

Intro

The selection of a winner of the Premio FAD Internacional was an exciting but by no means an easy task, especially without any possibility for the jury to actually visit the buildings of the final selection and compare the built reality to the impression conveyed by plans and photographs, and actually have the direct impression of the space, light and materials.

Secondly, the projects proved difficult to compare because of the difference in their scope. Is the prize about an outstanding artwork? Or about social and spatial relevance? Or do we acknowledge the virtuosity in resolving a programme with complex restrictions? The final selection turns out to depend on the criteria applied by the jury.

Award

12 Córdoba reurbano, Ciudad de Mexico
Cadaval & Solà-Morales

The jury decided to award the Córdoba Reurbano project in Mexico City by Cadaval y Solá Morales.

This project is a courageous but keen transformation of a historic building complex in the centre of Mexico City into a three-dimensional landscape of urban living. While the body of the building was respectfully refurbished and extended by an almost similar construction, the vertical additions are a light construction with a roof-like appearance on the street-side. They allow for double-height rooms with open stairs, leading to the terraces on the top.

The jury has been convinced by the professionalism to the point of virtuosity displayed by the architects. In a situation with many constraints, they invented a delightful spatiality in the apartments. Although the plans follow with rigor the footprint of the original building, the section displays invention and complexity. The project contributes to the revival of historic heritage in an endangered zone. Densifying the existing structure is a viable strategy, although a touch of gentrification cannot be denied.

Shortlist

- 8 Passera de la vall des temples, Agrigento I
PAAS, Puigcorbé arquitectes ass.

This small intervention in the famous archeological site of Agrigento in Sicily stands out for its sensitive and adequate choice of means: The access way opens at its bend into a tiny square, the CorTen bridge is a slim construction, the rusty steel is an atmospheric answer both to the temple ruins, and to the vegetation surrounding them.

- 19 Muséo Soulages, Rodez F
RCR arquitectes

A series of sharp-shaped, CorTen-clad volumes cantilever out of a slope near the cathedral in the centre of Rodez, the native city of Pierre Soulages. Glazed galleries join these windowless blocks of different proportions, creating a strong rhythm. The exhibition halls and restaurant are lined up in the lower level parallel to the slope, a steep stair leading down from the entrance hall. Raw steel characterizes not only the envelope of the concrete structure but in great consequence also the inner claddings, floors, and window frames, allowing the black and white colours of the paintings to display their somber light.

- 24 Reapertura Praça Mauá, Rio de Janeiro
ABR Backheuser e Riera arquitectura

The reclaiming of Praça Mauá as a public space is an intervention of great importance for the historic centre of Rio de Janeiro. The landscape project is guided by respect for the historic hierarchies of space. It takes advantage of the subsisting groups of trees to create shaded resting areas at the rims of the square. High luminaries and new diagonal lines of trees combine to keep the central area open for public use, and shaded at the same time.

- 30 Maison BBàN, Nantes
Onze04 architecture

The project extracts a wealth of different spaces from a tiny house in the city of Nantes. Instead of simply filling the gap, a modest extension in U-shape has been wrapped around a small terrace facing the side-street. Tinplate, glass and wood give the inner facades the softness of a hedgehog's belly. Split-levels contribute to a multitude of spatial qualities and perspectives throughout the core of the little house.

Chairman: Daniel Kurz

Speakers: Xavier Bustos, Belén Moneo