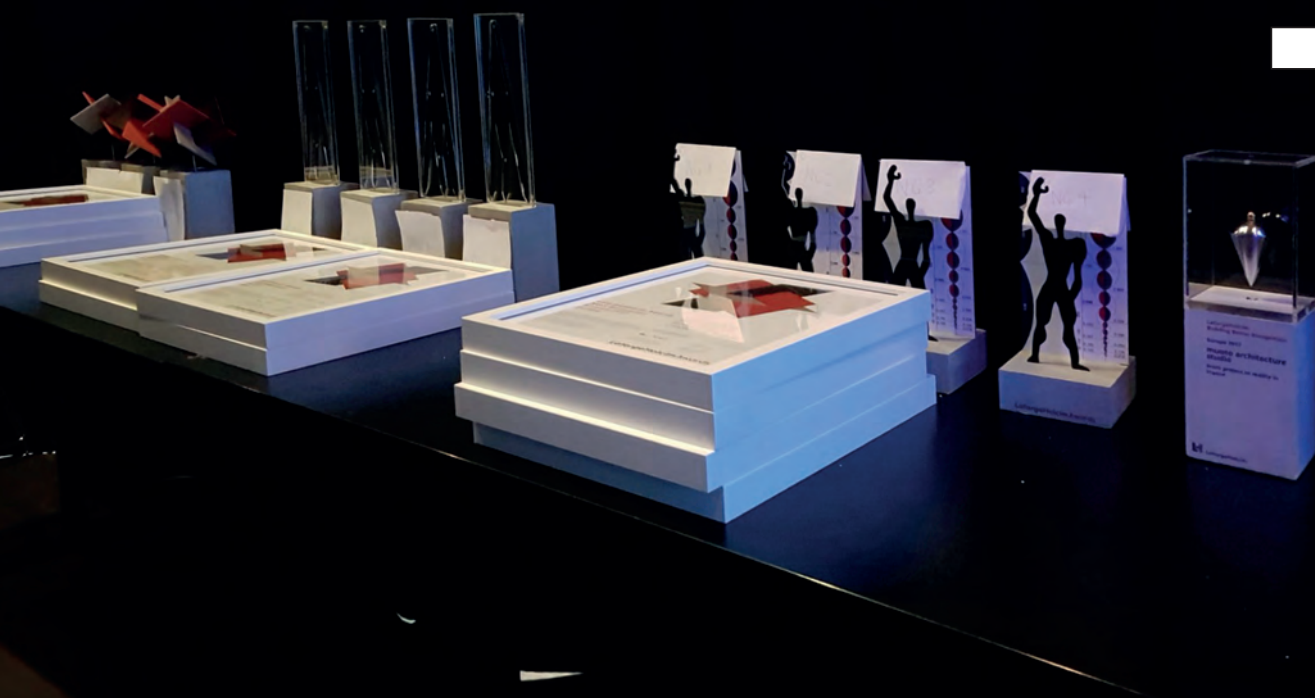


LafargeHolcim Awards ceremonies in five regions of the world

60 trophies for sustainable construction

A LafargeHolcim Building Better Recognition, three Awards, four Acknowledgement prizes and three Next Generation prizes as well as framed certificates were lined-up backstage to be handed-over to the winners at each of the celebrations in 2017. The concrete base of the trophies is made of Ductal and Airium, two innovative products from LafargeHolcim.



Foundations

21

December 2017

13 years on the Board of the LafargeHolcim Foundation: Simon Upton looks back.

Page 2

Awards ceremonies in Nairobi, Marseille, San José, Chicago and Kuala Lumpur.

Pages 4 to 13

Light and shadow in the Awards universe: Fun and flipsides around the globe.

Page 15

“There is no shortage of bright people and ingenuity”

Since its inception, the Board of the LafargeHolcim Foundation has greatly benefited from the membership of Rt Hon Simon Upton. He is now stepping down – mainly because he wants to focus on his new role as Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment in New Zealand. In this conversation, he looks back on how the Foundation has developed over the years.

Simon Upton is one of the original members of the LafargeHolcim Foundation. He took a seat on the Board when it was initially formed in 2004. Over the years, the Board has benefited particularly from his wealth of political experience, as Simon Upton served as parliamentarian and minister in his home country. He is now giving up his function at the Foundation in order to devote himself to a new challenge in his homeland (see box). With Simon Upton's departure, the LafargeHolcim Foundation is losing a modern polymath who holds degrees in English literature, music, and law from the University of Auckland and a Master of Letters (MLitt) in Political Philosophy from the University of Oxford. Although he is departing, the New Zealander will continue to be associated with the Foundation in the future.

Simon Upton, you have been directly involved in the activities of the LafargeHolcim Foundation for the past 13 years. How has the Foundation changed during that time?

Simon Upton: It hasn't so much changed as it has deepened. It was a concept at the start, and people had to define it as they went along. Every time there was an event – whether it was a Forum or an Awards ceremony or another event – there was also a process of reflection: This was good, this didn't go so well, so let's change it. So although the overall format has always remained the same, we haven't always done everything in the same way. Let's take the Forum 2019 in Cairo: The way it's being put together now is much better than anything we've previously done. So the change has been the process of learning how to run these events and make them more valuable each time.

That means you are leaving the Foundation at its most interesting point!

It's always been interesting! It's just that we're getting better at what we're doing. And besides, everybody has to move on at some stage. I've been here for a long time; now it's time for a different responsibility. But the Foundation will remain. Had

strand of discussion that we had to follow. We've looked at the economics of things, we've looked at infrastructure, and the next theme is going to be circular economy and dematerialization issues.

Since the start of the Foundation, the world's perception of sustainability has certainly changed – sustainability has become common sense. Is the LafargeHolcim Foundation still needed?



you asked at its beginning whether it would be around in three years' time, you would have had to say: Well, we'll see... Now it has earned some real credibility, which LafargeHolcim as funding entity can be very proud of.

What were the greatest challenges in the field of sustainable construction during your years at the Foundation?

I'm not a construction expert, I'm in sustainability and environment, so I couldn't answer this question – but I do know how the debate has changed. The Forums, for example, have covered a wide range of issues. So it's not as if there was only one

Construction – the making of the fabric of our civilization – is one of the biggest activities we undertake. We feed ourselves, we move ourselves around, and we house ourselves. There are vast amounts of construction required for providing moving and housing. On a global level, the construction industry is still putting huge pressure on the environment.

Although we've learned a lot and are still learning a lot, there is still a vast amount to be done. For example, we still have prices for key raw materials that simply don't reflect the environmental impact. We do not price things in a way that reflects the scarcity of our environmental

assets that we should try to protect. So there is still much to be done. The Foundation has developed a very coherent, rigorous, and disciplined way of taking apart elements of this massive jigsaw and really shining a light on them.

What have you learned through your work for the Foundation?

I learned a huge amount, because I don't come from a construction background. So every event, every Forum, every set of prizewinners was a revelation to me that there are people doing things differently and in ways I wasn't aware of. What you need to bear in mind is that public policy is always extremely conservative. The things governments do are based on a very cautious view of what's possible in this world. Politicians are an extremely cautious folk! They usually have no idea that there are ingenious, very clever people out there in engineering, chemistry and such who have already seen that you could go much further.

What I've learned is that there are far more opportunities, far more things that we could be doing and that people are doing. And the Foundation is a very good way of bringing those people together and giving them profile. There's no shortage of bright people and ingenuity, but it's difficult for those people to break through. So I think the catalytic role of the Foundation is really important.

Will you remain associated with the Foundation in the future?

I hope so! I'm hoping I can get away from work to attend the next Forum in Cairo, for instance. And I definitely want to be copied in on all the activities of the Foundation.

What are your most vivid memories from your Foundation years?

I was in Mumbai, I was in Detroit, and both events stick out in my mind.

I've met some extraordinary people and seen extraordinary things. But of course people like special memories! Okay, it's a little unfair because it's the most recent, but: The sheer surreality of Detroit really sticks out in my mind. We were driving to see certain sights. Looking out while on the motorway, there were streets where all of the asphalt had broken up; the houses – if they existed – were burnt up or a wreck. It was a gray day, snow fell, and it felt really surreal. And suddenly I saw a house that was still there, two four-wheel drives, a flag flying – and you had the impression that those people are hanging on! And on the other end of the scale, we were in this big building, looking down at the city. And what was the main industry in the city of Detroit? Casinos! It could not have been further from any conception of sustainability.

What are your wishes for the Foundation in the future?

It's probably a complacent view, but I hope the Foundation just goes on doing what it's been doing, and that is: being a platform for innovation, a source of interconnection for different communities and academia. And I hope it goes on running the Forums because they are choosing excellent cross-cutting topics. What's been really good is that the Foundation is not just a place for architects and engineers to talk to one another. The people who come to these meetings are cutting across different communities. You've got economists, environmentalists, sociologists, anthropologists, engineers, and architects coming together. And in this world we're living in, which is highly interconnected and under systemic stress, you have to have all of those communities coming together. The Foundation needs to keep on doing that!

Interview: Marius Leutenegger

Back to New Zealand



In October 2017 Simon Upton was appointed Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment in his homeland New Zealand. The Commissioner is one of three officers of Parliament who are independent of the executive and who may review activities of the executive government and report directly to Parliament. The primary objective of the office is to contribute to maintaining and improving the quality of the environment through advice given to Parliament, local councils, business, communities, public agencies, and the Maori people, the original inhabitants of New Zealand.

The Commissioner may, among other things, investigate any matter where the environment may be or has been adversely affected, and assess the capability, performance, and effectiveness of the New Zealand system of environmental management. The office of Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment was introduced in 1987. Simon Upton is the fourth person to hold this office.

"Foundations" is the LafargeHolcim internal magazine of the LafargeHolcim Foundation and may also be distributed to external stakeholders.

This publication can be downloaded as a PDF at www.lafargeholcim-foundation.org/foundations

Editor:
Edward Schwarz, LafargeHolcim Foundation
Layout:
Schadegg Grafik, Zurich
Production:
Karl Schwegler AG, Zurich

Printed in Switzerland on FSC paper

LafargeHolcim Foundation
for Sustainable Construction
Hagenholzstrasse 85
8050 Zurich, Switzerland

Phone: +41 58 858 82 92
info@lafargeholcim-foundation.org
www.lafargeholcim-foundation.org

Hakuna Matata in Africa

Ceremony for Middle East Africa in Nairobi, Kenya



Nairobi was the first city to host a prize handover in the regional phase of the LafargeHolcim Awards competition in 2017. With a broader geographic representation of LafargeHolcim following the merger, never before has the level of engagement been so strong in Middle East Africa. Almost 300 guests enjoyed an enthusiastic event held in the Nairobi National Theatre and experienced the meaning of “Hakuna Matata”, a Swahili phrase for “no worries”.

Performance of the Slum Drummers in the patio of the National Theatre.

Great coverage of the Awards media briefing by local and foreign journalists.

Excursions on the second day visited sites that placed sustainability in a local context, such as Garden City, Bomas of Kenya and the African Heritage house. A highlight was lunch in the middle of Nairobi National Park, Kenya’s oldest wildlife reserve. (RKA)



Tour of the African Heritage house designed by Alan Donovan with breathtaking interiors.



Francis Kéré (Burkina Faso/Germany) was presented with a LafargeHolcim Building Better Recognition by José Cantillana.



Winners of the LafargeHolcim Awards from left: Fatima-azzahra Bendahmane (Silver), Yasaman Esmaili, Mariam Kamara (Gold), Joana Dabaj, Riccardo Conti, Luca Astorri, and Ronan Glynn (Bronze).



Winners of the Next Generation prizes from left: Nour Madi, Ghaith Abi Ghanem, Jad Melki (2nd), Noor Marji (4th), Nada Nafeh (3rd), and Heidi van Eeden (1st).



Selfie time before the ceremony.



Garden City: Kenya's first integrated retail and residential development.

Main Category LafargeHolcim Awards 2017 Middle East Africa

LafargeHolcim Awards Gold

Religious and secular complex, Dandaji, Niger: A reinterpretation of traditional local construction for a new mosque and community center, creating a space in the village open to all. Authors: Mariam Kamara, atelier masomi, Providence, RI, USA and Niamey, Niger; and Yasaman Esmaili, studio chahar, Iran



LafargeHolcim Awards Silver

Elementary school and craft training center, Aït Benhaddou, Morocco: A learning complex that uses architecture, form, and space to claim artisanship and handiwork as living and modern traditions. Author: Fatima-azzahra Bendahmane, Ecoactiva, Casablanca, Morocco



LafargeHolcim Awards Bronze

Adaptive reuse for refugee education, the El Marj, Lebanon: Located in an informal settlement for Syrian refugees, the project creates a dignified school environment using a repurposed pavilion. Authors: Joana Dabaj, CatalyticAction, El Mina Tripoli, Lebanon; Riccardo Conti, Matteo Zerbi, and team, CatalyticAction, London, UK



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Miracle for Africa Foundation central library, Lilongwe, Malawi: Gently curving roof elements and screen enclosures for a library transcending sustainable construction into one integrated design. Author: Steven Holl, Steven Holl Architects, New York, USA



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Maisha Film Lab headquarters, Kampala, Uganda: A film training center in East Africa conceived as a cinematic series of spaces wrapped in brick to empower a new generation of filmmakers. Authors: TAMassociati, Trieste and Venice, Italy



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Shea butter storage for Nyingali community, Karaga District, Ghana: The striking towers of the storage units are designed for passive cooling and allude to traditional local architecture. Authors: Wonjoon Han, Gahee Van, VHAN; and Sookhee Yuk, Make Africa Better, all in Seoul, South Korea



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Odek Center for Nodding Disease, Odek, Uganda: Exuberant and playful transformation of traditional type forms for a healing center for children aimed at community-building after decades of conflict. Author: Andrew Amara, Studio Flame, Kampala, Uganda



Architectural hotspots in the South of France

Ceremony for Europe in Marseille, France



With its iconic shell of LafargeHolcim's Ductal, the Museum of European & Mediterranean Civilizations (MuCEM) in Marseille was the perfect venue to announce the winners of the LafargeHolcim Awards 2017 for Europe in front of 300 guests. For the first time in the regional competition's history the Gold Award was shared by two projects: both in Brussels, and both that blend functionality in an exemplary manner.

A poster exhibition of prize winning projects complemented the ceremony.

Timeless architecture: Cité Radieuse (Unité d'habitation) by Le Corbusier.

Second-day excursions to the region's architectural jewels included the Euromed City Development project, Le Corbusier's Cité Radieuse, and the recently completed The Camp in Aix-en-Provence as well as the new TGV train station in Montpellier – again a stunning example for the use of Ductal. The event closed with a reception overlooking the old harbor of Marseille at sunset. (ZEC)



The auditorium of the MuCEM was an ideal location for the ceremony.



Gilles Delalex (France) was presented with a LafargeHolcim Building Better Recognition by Roland Köhler.



Winners of the LafargeHolcim Awards from left: the teams of Tetra Architekten and BC architects & Studios, both from Brussels (Gold ex-aequo). Lalit Chauhan and Bill Dunster (on the right) from London (Bronze).



Winners of the Next Generation prizes from left: Jakub Grabowski, Poland; Anna Andronova, Russia; Malgorzata Mader, Poland and Frédéric Bouvier, Switzerland.



Le Camp: Corinne Vezzoni created a collaborative space for creativity.

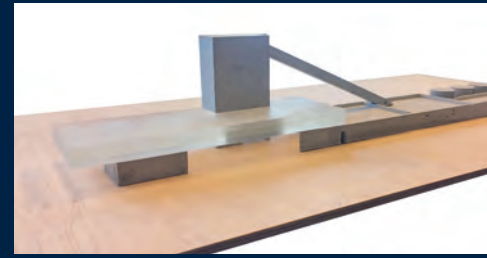


Mediterranean lunch buffet.

Main category LafargeHolcim Awards 2017 Europe

LafargeHolcim Awards Gold ex aequo

Urban integration of an existing concrete mixing facility, Brussels, Belgium: Project for the integration of an existing concrete mixing facility in an industrial neighborhood. Authors: Wes Degreef, Ken De Cooman, Nicolas Coeckelberghs, Laurens Bekemans, Jasper Poesen, BC architects and studies, Brussels, Belgium.



LafargeHolcim Awards Gold ex aequo

Adaptable structure for a garbage collection company, Brussels, Belgium: Design making a plea for the re-integration of logistics infrastructures in urban settings. Authors: Ana Castillo, Lieven de Groote, Jan Terwecoren, Annkatrinen Verdickt, TETRA architecten, Brussels, Belgium.



LafargeHolcim Awards Bronze

Zero (fossil) Energy Development units on parking lots, London, United Kingdom: Prototype for a low-carbon architecture built above existing public parking spaces – an ingenious solution to solve London's housing shortage. Author: Bill Dunster, ZEDpods Ltd, London, UK.



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

First independent theater, Bucharest, Romania: A community-supported theater that transforms a dilapidated plot into a cultural venue. Authors: Chris Simion-Mercurian and Tiberiu Mercurian, Asociata Culturala Grivita 53; Codrin Tritescu and Petre Frangulea, Arhitecture Office Codrin Tritescu, Bucharest, Romania.



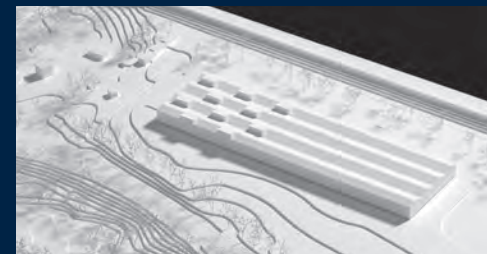
LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

An ecological approach to archaeological sites, Pontevedra, Spain: Landscape park of simple means and layered interpretations for a series of archaeological sites. Author: Joaquín Pérez-Goicoechea, AGi architects, Madrid, Spain.



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Roman settlement excavation center Augusta Raurica, Augst, Switzerland: An archaeological center for Roman ruins finds a flexible structural system to meet diverse uses and adapt as they change over time. Authors: Ünal Karamuk and Jeannette Kuo, Karamuk Kuo Architekten, Zurich, Switzerland.



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Neighborhood recreation center, Bordeaux, France: An array of sporting facilities stacked in one volume, but in open air – uses sport as a social condenser. Authors: François Chas, Nicolas Guerin, Fabrice Long, Paul Maître-Devallon and Ana Miscu, NP2F, Paris, France.





The calm after the storm in Central America

Ceremony for Latin America in San José, Costa Rica



The ceremony in San José had a stormy start. As Tropical Storm Nate crossed Central America, the event venue had to be changed at the last minute. The Holcim Costa Rica team performed a miracle and instead of celebrating as planned in the Teatro Nacional, the ceremony for 400 guests took place in Club Unión. With flight cancellations due to the storm, the winners of the Next Generation 3rd prize did not make it to the ceremony. However, they received their award in a special hand-over on the next day.

Second day tours went to Bruno Stagno's Tribu Building, La Cueva de la Luz (Cave of Light), and a comprehensive explanation of coffee production from plant to roasted beans at Britt Coffee Plantation. (RKA)



The briefing on the day after the ceremonies gives the main winners a chance to present their projects to the media.



Ten of the eleven Awards prize winning teams.



Mario Camargo (Colombia) was presented with a LafargeHolcim Building Better Recognition by Oliver Osswald.



Learning how to brew the perfect coffee at the Britt Coffee Plantation.



Visit to Cueva de Luz, symbol of sustainable construction in an informal environment.



Musical education for children and work places for the mothers at Cueva de Luz.



Late honor: The Next Generation 3rd prize winners from Argentina missed the ceremony.

Main category LafargeHolcim Awards 2017 Latin America

LafargeHolcim Awards Gold

Publicly accessible water retention and treatment complex, Mexico City: Project intermingling flood basins and public amenities in an underprivileged area.

Authors: Manuel Perló Cohen and Loreta Castro Reguera, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City.



LafargeHolcim Awards Silver

Neighborhood center in Paraisópolis, São Paulo, Brazil: Strategic design for a mixed-use civic hub with durable architecture and long-term financing.

Authors: Sol Camacho Davalos, Raddar, and Jonathan Franklin, Exxpon, São Paulo, Brazil.



LafargeHolcim Awards Bronze

Sanitation system in informal communities, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Project for blue-green infrastructure that treats wastewater while teaching water stewardship.

Authors: Eva Pfannes and Sylvain Hartenberg, Ooze Architects, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Affordable housing neighborhood with integrated workspaces in Cartagena, Colombia: Weaving working into living and houses, the project encourages community building.

Author: Adèle Naudé Santos, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Norman B. Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism, Cambridge, MA, USA.



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Minimal-impact research institute, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Design for a mathematics institute at the edge of the city minimizes site impact and creates an architecture of climactic modulation.

Authors: Vinicius Andrade and Marcelo Morettin, Andrade Morettin Arquitetos, São Paulo, Brazil.



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Relocatable modular surgical hospital, Masaya, Nicaragua: A pilot project for a roving rural hospital that mixes temporary prefab construction with long-term local craftsmanship.

Authors: Paula Montoya, any scale architecture, Madrid, Spain; and Javier Alonso, Javier Alonso arquitectos, Cádiz, Spain.



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

City building strategy for Curridabat, Costa Rica: Ecological and social reimagining of the city converge to make the urban space a better habitat.

Authors: Irene García Brenes and Edgar Mora Altamirano, Municipality Curridabat, Erick Calderón Acuña, and Alvin Soto Bolaños, Tándem Arquitectura; Antonio Salas, Yuso Proyectos, all in Costa Rica.



The cradle of modern architecture in Illinois

Ceremony for North America in Chicago, USA



The LafargeHolcim Awards for Canada and the US were presented in the birthplace of modern American architecture: Chicago. A ceremony attended by some 200 guests was held at Venue Six10. A memorable highlight of the event was a visit to the Chicago Architecture Biennial exhibition at the Chicago Cultural Center. Guests of the ceremony were treated to an exclusive guided tour with the biennial's Artistic Director Mark Lee, a former LafargeHolcim Awards laureate.

Poster exhibitions attracted attention before and after the ceremony.

Stunning city views from the Chicago River.

Participants enjoyed an afternoon cruise on the Chicago River with breathtaking views of impressive skyscrapers, accompanied by an introduction to the history of Chicago's architecture that fascinated both novices and architecture professionals. (ZEC)



Winners of the LafargeHolcim Awards from left: Eric Mahoney, Haibin Tan, Constance Bodurow and Will Bright (Gold); Frano Violich, Shawna Meyer and Sheila Kennedy (Bronze); Oliver Lang, Cynthia Wilson and James Ko (Silver).



Gloria Lee and Nathan Swift (California) were presented with a LafargeHolcim Building Better Recognition by Pascal Casanova.



12 different outfits in 5 minutes: Quick Change Artists at the ceremony.



Mark Lee guided guests through "his" Architecture Biennale.



Installation at the Chicago Architecture Biennale.



Winners of the Next Generation prizes from left: Sarah Gunavan, Waterloo, Canada; Georgina Baronian, Princeton, USA; Jason Heinrich, Vancouver, Canada and Peteris Lazovskis, Cambridge, USA.

Main category LafargeHolcim Awards 2017 North America

LafargeHolcim Awards Gold

Bottom-up neighborhood planning, Detroit, USA: This neighborhood-scale project reimagines empty lots as collective infrastructure for energy and food production as well as civic engagement. Author: Constance C. Bodurow, studio[Ci], Detroit, USA



LafargeHolcim Awards Silver

Modular mid-rise housing, Vancouver, Canada: This project envisages mid-rise, mixed-use housing through a modular panel system that can adapt to create a variety of unit layouts and architectural forms. Authors: Oliver Lang and Cynthia Wilson, LWPAC + Intelligent City, Vancouver, Canada



LafargeHolcim Awards Bronze

Net-zero greenhouse for Wellesley College, Boston, USA: This project reimagines the greenhouse as a locally sourced, low-energy building linking Wellesley College to the local community. Authors: Sheila Kennedy and Juan Frano Violich, Kennedy & Violich Architecture, Boston, USA



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Modular edible insect farm, New York City, USA: This pavilion demonstrates the possibility of local insect farming as a form of protein with low-resource intensity. Author: Mitchell Joachim, Terreform ONE, Brooklyn, NY, USA



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

UCLA Warner Graduate Art Studio renovation and addition, Culver City, CA, USA: Addition to and adaptive reuse of a former wallpaper factory using elemental construction. Authors: Sharon Johnston and Mark Lee, Johnston Marklee, Los Angeles, USA



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

All-timber high-rise load-bearing structure, Portland, OR, USA: Pioneering design proposal entitled "framework" for the first timber high-rise in the USA. Authors: Thomas F. Robinson, LEVER Architecture, and Anyeley Hallova, project^, all in Portland, OR, USA



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Urban watershed framework plan, Conway, AR, USA: Planning toolkit for a watershed in Conway constructs new zones of green connectivity for flood management and water filtration. Authors: Stephen Luoni, University of Arkansas Community Design Center, Fayetteville, AR, USA





Reaching new heights in South East Asia

Ceremony for Asia Pacific in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

In the region with more competition entries than any other, the series of five ceremonies concluded in Asia Pacific where over 300 guests gathered at the Kuala Lumpur Grand Hyatt. In an inclusive spirit, staff from Lafarge Malaysia from across the company acted as event hosts, proudly wearing the traditional costumes of each person's cultural heritage.

The excursions on the second day brought guests to landmarks and sites highlighting sustainable construction in local context. The extraordinary building of the Malaysian Institute of Architects and the Construction Development Lab (CDL) of Lafarge Malaysia were topics of a many discussions. The series of regional events ended on a high note - with a reception at Marini's on 57. (MZU)



Farewell cocktails on the 57th floor.



Traditional welcome to the ceremony.





Milinda Pathiraja (Sri Lanka) was presented with a LafargeHolcim Building Better Recognition by Daniel Bach.



Winners of the LafargeHolcim Awards from left: Wolfgang Kessling, Jalal Ahmad, Sim Choon Heok, and Richard Hassell (Bronze); Neha Rane and Avneesh Tiwari (Gold); Daliana Suryawinata and Florian Heinzelmann (Silver).



Winners of the Next Generation prizes from left: Tzu-Jung Huang (4th), Yu Fei and Mengyuan Zhu (1st), Vedhant Maharaj (2nd), Andi Subagio, Danna Rasyad Priyatna and Theodorus Alryano Deotama (3rd).



Award winning project in 2011: Guests visit Ken Yeang's 2C5 Putrajaya.



Demonstration of Agilia self-levelling concrete at the CDL of Lafarge Malaysia.

Main category LafargeHolcim Awards 2017 Asia Pacific

LafargeHolcim Awards Gold

Home for marginalized children, Thane, India: On a tight urban site, this project houses orphaned children in a building with a playful and generous vertical form.

Authors: Avneesh Tiwari and Neha Rane, atArchitecture, Mumbai, India.



LafargeHolcim Awards Silver

Learning center, Bandung, Indonesia: Using simple construction, this "micro library" creatively promotes literacy and community across Indonesia.

Authors: Daliana Suryawinata and Florian Heinzelmann, SHAU, Bandung, Indonesia.



LafargeHolcim Awards Bronze

BRAC university campus, Dhaka, Bangladesh: Remediating polluted swamp land and floating a new university building upon it, this project adds both open and built space to the city.

Author: Mun Summ Wong, WOHA, Singapore.



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Training center for organic agriculture in Parung, West Java, Indonesia: Organic farm and vocational center on the outskirts of Jakarta metropolitan region.

Authors: Kamil Muhammad and Brahmastyo Puji, pppooIII, Jakarta, Indonesia.



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Baitasi urban regeneration, Beijing, China: Regeneration of a historic neighborhood deploying minimal means for maximum effect.

Authors: Yue Zhang, Liying Wu, Peiming Li, Cong Nie, Mengxing Cao and Yue Wang, Tsinghua University; and Shimeng Hao, Beijing University, all in Beijing, China.



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Multifunctional public space, Thecho, Nepal: A water-treatment and reservoir facility wrapped with social infrastructure.

Authors: Miho Mazereeuw, David Moses, Aditya Barve, Larisa Ovalles and Hugh Magee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Urban Risk Lab, Cambridge, MA, USA.



LafargeHolcim Awards Acknowledgement prize

Ban Chang town hall, Rayong, Thailand: Surrealistic pavilion that turns a local waste product into a durable contribution to community.

Author: Boonserm Premthada, Bangkok Project Studio, Bangkok, Thailand.





Light

No doubt about it: The most wonderful thing about the LafargeHolcim Awards is the **encounters** they make possible. In the nearly 15 years of its existence, the LafargeHolcim Foundation has produced a sort of worldwide family. A few family members whom I have known for years always seem to show up at one ceremony or another, and I look forward to seeing them like a little boy before the circus. For example, the architect and regular jury member Joe Addo from Ghana. Or Board Member Maria Atkinson from Down Under. And and and! And then there are always many new encounters that enrich my life. For example, with the highly talented organizer Kavoi in Nairobi, who even amid the greatest turmoil remains gentle and quick-minded. Wherever you go, you always meet people with intellect, humor, and heart.

Shadow

Preparations for the event are already in full swing: As soon as you arrive on location, there is something to **eat**. A bite here, a gigantic breakfast there, dinners of course, plus all the little culinary extras that just seem to appear. There is always a sandwich waiting somewhere. If you are on a diet, you are definitely going to have a tough time at the Awards ceremonies! Just refrain, you say? You have no idea how good it all is!

Light

The LafargeHolcim Awards have at least one thing in common with the old Hollywood musicals: In the end, everything always turns out well,

Bright Awards universe

One sign of a successful LafargeHolcim Awards ceremony is when no one in the audience realizes how much work goes on behind the scenes. For example, the work of Marius Leutenegger. He was present at all five regional ceremonies 2017 – and had a lot of fun, which he describes here, along with the flipside.

Thousands of people were connected in one way or another with the five regional ceremonies of the LafargeHolcim Awards this year – as guests, organizers, suppliers, winners, and so on. But only two were present at all five events: Edward Schwarz and I. Edi as the head man in charge, possessing an overview that still seems uncanny to me even after our many years of working together. And me as a freelance director of the Awards ceremonies and (video) journalist for the Foundation.

Five ceremonies around the globe – that means making five long trips, living in hotels for almost five weeks, having very predictable working hours for five weeks (from as early as imaginable till as late as possible), five weeks of “can you quickly...?” and “we should still...!” But above all: five weeks of **adventure and excitement!** I accumulated so many memories during those weeks that I feel no urge at all to get out and about since then.

You might ask, what was particularly good about this high-adrenalin marathon – and what was less agreeable? The LafargeHolcim Awards are like a complete little universe, and naturally in such a place we find both: light and shadow.



even if things might have gotten a bit touchy in between. During a ceremony year, we seem to make our way from one successful premiere to the next. Of course, I have to apologize for being overly enthusiastic after every ceremony and trying to convince everyone that this was definitely the very best of all the good ceremonies – but that’s just how it feels! The key to the perpetual **feel-good buzz** is the mix of the experience of all those who have been there before and the fresh impetus and high ambitions of the LafargeHolcim host companies’ representatives, who do everything possible to make their event a success.

Shadow

The aseptic “internationalism” of the big **hotel** chains is not my world. Each of the five hotels we stayed at during the LafargeHolcim Awards could have been in any of the other four places. I just feel unqualified for this world, which always reminds me of a freshly-pressed airport terminal. For example, I almost never manage to turn off the dreaded air conditioning in my room completely and definitively. And the light switches usually lead me into involuntary slapstick – I press one switch, two lights go out, but a third one comes on. And if I really deserve punishment, the air conditioner also restarts. The pillow landscapes on the lavishly made beds completely befuddle me. Who needs eight pillows – with the option to order even more from room service? The latest annoyance is the elevators that allow you to reach “your” floor only. We shift a lot of material back and forth – not only on one floor!

Light

I must admit, I love the lever that the LafargeHolcim Foundation has. **Quality** is always at the center of every decision. Uncounted world-famous architects have appeared as speakers, the moderators are usually among the best in the country, and the technical equipment leaves nothing to be desired. We save where we can – but never at the expense of quality.

Shadow

You spend five days at a great **destination** like Costa Rica – and see: the airport, the hotel, the first venue, the second venue (because the first was closed due to a hurricane) and

Outlook 2018:

The Global phase of the 5th LafargeHolcim Awards

The Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards winning projects from the five regional competitions are automatically qualified for the global Awards 2018. The independent jury led by Alejandro Aravena (Chile) will meet in Zurich in March to nominate a total of four projects for a global prize – **Gold, Silver, Bronze and a Jury Wild Card Award** for a particularly outstanding Acknowledgement or Next Generation prize winning project 2017. These prizes will each be handed over in the second half of 2018 at the location where the project is to be built.

All winners and runners-up of Next Generation prizes in the five regional competitions will be able to participate in the LafargeHolcim **Next Generation Awards Lab** which will be combined with one of the global hand-over events 2018. Additionally, these young professionals and students have the chance to apply for one of three **Research in Practice Grants** that the LafargeHolcim Foundation is offering authors to take their project or idea in sustainable construction a step closer to realization.

The next **LafargeHolcim Roundtable** will be hosted by Werner Sobek at the University of Stuttgart (Germany) and will be working on the input for the international **LafargeHolcim Forum** in April 2019 in Cairo (Egypt) on the topic of “Re-materializing construction”. More information on all activities at www.lafargeholcim-foundation.org

two shopping malls (because of a computer bug – they always hit at the dumbest moment). Plus of course the inside of a few taxis. At home, they are all envious of the great trips, because they automatically associate such destinations with holidays, and they simply cannot work up the compassion you deserve for sustaining the double punch of jet lag plus a 70-hour workweek. Really infuriating are the so-called friends who advise me at home to simply tack on some vacation days when the event is over. But in four out of five cases, after

the ceremony is shortly before the next ceremony! No chance to lounge around the pool!

Light

But of course I understand all those who don’t stroke my head in pity because I have to go to Kenya or Malaysia. Because I confess: It’s just **insanely cool** to contribute anywhere that people experience a great event. Even if I just fly economy. But that’s enough of the shadow side for now – in the end, of course, the light shines brightly!



His trademarks are extremely colorful shirts, colored leather shoes, and hair tied into a ponytail: Marius Leutenegger in action at the LafargeHolcim Awards ceremonies 2017.

