



Bauen mit Backstein

Presseinformation

September 2023

Erich Mendelsohn Award 2023 for Brick Architecture

THE FUTURE OF BRICK ARCHITECTURE

Berlin. It's decided: On September 8, 2023, the Initiative Bauen mit Backstein announced this year's winners of the Erich Mendelsohn Award for Brick Architecture at the official award ceremony in Berlin. The jury particularly focused on two areas in its evaluation: social housing and renovation. The Clos Pachem Winery by the Catalan office HARQUITECTES convinced the panel with its pioneering approach of interweaving aesthetic and technical elements, and was accordingly honored with the highest award, the Grand Prix.

The material brick has accompanied mankind for thousands of years. Almost every region around the globe has developed its own brick tradition over time. Repeatedly, there have been innovative approaches that have turned this traditional material into the building material of the future. Behind all these turning points are people with bold ideas. For instance, our conception of modernism would undoubtedly be different without the influential buildings of Erich Mendelsohn. The question of how we want to build in the future is now considered under different premises, but it is still the creative ideas of architects that provide answers and break new ground.

The Erich Mendelsohn Award for Brick Architecture is looking for exactly those architectural offices that are part of this tradition of innovation. It recognizes projects that use the properties of brick to create ecologically and aesthetically sustainable buildings. This year's sixth call for entries for the award attracted 584 project submissions from more than 30 countries. The internationally renowned jury led by previous Grand Prix winners Fabrizio Barozzi and Andrés Solíz, which met in Berlin in June, selected the best works from all submissions. 76 projects made it onto the shortlist in the main categories, ten in the Newcomer category. From this shortlist, the final winners were selected, who can now look forward to receiving an award.

Grand Prix winner HARQUITECTES is no new face at the Award for Brick Architecture. With their distinctive style of exposed brick walls in the interior, the architects from Barcelona had already impressed the juries during the three preliminary rounds. The technically and aesthetically convincing, careful renovation of the Clos Pachem Winery now earns the office its first Grand Prix. Engaging with the existing buildings and materials on site is one of two focal points that the jury has set not only for the Grand Prix, but for all categories. In addition, the second major issue in architecture is that of affordable housing for all. Against this backdrop, the jury presented three gold awards in the



housing category for the first time: Three outstanding examples in three major European cities demonstrate in exceptional fashion how brick creates living spaces with meaning and character.

From the Grand Prix to the newcomer project, it is evident across all categories: Thanks to its tradition and longevity, brick is a material that can tell stories – and at the same time is capable of meeting the challenges of the future.

Winner Grand Prix | Clos Pachem Winery, HARQUITECTES

At Clos Pachem Winery, an exceptionally inspiring architecture has been created thanks to the brick's innate qualities as a building material. Its innovative use has resulted in a renovation project that blends aesthetically with its historical context while meeting the winery's high technical requirements. The brick walls with cavities for air circulation as well as the irrigation system of the green roofs ensure an optimal indoor climate. Thus, the building itself becomes part of the biodynamic wine production.

Winner Gold | Office and Commercial Buildings | Jojutla Central Gardens, Estudio MMX

The redesign of Jojutla Central Gardens bridges the gap between yesterday and today: an area formerly destroyed by earthquakes has been revitalized and made into a place of community and identification through traditional as well as newly interpreted architecture. Designed with distinctive brick arches, the location is an expression of regional craftsmanship and provides a place for citizens to meet, while leaving enough space for plant and animal life.

Winner Gold | Detached House/Semi-Detached House | Blockmakers Arms, Erbar Mattes

At the former Blockmakers Arms pub, past and present enter into a contemporary and equally forward-looking symbiosis. The new additions are constructed of handmade gray-brown brick and complement the weathered 19th-century brickwork without competing with the building's pre-existing ornate façade. The utilitarian staircase on the rear façade is replaced by a loggia with load-bearing masonry columns that convey a sense of permanence and solidity that draws heavily on the original brick volume.

Winner Gold | Residential Building/Apartment Complex | Social Atrium, PERIS+TORAL ARQUITECTES

The SOCIAL ATRIUM does not only create an innovative connection to the former development on this site with its row houses that have since fallen into disrepair. New places for community, such as the central bioclimatic atrium, as well as an extraordinary redensification of urban space also characterize this project.

Winner Gold | Residential Building/Apartment Complex | Quartier Heidestrasse Core, ROBERTNEUN Architekten GmbH

A revival with playful details: Where railroad and infrastructure buildings once stood, the Heidestrasse Core quarter in the west of Europacity is now ushering in a paradigm shift. The result is a visionary mix of work and residential typologies.



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Winner Gold | Residential Building/Apartment Complex | «Gleisribüne» Wohn- und Geschäftshäuser, Esch Sintzel GmbH, Architekten ETH BSA SIA

How the fallow edge of track fields can be transformed into attractive living space is impressively demonstrated at Zurich's main train station. The "Gleisribüne" thereby reimagines and re-centers this formerly neglected area.

Winner Gold | Renovation | Theater at Domain De Hoge Rielen, dmva

Once a military landscape, now a house of culture: in the Theater at Domain De Hoge Rielen, the brick preserves the building's past while adding a new chapter to its history.

Winner Gold | Newcomer | Luise 19E, undjurekbüggen

Luise 19E was actually to be demolished. But with the brick recovered from the demolition, a new house has been created in a participatory process - true to the motto: by the community, for the community.

About the Erich Mendelsohn Award for Brick Architecture

The competition, first held in 2008 under the name Fritz Höger Award for Brick Architecture, takes place every three years and has been supported in partnership by the Bund Deutscher Architektinnen und Architekten BDA since 2011. Since 2022, it has been operating under the name Erich Mendelsohn Award for Brick Architecture. The great importance of the award in the world of architecture is underscored not least by the renowned names of the winning offices in past iterations. Grand Prix projects include the Siza Pavilion on Hombroich Island (2014) and the Bremer Landesbank, penned by Caruso St John Architects (2017). Two Grand Prix winners were selected for the first time in 2020: the Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts in Lausanne by Barozzi Veiga and the Nakasone House in Mexico City by Escobedo Soliz.

Award Structure

This year, one Grand Prix project and 17 other works received the Erich Mendelsohn Award for Brick Architecture in gold, silver and bronze. In addition, 15 selected projects received the Special Mention award. In this way, the jury recognizes exemplary details that stand out in a special way.

The Jury 2023

The independent jury of the Erich Mendelsohn Prize 2023 for Brick Architecture was composed of the following five architectural experts: Fabrizio Barozzi (Winner Grand Prix 2020), Ulrich Brinkmann (editor of the architecture magazine Bauwelt), Silvia Schellenberg-Thaut (Atelier ST), Andrés Solíz Paz (Winner Grand Prix 2020) and Susanne Wartzeck (President of the Bund Deutscher Architektinnen und Architekten BDA).

The three-member Newcomer Jury consisted of: Franziska Käuferle (Winner Newcomer Award 2020), Benedikt Hotze (Press Officer Bund Deutscher Architektinnen und Architekten BDA), and Dr. Fabian Peters (Editor-in-Chief of the architecture magazine Baumeister).



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Caption: Clos Pacher Winery, HARQUITECTES, Winner Grand Prix at the Erich Mendelsohn Award 2023 for Brick Architecture
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Caption: Jojutla Central Gardens, Estudio MMX, Winner Gold Office and Commercial Buildings at the Erich Mendelsohn Award 2023 for Brick Architecture
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Caption: Blockmakers Arms, Erbar Mattes, Winner Gold
Detached House/Semi-Detached House at the Erich Mendelsohn
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Caption: Social Atrium, PERIS+TORAL ARQUITECTES, Winner Gold
Residential Building/Apartment Complex at the Erich Mendelsohn
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Caption: Quartier Heidestrasse Core, ROBERTNEUN Architekten GmbH, Winner Gold Residential Building/Apartment Complex at the Erich Mendelsohn Award 2023 for Brick Architecture
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Caption: «Gleisribüne» Wohn- und Geschäftshäuser, Esch Sintzel GmbH, Architekten ETH BSA SIA, Winner Gold Residential Building/Apartment Complex at the Erich Mendelsohn Award 2023 for Brick Architecture
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Caption: Theater at Domain De Hoge Rielen, dmva, Winner Gold
Renovation at the Erich Mendelsohn Award 2023 for Brick Architecture
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Caption: Luise 19E, undjurekbüggen, Winner Gold Newcomer
at the Erich Mendelsohn Award 2023 for Brick Architecture
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