



Aga Khan Award for Architecture

2019 Shortlist Announced for Aga Khan Award for Architecture Master Jury to decide share of US\$ 1 million prize

Geneva, Switzerland, 25 April 2019 – The 20 shortlisted projects for the 2019 Aga Khan Award for Architecture were announced today. The projects will compete for US\$ 1 million in prize money.

In January, an independent Master Jury reviewed hundreds of nominations. The 20 shortlisted projects are now undergoing rigorous investigations by a team of experts who visit and evaluate each project on-site. Their reports are the basis for the Master Jury's selection of the eventual laureates. It should be noted that projects commissioned by the Aga Khan or any of the institutions of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) are ineligible for the Award. To be eligible for consideration in the 2019 Award cycle, projects had to be completed between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2017, and should have been in use for at least one year.

For a full **on-line press kit**, which includes briefs on each project and high-resolution images, please see www.akdn.org/2019ArchitectureAward. The 20 shortlisted projects are:

Bahrain

- **Revitalization of Muharraq**, offers testimony on the pearl trade in the Arabian Peninsula over the centuries, especially when Bahrain thrived during the 19th century.

Bangladesh

- **Arcadia Education Project, in South Kanarchor**, a modular amphibious structure – incorporating space for a preschool, a hostel, a nursery and a vocational training centre – which is tied down on a riverine site that is often flooded for five months every year.
- **Amber Denim Loom Shed, in Gazipur**, a new design that combines traditional Bangladeshi residential architecture and contemporary elements in a large open space that accommodates machines, a buyers' lounge, a dining space, a prayer area and washrooms.

China

- **Courtyard House Plugin, in Beijing**, a prefabricated modular system first developed as a prototype for installation within courtyard houses in the traditionally Muslim district of Dashilar, which is home to communities who do not have the means to renovate.

Djibouti

- **Tadjourah SOS Children's Village**, a design based on a traditional medina and a layout of narrow streets that maximises shade and ventilation while providing shelter for the most vulnerable in society.

Ethiopia

- **Warka Water**, a prototype first implemented in Dorza, consists of an elegant triangular frame made out of local bamboo that encloses a thin polyester mesh – which captures droplets from high humidity in the air.

Iran

- **Enghelab Street Rehabilitation, in Tehran**, encompasses both the rehabilitation of the façades of 114 existing buildings and the creation of public cultural space between the national theatre and opera house.

Indonesia

- **Taman Bima Microlibrary, in Bandung**, aims to help combat Indonesia's low literacy rates by adding a microlibrary above a pre-existing stage used for community events.
- **AM Residence, in Jakarta**, a design inspired by Indonesian vernacular stilt houses that favour natural ventilation; walls are minimised and windows kept simple for a seamless interior-to-exterior relationship.

Lebanon

- **Jarahieh School, in Al-Marj**, which provides educational facilities for children from 300 Syrian refugee families, creates a hub for community activities and offers the settlement's only secure shelter in the event of snowstorm or earthquake.

Oman

- **Muttrah Fish Market, in Muscat**, which highlights the region's trade and fishing traditions while also catering to Oman's growing tourism industry.

Palestine

- **Palestinian Museum, in Birzeit**, which crowns a terraced hill overlooking the Mediterranean and is the recipient of the LEED Gold certification because of its sustainable construction.

Qatar

- **Msheireb Museums, in Doha**, which incorporates four historic courtyard houses dating from the early 20th century that together comprise an element of the cultural development of downtown Doha.

Russian Federation

- **Tatarstan Public Spaces Development Programme**, a programme that, to date, has improved 328 public spaces all over Tatarstan in areas ranging from major cities to small villages.

Senegal

- **Alioune Diop University Lecture Building in Bambey**, where a scarcity of resources led to the use of bioclimatic strategies: a large double roof canopy and latticework that avoids direct solar radiation but allows air to flow through it.

Turkey

- **Beyazit State Library Renovation, in Istanbul**, the renovation of a 19th century library – housed within a 16th century building – that displays rare manuscripts and architectural heritage.

Uganda

- **Ashinaga Uganda Dormitory, in Nansana**, a residential school that prepares outstanding students from sub-Saharan Africa for entry into higher education.

United Arab Emirates

- **Concrete at Alserkal Avenue, in Dubai**, the major element of a former industrial complex that has been transformed into a cultural hub.
- **Al Mureijah Art Spaces, in Sharjah**, the renovation of five dilapidated buildings that offered the perfect urban and architectural setting for a contemporary art venue.
- **Wasit Wetland Centre, in Sharjah**, a design that transforms a wasteland into a wetland and functions as a catalyst for biodiversity and environmental education.

The 2019 Award Master Jury

The nine members of the 2019 Master Jury are: **Anthony Kwamé Appiah**, an Anglo-Ghanaian American philosopher; **Meisa Batayneh**, founder and principal architect of maisam architects & engineers; **Sir David Chipperfield**, whose practice has built over 100 projects for both the private and public sectors; **Elizabeth Diller**, a founding partner of a design studio whose practice spans the fields of

architecture multi-media performance and digital media; **Edhem Eldem**, a Professor of History at Boğaziçi University (Istanbul) and the Collège de France; **Mona Fawaz**, a Professor in Urban Studies and Planning at the Issam Fares Institute of Public Policy at the American University of Beirut; **Kareem Ibrahim**, an Egyptian architect and urban researcher who has worked extensively in Historic Cairo; **Ali M. Malkawi**, a professor at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and a founding director of the Harvard Center for Green Buildings and Cities; and **Nondita Correa Mehrotra**, an architect working in India and the United States and Director of the Charles Correa Foundation. For more information, please see the biographies of Master Jury members.

(<https://www.akdn.org/architecture/master-jury/196951>)

The **Steering Committee** is chaired by **His Highness the Aga Khan**. The other members of the Steering Committee are: **Sir David Adjaye**, Principal Adjaye Associates, London, **Mohammad al-Asad**, Founding Director, Center for the Study of the Built Environment, Amman, **Emre Arolat**, Founder, EAA- Emre Arolat Architecture, New York-London-Istanbul, **Francesco Bandarin**, Special Advisor, UNESCO, Paris, **Hanif Kara**, Design Director - AKT II, London, and Professor at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, **Azim Nanji**, Special Advisor, Aga Khan University, Nairobi, **Nasser Rabbat**, Aga Khan Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, **Brigitte Shim**, Partner, Shim-Sutcliffe Architects, Toronto, and **Marina Tabassum**, Principal, Marina Tabassum Architects, Dhaka. **Farrokh Derakhshani** is the Director of the Award. For more information, please see the biographies of the Steering Committee

(<https://www.akdn.org/architecture/steering-committee/196951>)

Press contact:

Sam Pickens

Telephone: (41.22) 909.72.00

E-mail: info@akdn.org

Website: www.akdn.org/architecture

Notes

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture was established by the Aga Khan in 1977 to identify and encourage building concepts that successfully address the needs and aspirations of communities in which Muslims have a significant presence. The Award recognises examples of architectural excellence in the fields of contemporary design, social housing, community improvement and development, historic preservation, reuse and area conservation, as well as landscape design and improvement of the environment. Since the Award was launched 42 years ago, 116 projects have received the award and more than 9,000 building projects have been documented.

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture's mandate is different from that of many other architecture prizes: it selects projects – from slum upgrading to high-rise “green” buildings – that not only exhibit architectural excellence but also improve the overall quality of life. The Award not only rewards architects, but also identifies municipalities, builders, clients, master artisans and engineers who have played important roles in the realization of a project.

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture is part of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). It currently operates 1,000 or so programmes and institutions in 30 countries – many of which date back over 60 years, and some over 100. It employs approximately 80,000 people, the majority of whom are based in developing countries. The AKDN's annual budget for non-profit development activities is approximately US\$ 950 million. Its economic development arm, the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED), generates annual revenues of US\$ 4.3 billion, but all surpluses generated by its project companies are reinvested in further development activities, usually in fragile, remote or post-conflict regions.