

Press Release

Dornbirn, 19 October 2017

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Zumtobel Group presents its international architecture award **Zumtobel Group Award 2017: The winners have been decided**

- **Fifth edition of this established architectural award**
- **Winners come from the U.S., Netherlands, Italy and China**
- **Special award sends signal to younger generation**
- **Award carries a purse of EUR 165,000**

Dornbirn, Austria – In what is the fifth edition of the Zumtobel Group Award – Innovations for Sustainability and Humanity in the Built Environment, in 2017 the international expert jury awarded first prizes to the projects submitted by **Michael Maltzan Architecture, UNStudio, Arturo Vittori** and **TeamMinus**. The Zumtobel Group had invited entries in three categories, Buildings, Urban Developments & Initiatives and Applied Innovations. This year there is also a special award for Young Professionals. The international architectural award, curated once again by Aedes Architecture Forum Berlin, honours contemporary realised or conceptual works that make a significant contribution to greater humanity and sustainability in the built environment and its design.

“The Zumtobel Group Award emphasizes the importance of architecture for human beings. Architecture determines how people feel in the built and urban space and how they live there. The Zumtobel Group Award addresses this topic and, just like our lighting solutions, places people in the centre of the living environment,” said **Karin Zumtobel, Head of Arts & Culture Zumtobel Group**.

A total of 347 projects from 48 countries on five continents were submitted for this year’s award. A first-line jury reviewed the entries and submitted a smaller number to the main jury comprising leading figures from around the world of architecture, as well as experts in the new technologies. The jury then selected five projects per category as nominees and chose a winner from among them in each category.

Along with the three main categories, this year the jury was also tasked with nominating five Young Professionals. Projects qualified for this special award if the persons submitting them were under 40 years of age on 15 January 2017. Here too, the jury chose a winner from among the nominees.

“We have a wide spread of contributions for this prize from all over the world and there is no difference between one country and the other. These are people who are truly dedicated to what they are doing and they do it in such a fabulous, non-egoistic manner, with the aim of trying to create better lives for many other people,” said **Jury Chairman Kjetil Trædal Thorsen from Snøhetta Architects**.

The first prize in each of the three categories carries a purse of EUR 50,000. An additional purse of EUR 15,000 will be distributed for the Young Professional. This raises the total purse from EUR 150,000 to EUR 165,000.

Award in the Buildings category

First prize in the Buildings category goes to **Michael Maltzan Architecture**, USA for the Star Apartments project in Los Angeles in which an existing single-floor commercial building was converted into a 95,000 square foot supportive housing facility within Los Angeles' downtown core. Expanded to six storeys, the building provides 102 homes and support services for previously homeless individuals. *"Star Apartments has set a new standard for architecture within the field of social housing, social and environmental sustainability, as well as community and bottom-up processes,"* wrote the jury in its statement.

Award in the Urban Developments & Initiatives category

In the Urban Developments and Initiatives category, the award goes to **UNStudio**, Ben van Berkel and Caroline Bos, in the Netherlands for their master plan for Arnhem Central Station as a new mass transit and mainline rail hub designed for mixed use and to integrate public space. *"The impressive and unbending determination of Ben van Berkel and UNStudio to see Arnhem Central Station through a series of significant challenges all the way to completion is exemplary. The project demonstrates the necessity of continuous involvement and engagement for sustainable solutions,"* stated the jury.

Award in the Applied Innovations category

First prize in the Applied Innovations category is awarded to Italian architect Arturo Vittori. Vittori impressed the jury with his Warka Water project which provides an alternative water source in the Dorso / Omo Valley region of Ethiopia. The project offers a potential solution to inadequate access to clean and secure water resources in rural regions of Africa. *"The strong innovative aspect of the Warka Water project lies in its independent use of archaic knowledge combined with deep understanding of needs and context. To achieve simple and functional solutions for comprehensive problems takes time and intense research,"* the jury said.

Special award for Young Professionals

In what is the first edition of this special award for Young Professionals, the winner is Atelier TeamMinus for their Jianamani Visitor Center in Yushu, China. This modern visitor centre in Yushu engages closely with its historical Tibetan context by forging explicit links with the ancient local site intrinsic to Tibetan Buddhism. *"The Jianamani Visitor Center awakes hope for the future of architecture, defending the position that experimentation is not contradictory to contextual solutions,"* stated the jury.

You can find video statements from the winners here: www.zumtobel-group-award.com/videos.html

The jury of the Zumtobel Group Award 2017

The 2017 jury comprised Klaus Daniels, HL-Technik Engineering GmbH; Elke Delugan-Meissl, Delugan Meissl Associated Architects, Elizabeth Diller, Architect Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Elgar Fleisch, Professor of Information Management, Holger Hagge, Architect & Management Expert, Zhang Ke, Architect ZAO/standardarchitecture, Ulrich Schumacher, CEO Zumtobel Group and Kjetil Trædal Thorsen of Snøhetta Architects.

You can find video statements from the jury here: www.zumtobel-group-award.com/videos.html

Full descriptions of the projects and photographs of the winning entries can be found in the downloadable press kit. www.zumtobel-group-award.com/press.html

Congratulations to the Honourable Mentions

Nominated in the category Buildings and awarded with a honourable mention by the jury are the following projects in alphabetical order: „Farming Kindergarten“ by **Vo Trong Nghia Architects**, Vietnam; „Jianamani Visitor Center“ by **Atelier TeamMinus**, China; „La Maison du Savoir“ by

Baumschlager Eberle Architekten, Austria and „Transformation of 530 Dwellings“ by **Anne Lacaton & Jean-Philippe Vassal with Frédéric Druot and Christophe Hutin architects**, France.

In **Urban Developments & Initiatives**, the jury congratulates the following projects on a honourable mention, in alphabetical order: „Empower Shack“ by **Urban-Think Tank, ETH Zurich**, Switzerland; „Recovery of the Irrigation System at the Thermal Orchards“ by **Cíclica [space-community ecology]**, Spain; „Sydney Park Water Re-use Project“ by **Turf Design Studio**, Australia and „Urban Rigger“ by **Kim Loudrup and Bjarke Ingels**, Denmark.

In the category **Applied Innovations** are awarded with a honourable mention, in alphabetical order: „3for2 Beyond Efficiency“ by **Architecture and Building Systems Research Group, ETH Zurich**, Switzerland; „Hy-Fi“ by **The Living - David Benjamin**, USA; „Mine the Scrap“ by **Certain Measures**, Germany and „From Solar Trees to Active Glass Facades“ by **Opvius GmbH**, Germany.

In addition to the awarding of the first prize, the jury spoke out in favour of the following honourable mentions among the **Young Professionals**, in alphabetical order: „3for2 Beyond Efficiency“ by **Architecture and Building Systems Research Group, ETH Zurich**, Switzerland; „Mine the Scrap“ by **Certain Measures**, Germany; „Nest We Grow – House of Food, for Food“ by **LIXIL International Student Architectural Competition**, Japan, USA and „Salpi Industrial Factory“ by **Enzo Eusebi + Partners**, Italy.

Full descriptions of the projects and photographs of the honourable mentions can be found here: www.zumtobel-group-award.com/nominees.html

Curated by Aedes

The Zumtobel Group Award 2017 was held under the curatorship of **Dr. h.c. Kristin Feireiss** and **Hans-Jürgen Commerell** of **Aedes Architecture Forum** in Berlin, who have stewarded the architectural award over the past ten years, ever since it was first created.

“In the space of ten years the Zumtobel Group Award has become an established international competition. The Award puts the spotlight on the challenges posed by the design and development of current and future built environments, but that is not all. Because over the years we have continuously adapted the parameters of the Award to the ever-expanding technological possibilities and increasingly digitised processes, enabling the resultant social interactions to be taken into account as the winners are selected,” said the curators **Dr. h.c. Kristin Feireiss** and **Hans-Jürgen Commerell** from **Aedes Architecture Forum, Berlin**.

Images of the winners and the jury of the Zumtobel Group Award 2017:



Left: Winner of the Buildings category: Michael Maltzan Architecture with “Star Apartments”.
Right: Winner Urban Developments & Initiatives category: UNStudio with “Arnheim Central Station”.



Left: Winner of the Applied Innovations category: Arturo Vittori with “Warka Water”.
Right: Special award for Young Professionals: Atelier TeamMinus for “Jianamani Visitor Center”.



The jury, from left to right: Zhang Ke, Elgar Fleisch, Elizabeth Diller, Ulrich Schumacher, Elke-Delugan Meissl, Kjetil Trædal Thorsen, Klaus Daniels and Holger Hagge.

The Zumtobel Group Award 2017 at a glance

Call for submissions

Submissions were invited from 30 September 2016 to 15 January 2017.

Initiator

The Zumtobel Group with the Thorn, Tridonic and Zumtobel brands
www.zumtobelgroup.com

Curators

Dr. h.c. Kristin Feireiss and Hans-Jürgen Commerell, Aedes Architecture Forum, Berlin
www.aedes-arc.de

Purse

The total purse for the Zumtobel Group Award 2017 amounts to EUR 150,000.
The special award for Young Professionals carries an additional purse of EUR 15,000.

Overview: Zumtobel Group Award Winners from 2007 to 2014

Detailed press releases and high resolution images can be downloaded from:
www.zumtobel-group-award.com

Information

The press release and the press kit with high-resolution images can be downloaded at:
www.zumtobel-group-award.com/press.html

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About the Zumtobel Group:

The Zumtobel Group is an international lighting group and a leading player in the field of innovative lighting solutions and components. With its internationally established brands, Thorn, Tridonic and Zumtobel, and its acdc and Reiss brands, as well as the Zumtobel Group Services brand the Group offers its customers around the world a comprehensive range of products and services. In the lighting business the Group with its Thorn, Zumtobel and acdc brands is the European market leader. The Reiss brand supplies OEMs with luminaires with a higher degree of protection. Through its lighting components brand, Tridonic, the Group plays a leading role worldwide in the manufacture of hardware and software for lighting systems (LED light sources and LED drivers, sensors and lighting management). The Zumtobel Group Services (ZGS) brand offers a wide range of services including consultation on smart lighting controls and emergency lighting systems, light contracting, design services and project management of turnkey lighting solutions, as well as new, data-based services. The Group is listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange (ATX) and on the balance sheet date (April 30, 2017) employed a workforce of 6,562 employees. In the 2016/17 financial year, the Group posted revenues of EUR 1,303.9 million. The Zumtobel Group is based in Dornbirn in the Vorarlberg region of Austria. For further information, please visit www.zumtobelgroup.com/en

About the Aedes Architecture Forum:

The Aedes Architecture Forum is a world-renown independent institution and exhibition space for the international communication of contemporary architecture and urban design. Established in 1980 as the first private architecture gallery in Europe, the Aedes Architecture Forum has gained a large international partnership network, which feeds to an outstanding cultural platform for the global and public discourse of the built environment. Founded by Kristin Feireiss and Helga Retzer († 1984), Aedes is co-directed by Hans-Jürgen Commerell since 1994. As one of its kind Aedes served as a prototypical model for many architecture-museums and similar institutions established later. www.aedes-arc.de