THE FIVE LAUREATES OF THE 2025 GLOBAL AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

September 2025

For its 18th edition, the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture ™ focused on the theme *Architecture Is Construction* has announced the 5 laureates of 2025, honored at the IUAV University of Venice by an international jury.

The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture ™ highlights an experimental and participatory approach to architecture, in both the Global North and South. The 2025 laureates all stand out for their vision of contemporary architecture that is



both innovative and ecologically responsible. Their work reflects a bold response to current ethical, social, and environmental challenges, while exploring new approaches to energy, materials, and technologies. <u>The 5</u> Laureates of 2025 were the following architects:

Salima Naji, Morocco. Moroccan architect and anthropologist Salima Naji has been developing for over 20 years a construction approach deeply rooted in local resources, vernacular techniques, and community dynamics. She favors durable materials like earth, dry stone, or tataoui (a traditional roofing system), integrated with contemporary elements such as lightweight steel structures and seismic chains. Her objective: to rehabilitate rather than build new, to transmit artisanal knowledge, and to strengthen the autonomy of communities. By bringing together users, craftsmen, authorities, and architects, she designs frugal, resilient projects adapted to the environmental challenges of southern Morocco. Website



Hoang Thuc Hao, Vietnam. Vietnamese architect and leading figure in sustainable architecture in Asia. His work, centered on rural and marginalized communities, is based on a philosophy he calls "architecture of happiness." It combines social justice, environmental sustainability, and cultural continuity. systematically uses vernacular techniques (bamboo, wood, local leaves, stone) adapted to contemporary challenges (thermal comfort, seismic resilience, climate resilience) and designs each project as a direct cooperation between architects, inhabitants, craftsmen, and researchers. Through schools, community homes, and model villages, he demonstrates that it's possible to build with little, but with meaning and impact, in particular by using technologies that respect human and environmental values. Website



Marie Combette and Daniel Moreno Flores. France and Ecuador. The architects and founders of La Cabina de la Curiosidad develop sustainable architecture deeply rooted in Ecuadorian territories. Their approach combines craftsmanship, ethnography, design, and ecology, with particular attention to natural resource management and waste valorization. Through participatory projects, they transform local and recycled materials into sensitive, functional structures, closely tied to community skills and lifestyles. Their architecture, both experimental and poetic, reveals the beauty of the natural environment and asserts a strong environmental consciousness, contributing to sustainable development in rural and Andean

areas. Website Marie and Keith Zawistowski. France and United States. The architects and founders of studio, embody a sustainable architectural approach combining design, construction, and transmission. Their approach relies on the use of local and bio-sourced materials, traditional construction techniques, and direct involvement of students and local communities in projects, envisaged as a process of continuous experimental learning. This method aims to create low environmental impact buildings, adapted to their context, while

ecological and social issues. Website

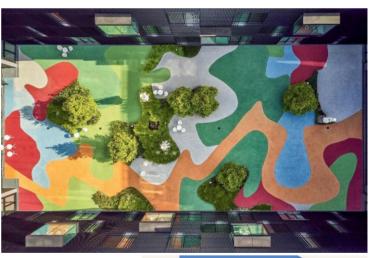
Andrea Gebhard, Germany. Geographer, urban planner, and landscape architect, sociologist, founder of the German agency Mahl Gebhard Konzepte where she works to sustainably reintroduce nature into urban environments. Through a systemic vision of urban landscapes, she advocates for planning that integrates ecological, social, and climate issues from the outset. Her approach combines sensitive interventions with concrete strategies: inclusion of green spaces in urban projects, sustainable management of resources (water, soil, biodiversity), renaturation of industrial wastelands, and development of resilient landscape infrastructures. As President of the Federal Chamber of German Architects, she also advocates strongly for sustainable urban transformation at all scales. Website

The Global Award was created in 2006 by the architect and scholar Jana Revedin. The Global Award Symposium is placed under UNESCO's patronage. The Award is endorsed by the Union of International Architects (UIA) since 2024.

Each year, The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture ™ recognizes five architects who share the principles of sustainable development and an experimental participatory Design approach to the needs of society, in both the northern and southern hemispheres. The work carried out by The Global Award has garnered significant international attention, becoming a platform for scientific independence to unite the award









winners in a community of collective research and experimentation in architectural and urban self-development projects. The purpose of this annual award is to honor five living architects, urban or landscape designers who are moving toward sustainability. Their work offers clear insights into the search for an ecologically responsible contemporary architecture which is:

- fully in step with the ethical, civil, and social concerns of today
- innovative in the areas of ecology, energy, materials, and technology
- progressive in its search for new standards for both public and private facilities.

The Global Award <u>Community</u> consists of the 90 contemporary architects and teams from around the globe who have already received the award, works towards a sustainable architectural ethics and fosters research, experimentation, and transmission in the fields of sustainable architecture, urban renewal and academic social responsibility. The Global Award Community defines architecture as an agent of empowerment, self-development and civic rights.

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