architecture that takes into account the rhythm and balance of nature
- Abstract concepts like daylight vs. artificial light, day vs. night, in vs. out, etc.

Criteria

The jury will evaluate the projects in accordance with the following criteria:

- How the project addresses the future
- The level of experimentation and innovation
- How technology is being approached
- The level of poetry, human conditions and an architecture that we want to believe in
- The use of daylight as a premise for architecture
- The overall graphic presentation of the project, how the project presents itself.

The jury

All award entries are reviewed by an international jury and their election of the winners is based upon the above criteria. The 2012 jury consists of:

- Alvaro Siza, Portugal
- Brigitte Shim, Canada
- Francis Kéré, Burkina Faso/Germany
- Peter Stutchbury, Australia
- Per Arnold Andersen, Denmark

See more on velux.com/iva. Here you will also find information about the jury members from 2010, 2008, 2006 and 2004.

Who can participate?

The award is open to any registered student of architecture – individual or team – all over the world. We encourage multi-disciplinary teams including e.g. engineering, design and landscaping. Every student or student team must be backed and granted submission by a teacher from a school of architecture. The award welcomes projects from individuals or groups of students, who are students during the study year 2011/12. Submitted projects have to be prepared during the study year 2010/11 or 2011/12. There is no limit to the number of entries from each school, but participating schools should ensure the quality of submitted study projects, e.g. by making a pre-judgement. VELUX employees cannot participate.

Schedule

1 October 2011:	Registration opens
1 March 2012:	Registration closes
2 April 2012:	Deadline for questions
7 May 2012:	Submission deadline; project upload
June 2012:	Jury meeting – evaluation of all submitted projects
October 2012:	Award ceremony, official announcement of winners and web exhibition of all submitted projects. Yearbook is published.

Registration

Only students who have registered for the award before 1 March 2012 can participate. To register, go to velux.com/iva and follow the instructions.

Anonymity

To ensure anonymity, no names of entrants, teachers, schools or countries are allowed on any part of the submitted material. The registration and submission system of the International VELUX Award has been constructed to ensure 100 per cent anonymity all the way through the process from registration to after the jury meeting.

Submission

You submit your project on the award website at velux.com/iva using the IVA account that you created when you registered. Deadline for submission is 7 May 2012. Your project can only be delivered digitally and only by the person who has registered. The jury evaluation is performed online and you have to take this into account when you create your project presentation. You have to submit one image file, which depicts your project. In addition you have to submit a text description of your project, no longer than 800 words in English. Previous projects fulfilling the requirements are shown on velux.com/iva.

Specifications

The project image:

The jury will evaluate all projects on screen. You need to deliver a JPG bitmap image without any vector graphics (text or line work) and without clipping paths and layers. To view full specifications click [here](#). When preparing your project presentation you should take into account that the project image is viewed and evaluated on a 30" monitor with a resolution of 2,560 x 1,440 pixels. You need to make sure that your image is viewable and that the text is legible in this resolution even if you submit a higher resolution (9,600 x 5,400 pixels). This is especially important for small text objects (less than 10 pt.). To see how you ensure the legibility of text objects click [here](#). The high resolution is needed for printing the projects after the jury evaluation. When we receive your project image we generate a 2,560 x 1,440 pixels version that you can view on your IVA account. If you after submission wish to upload a new image you can do so within 48 hours – but only before the submission deadline 7 May.

The project description:

You have to insert your project description directly into your IVA account, using a standard browser. The description must not contain images, logos or graphics. You can format the text with plain, bold or italic. The maximum number of words is 800. The description has to be in English using only standard ASCII characters.

Prizes

The total prize money is 30,000 €. The jury will award a number of prize winners and honourable mentions. 1st prize will be minimum 8,000 € for the student(s) and 2,000 € for the teacher(s). 2nd prize will be minimum 4,000 € for the student(s) and 1,000 € for the teachers(s).

Up to 10 projects in total will be shortlisted for honourable mention and an award trophy. The jury may award special prizes for categories or themes.

Award ceremony

The winners of the International VELUX Award 2012 for Students of Architecture will be announced and celebrated at an award ceremony in October 2012. The prize winners and one team member from the honourable mentions and the special prizes will be invited to the ceremony where prizes and trophies will be presented.

Exhibition

All winning projects will be exhibited at the award ceremony. All submitted projects will be displayed online at velux.com/iva after the award ceremony.

Further information and questions

For further information on the International VELUX Award 2012 for Students of Architecture or on the VELUX Group, please visit velux.com/iva. Questions about the award can be submitted on velux.com/iva until 2 April 2012. Answers to questions will be thematised and published under FAQ on velux.com/iva from 16 April 2012.

Public announcement

Communication on and photos and films of winners, winning projects and honourable mentions will be released to architectural magazines, newspapers, web-pages and other relevant media after the award ceremony. The winning projects will be published after the award ceremony. Photos of the winning projects will be published by UIA. All awarded and mentioned projects will be included in a yearbook produced in collaboration with a leading publisher. By entering the International VELUX Award, the participants accept that UIA, EAAE and the organiser – the VELUX Group – may publish and disseminate the submitted projects and photos of the participants in analogue and digital form. The authors of all submissions shall retain the copyright of their proposals.