

GLOBAL AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE™

2025

ARCHITECTURE
IS CONSTRUCTION

PRESS KIT
Venice, May 6, 2025

GLOBAL AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE™

The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ celebrates its 18th edition in 2025. Founded in 2006 by architect and researcher **Jana Revedin**, this year's Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ honors five laureates: international architects, urban planners or landscape architects for their visionary commitment to sustainability and innovation.

The theme of the 2025 edition: **Architecture Is Construction**

This theme echoes the current challenges of sustainable construction, a sector in which Saint-Gobain, Official Partner of the award, plays a leading role.

It highlights three fundamental dimensions of sustainable architecture:

- **Territorialize**, by rooting the project in a local context, while making the most of local resources, traditions and cultural, social, political and environmental specificities;
- **Rehabilitate**, by favoring the creative and sustainable transformation of existing infrastructures, rather than building from scratch;
- **Experiment**, by developing innovative trans-disciplinary solutions, integrating vernacular and participatory know-how: geo- and bio-sourced materials, lightweight and recyclable structures, eco-responsible techniques, etc.

"Today's architects, engineers and landscapers embody a profound paradigm shift in the way we live and build, addressing the climatic and social challenges of our time. I am proud to celebrate the five winners of this 18th edition of the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™, whose work, from Asia to South America, from Morocco to Europe, exemplify responsible practices and innovative solutions, guided by the principles of 'right tech'. Their collaborative, transdisciplinary approach builds a future where architecture is synonymous with shared identity and community resilience."

Jana Revedin
Architect and Founding President
of the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™

"The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ perfectly reflects the values we uphold at Saint-Gobain: innovating to build a more sustainable future, mirroring our purpose, Making The World a Better Home. The award, created by Jana Revedin, and which we are delighted to support, highlights visionary architects who rethink living spaces in harmony with the environment and the needs of future generations. We are proud to contribute to an initiative that embodies the alliance between creativity, responsibility and sustainability."

Benoit Bazin
Chairman and CEO, Saint-Gobain

The members of the 2025 jury:

Chaired by **Prof. Dr. Jana Revedin**, architect and founding president of the **Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™**:

- **Marie-Hélène Contal**, architect, dean of the École Spéciale d'Architecture, Paris, France;
- **Dr. Jacopo Galli**, architect, Iuav University of Venice, Venice, Italy;
- **Prof. Dr. Spela Hudnik**, architect, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia;
- **Prof. Dr. Deniz Incedayi**, architect, Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts, Istanbul, Turkey;
- **Prof. Dr. Salma Samar Damluji**, architect, American University of Beirut, Lebanon;
- **Prof. Dr. Werner Sobek**, architect and engineer, University of Stuttgart, Germany.

Laureates in 2025:

- **Dr. Salima Naji**, anthropologist and architect (Morocco);
- **Prof. Dr. Hoang Thuc Hao**, architect, founder of 1+1>2 (Vietnam);
- **Marie Combette and Daniel Moreno Flores**, architects, founders of La Cabina de la Curiosidad (France and Ecuador);
- **Marie and Keith Zawistowski**, architects, founders of onSITE (France and USA);
- **Andrea Gebhard**, geographer, sociologist, urban and landscape planner, founder of m•g•k mahl gebhard konzepte (Germany).

They all stand out for their vision of contemporary architecture that is both innovative and ecologically responsible. Their work reflects a meaningful response to today's ethical, social and environmental challenges, while exploring new approaches to ecology, energy, materials and technologies.

To find out more, read **"Architecture Is Construction,"** a book published by ArchiTangle and co-written by **Marie-Hélène Contal and Jana Revedin**.

Salima NAJI

Anthropologist,
architect and artist
MOROCCO



The jury commends the work of Salima Naji, who has been exploring complex contexts involving politics, history and nature for many years. The panel decided to highlight her unique approach in southern Morocco, where she shows how architecture serves communities. Her work is proof that by bringing together all stakeholders - clients, authorities, craftsmen, professionals, residents and users - it is possible to create projects that are both inclusive and inspiring.

An architect dedicated to heritage and communities

Anthropologist, architect and artist from Rabat, Morocco, **Salima Naji** devotes her work to the preservation of cultural heritage and the socio-economic development of communities. Over the past two decades, she has led projects to restore a series of collective granaries in southern Morocco and to rehabilitate the Kasbah Aghenaj in Tiznit. The latter project includes the restoration of the ramparts, and the creation of an open-air theater, a heritage interpretation center and an archive center. Through these projects, **Salima Naji** has developed an innovative model combining the preservation of tradition and modernity. Her projects, modest at first but increasingly ambitious, have demonstrated the effectiveness of a transdisciplinary approach in which the empowerment of local communities plays a central role.

Salima Naji proves that architecture can be a real driver of social transformation. By involving all stakeholders in her projects - authorities, contractors, residents and end-users - **Salima Naji** illustrates how dialogue and cooperation are essential to ensure the sustainability and positive impact of projects in rural and urban areas.



Souk Tablaba - Taghjijt Oasis, Guelmim-Oued Noun Region, Morocco
The courtyard of the pavilion, currently being restored. In the foreground, bricks are drying in their wooden molds.



Revitalization of the Citadel of Agadir Oufella, Agadir, Souss-Massa Region, Morocco
Interior view of the facilities building. A steel structure was created to join the rafters and extend the tataoui ceiling.

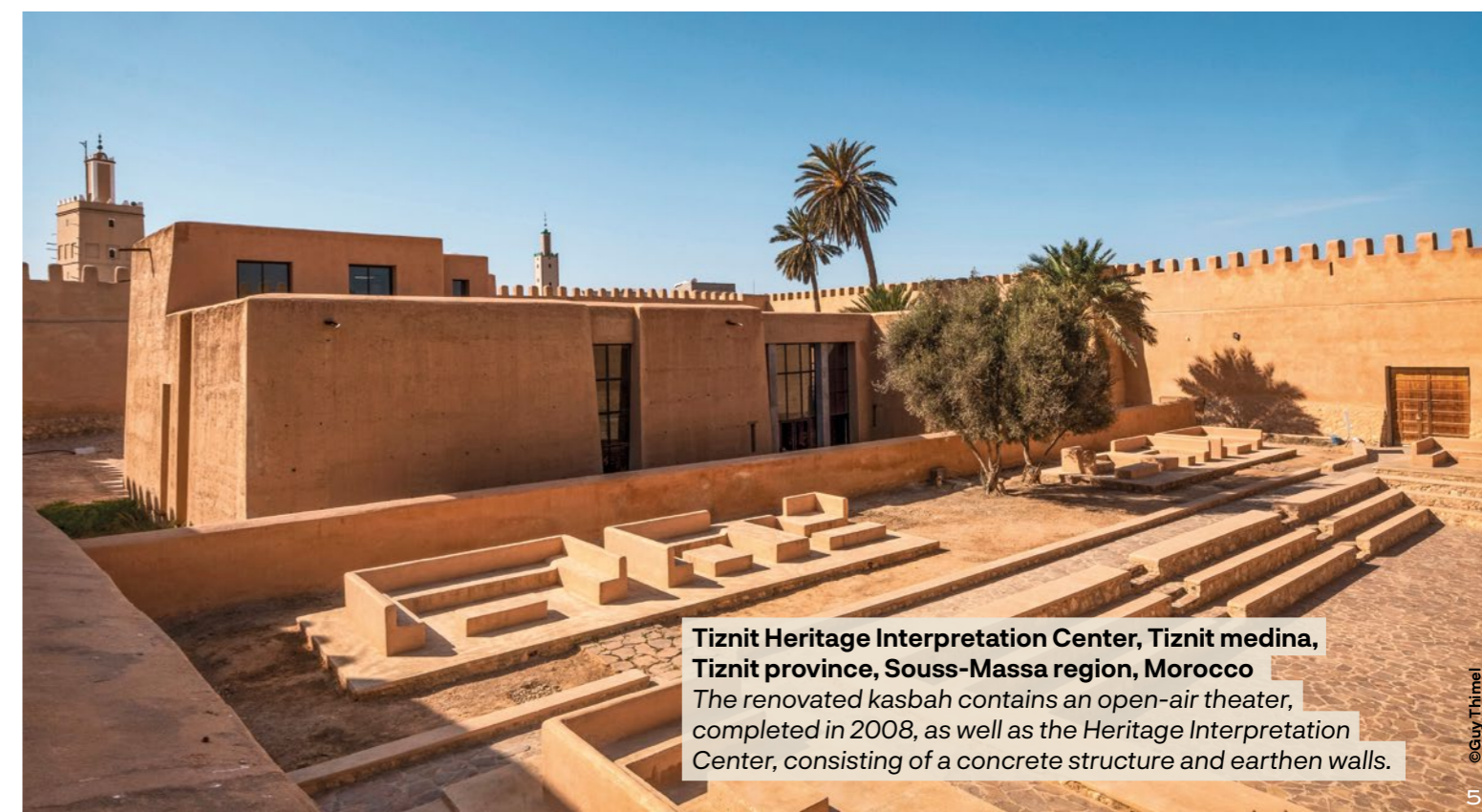


Tiznit Heritage Interpretation Center, Tiznit Medina, Souss-Massa Region, Morocco
Dry-stone vaults.

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Revitalization of the Citadel of Agadir Oufella Agadir, Souss-Massa Region, Morocco
The new esplanade at the entrance to the kasbah, with new public facilities and their anti-seismic walls, a technology improving a vernacular composite of dry masonry and wooden ties.



Tiznit Heritage Interpretation Center, Tiznit medina, Tiznit province, Souss-Massa region, Morocco
The renovated kasbah contains an open-air theater, completed in 2008, as well as the Heritage Interpretation Center, consisting of a concrete structure and earthen walls.

Hoang THUC HAO

1+1>2

Architect
and researcher
VIETNAM



The jury praises Hoang Thuc Hao's work for its innovative exploration of materials and technologies, which he also incorporates into his teaching, his architectural projects and his commitment to serving society. By adapting to local realities, he directly involves local residents in the construction process, empowering them to improve their own living environment.

Building with communities

Architect and researcher based in Hanoi, Vietnam, **Hoang Thuc Hao** devotes his work to rural areas and underprivileged communities. He defends an inclusive vision of architecture, considering local people as key players in the design and construction process. By carefully adapting to local contexts, he promotes projects that not only improve living conditions, but also enhance cultural traditions often marginalized in emerging economies.

The scope of **Hoang Thuc Hao's** experimental research into materials and technologies is reflected in his academic teaching, his architectural projects and his civic commitment. **Hoang Thuc Hao** demonstrates that architecture, when it integrates users and respects local specificities, can become a powerful lever for social and cultural progress, while responding to contemporary sustainability challenges.

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Lam Son Multipurpose Community Center, Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam
The south facade, with its ventilated panel walls. The roofs and walls are covered with fern leaves called *guột* in Vietnamese.

Lam Son Multipurpose Community Center, Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam

Interior view of the main entrance to the large canopy. This project combines a concrete structure with a framework that Hoang Thuc Hao conceived as a showcase for the load-bearing capacity of bamboo.

Na Khoang nursery and elementary school, Son La Province, Vietnam

Nestled in the middle of a Thai ethnic village, the school's roofs draw inspiration from the traditional Xoe dance.

Cam Thanh Community House, Hoi An City, Quang Nam Province, Vietnam

The main entrance pavilion, to the east, with its large canopy supported by masonry walls. In the foreground, the coconut plantation is part of the protection system against strong winds.

Cam Thanh Community House, Hoi An City, Quang Nam Province, Vietnam

Interior view of the main blocks, intended for gatherings, exhibitions and events. Opening onto the inner courtyard, the space can be easily opened thanks to a system of movable partitions.

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**Marie COMBETTE
and Daniel MORENO FLORES**

La Cabina
de la Curiosidad

Architects
ECUADOR



The jury honors Marie Combette and Daniel Moreno Flores, founders of La Cabina de la Curiosidad, for their courageous work in a difficult political and social context. Their approach highlights the beauty and exceptional richness of their unspoiled natural environment. They question urban development practices and are passionately committed to preserving culture through initiatives that strengthen the links between tradition, local *right tech* know-how and construction.

**Revealing the potential
of a developing country, Ecuador**

Based in Quito, **Marie Combette and Daniel Moreno Flores**, founders of **La Cabina de la Curiosidad**, explore the geographical and material resources of Ecuador through an innovative, multidisciplinary approach blending ethnography, construction processes and ecological awareness, with a particular focus on the management of human waste and the promotion of natural ecosystems.

Part traveling laboratory, part contemporary cabinet of curiosities, **La Cabina de la Curiosidad** combines art, craft, architecture and territorial awareness. Whether landscape rehabilitation, public infrastructure or architectural design, each project is infused with a singular poetry, reflecting a commitment to cultural and environmental preservation.

La Cabina de la Curiosidad exemplifies a rare ability to transform local constraints into opportunities, revealing the beauty and immense potential of an unspoiled natural environment.

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**Accommodation in the Baños de Agua Santa Quarry,
Tungurahua Province, Ecuador**

The roofs of the pavilions rise to the front to open a large window onto the landscape, and to the rear to ventilate the living space.

©Bicubik Photography



**Accommodation in the Baños de Agua Santa quarry,
Tungurahua Province, Ecuador**

This architectural project combines the telluric presence of stone with the lightness of building materials and the precision of their assembly.

©Bicubik Photography



Cholan Nests House, Perucho, Ecuador

This former warehouse, expanded and filled with natural light, has been transformed into an inspiring home. It features an open interior, two bedrooms suspended from the beams, reinforced walls to accommodate new loft spaces, and a redesigned roof.

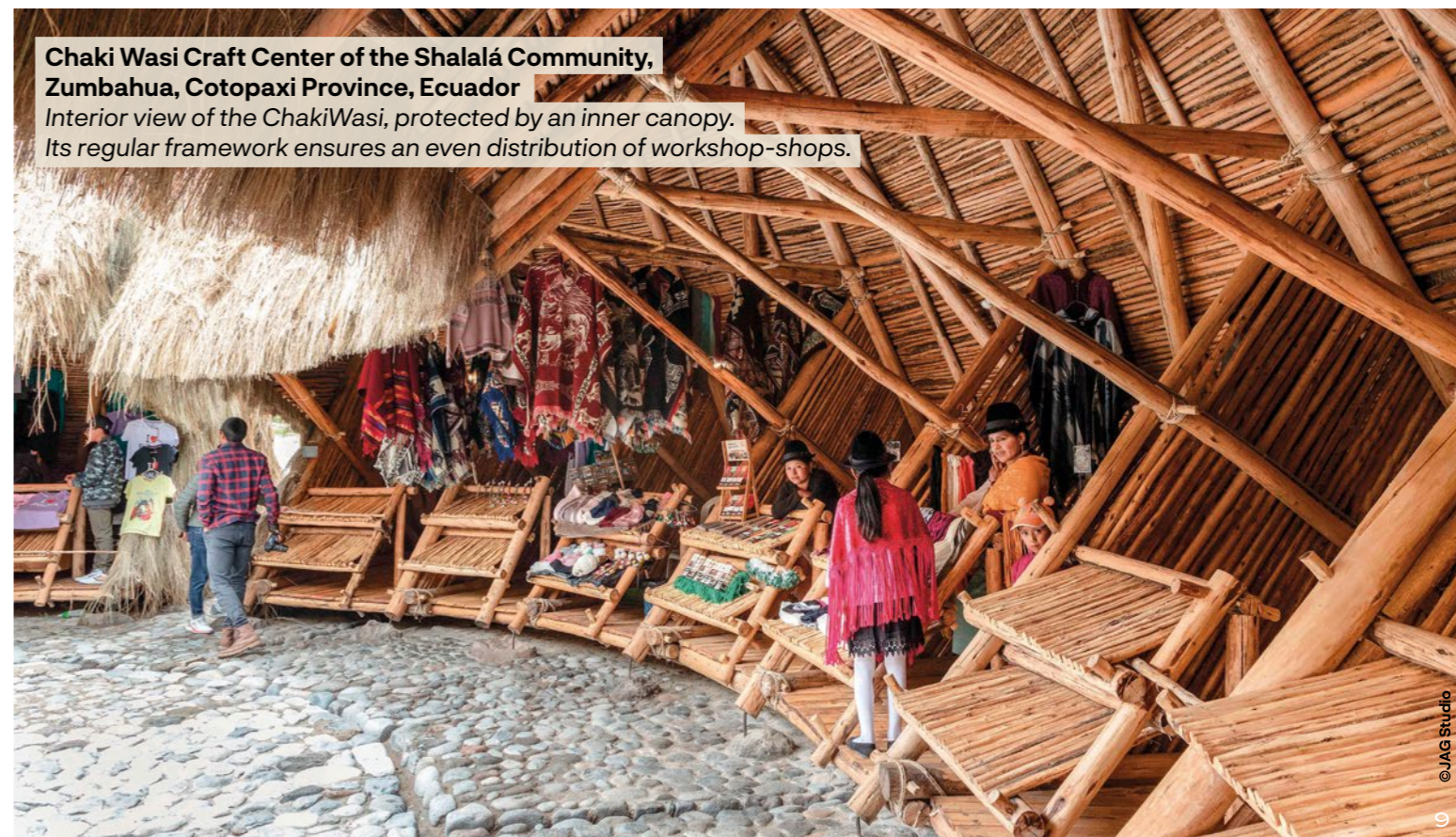
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**Chaki Wasi Handicraft Center of the Shalalá
Community, Zumbahua, Cotopaxi Province, Ecuador**

The geometry of the center has facilitated the transmission of culture, supported by the collaborative sharing of design and construction.

©Oscar Velasco



**Chaki Wasi Craft Center of the Shalalá Community,
Zumbahua, Cotopaxi Province, Ecuador**

Interior view of the ChakiWasi, protected by an inner canopy. Its regular framework ensures an even distribution of workshop-shops.

©JAG Studio

Marie and Keith
ZAWISTOWSKI
onSite
Architects
FRANCE



The jury commends Marie and Keith Zawistowski for their belief that “architecture can improve the lives of others.” The panel applauds their fervent commitment to redefining architectural education as a lifelong and experimental learning process, based on hands-on experience in real-life contexts. They turn their projects into truly inclusive “Bauhütten” - building guilds promoting transdisciplinary learning - that showcase a smart use of *right tech*.

Reinventing architecture through practice and education

French American architects based in Grenoble, **Marie and Keith Zawistowski**, founders of onSITE, embody a committed, bicultural vision of architecture. They studied with Samuel Mockbee at the Rural Studio in Alabama and share one basic conviction: “architecture can improve the lives of others”. Their practice is characterized by a hybrid approach, blending architectural design and concrete realization, in order to redefine the role of architecture in society, academia and the profession.

Co-creators of designbuildLAB, an innovative learning studio, they bring together students, experts and community leaders to produce projects that are both educational and supportive. Initially based in the U.S. at Virginia Tech, where it produced five major community projects in five years, the program has taken root in France since 2015, at the Grenoble National School of Architecture.

Marie and Keith Zawistowski reinvent teaching as a lifelong and experimental learning process, nurtured by tangible, cross-disciplinary experiences. Their situated projects are transformed into inclusive workshops where cooperation and collective innovation shape sustainable solutions rooted in local realities.

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**Restaurant Scolaire Jean Rostand
Bourgoin-Jallieu, Isère, France**

Reclaimed wooden umbrella handles are transformed into coat hooks at different heights in the entrance hall. A spruce bench invites children to inhabit the half-stone vault. A milled spruce ceiling creates an acoustic barrier for the dining room.

**Restaurant Scolaire Jean Rostand
Bourgoin-Jallieu, Isère, France**

A mature deciduous lime tree to the east protects the building from the morning sun during the warmer months, while allowing it to penetrate deep into the dining areas during the winter.



**Nomad shelters, Villard-de-Lans,
Plateau du Vercors, France**

The exercise was both structural and ecological: how to use log offcuts after sawing to manufacture cross-laminated timber panels.

**Nomad shelters, Villard-de-Lans,
Plateau du Vercors, France**

While the wooden blocks unite to form a low-pitched roof, the ceiling is experienced as a “set of cubes”. Here, suspended blocks articulate zones of passage and rest.



Rural green house, Bordeaux, France

The house is set in an ordinary suburban area and respects the proportions of the surrounding buildings. On the north side, a mound of earth supports a wooden terrace.



Andrea GEBHARD

Geographer, sociologist,
urban and landscape planner
GERMANY



The jury congratulates Andrea Gebhard on her commitment to bringing nature back into our living spaces. Her fight for a harmonious balance between nature and urbanization is exemplary. She works to ensure that every new development project includes green spaces right from the design phase, and she encourages cities to include environmental plans in all their projects, in order to put ecological concerns at the heart of urban planning.

Redefining urban planning by integrating nature

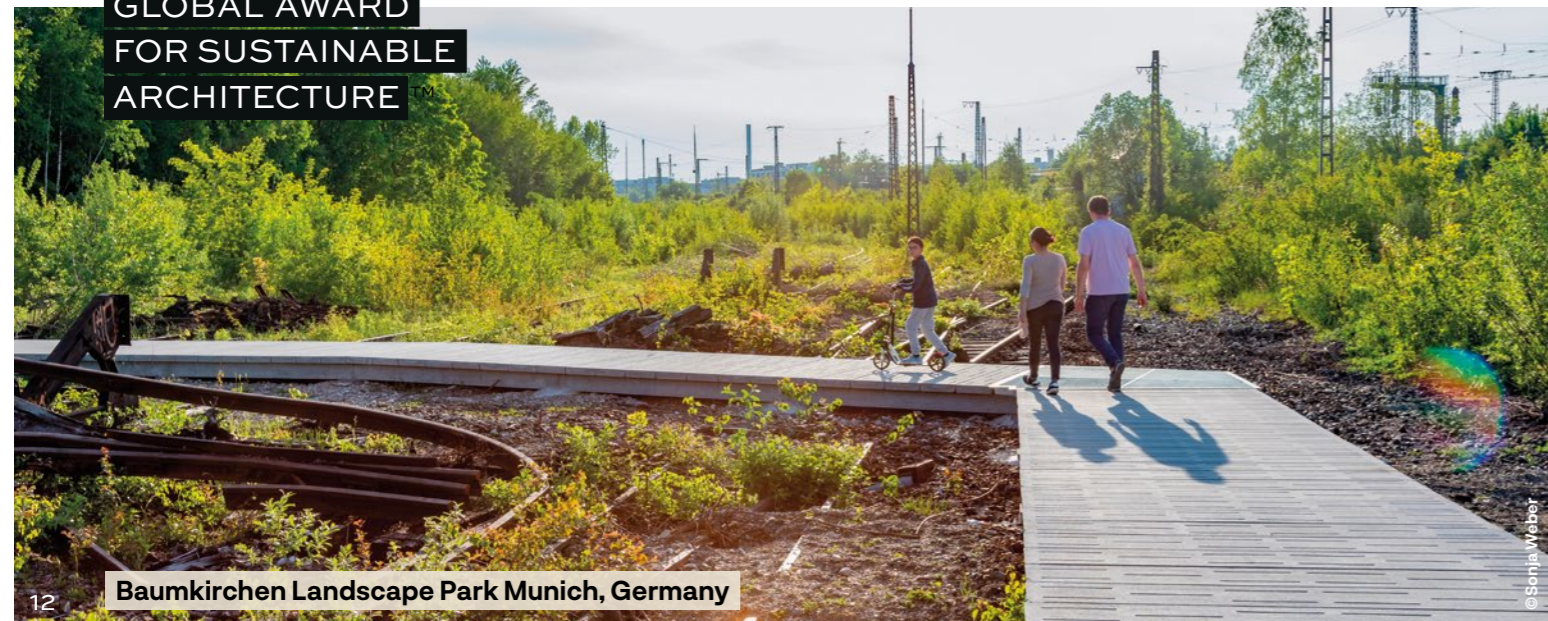
Andrea Gebhard, a Munich-based geographer, sociologist, urban planner and landscape architect, is known for her strong political commitment to reintroducing nature into living spaces. Convinced that building today means transcending the limits of the built environment, she advocates systematically taking into account the geographical, natural and climatic resources specific to each context.

Andrea Gebhard plays a key role in the development of guidelines and standards for the design of open spaces within new development projects. She advocates for the mandatory inclusion of a green plan in every urban development project, ensuring that environmental issues are integrated from the earliest stages of planning. Her critical and proactive approach aims to create sustainable urban landscapes that are adapted to tomorrow's challenges, while improving the quality of public spaces in a context of urban densification.

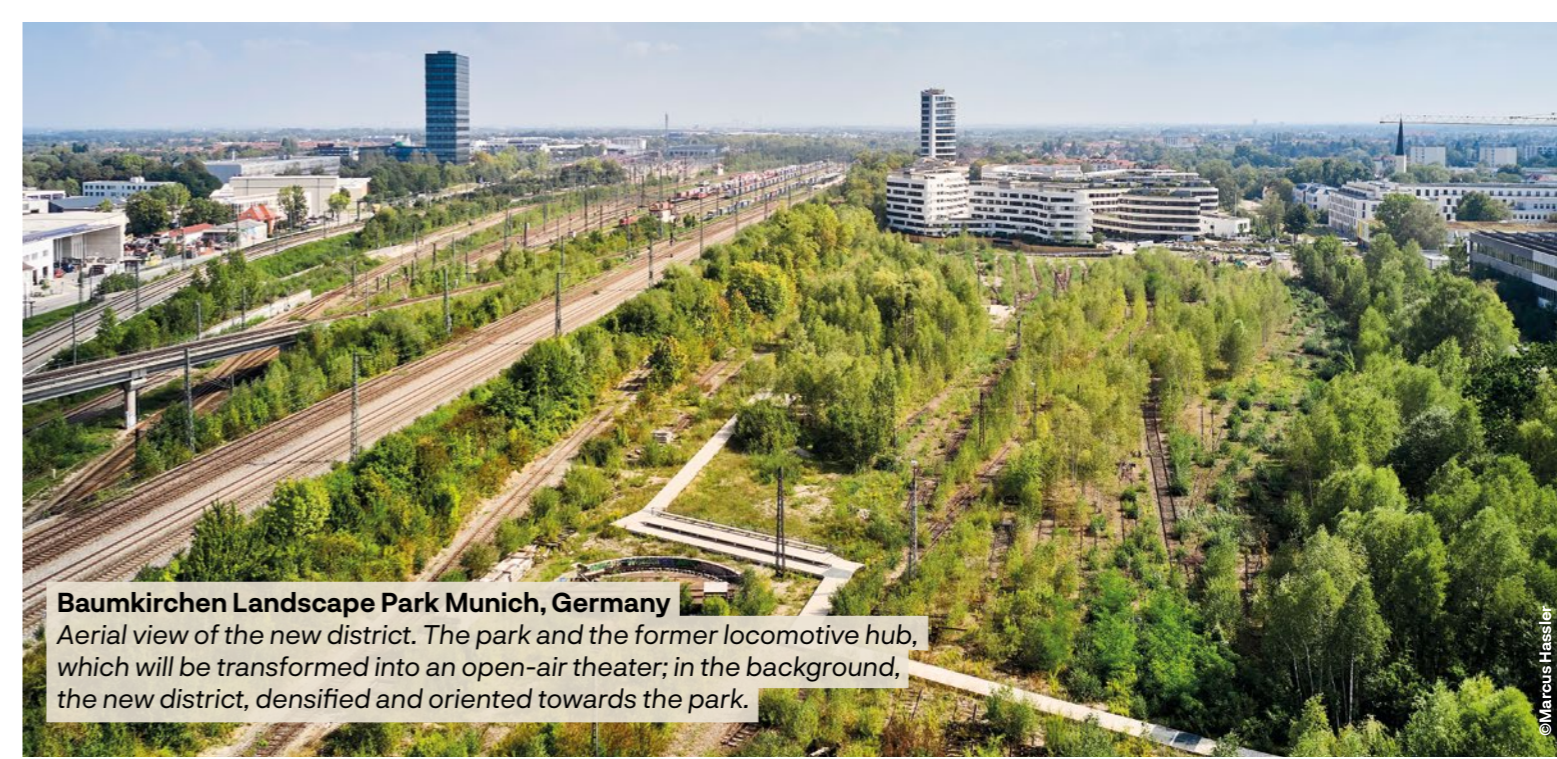
Her influence extends beyond the local level: her role in the **Bavarian Regional Development Program (LEP)** testifies to her commitment to tackling environmental and societal challenges on a regional and national scale. Since 2021, she has chaired the **German Federal Chamber of Architects (BAK)**, where she promotes nuanced, fundamental positions on the challenges of urban planning and landscape architecture.

Andrea Gebhard proposes innovative solutions for combining nature and urban planning, inspiring new standards for a sustainable future.

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Baumkirchen Landscape Park Munich, Germany



Baumkirchen Landscape Park Munich, Germany

Aerial view of the new district. The park and the former locomotive hub, which will be transformed into an open-air theater; in the background, the new district, densified and oriented towards the park.



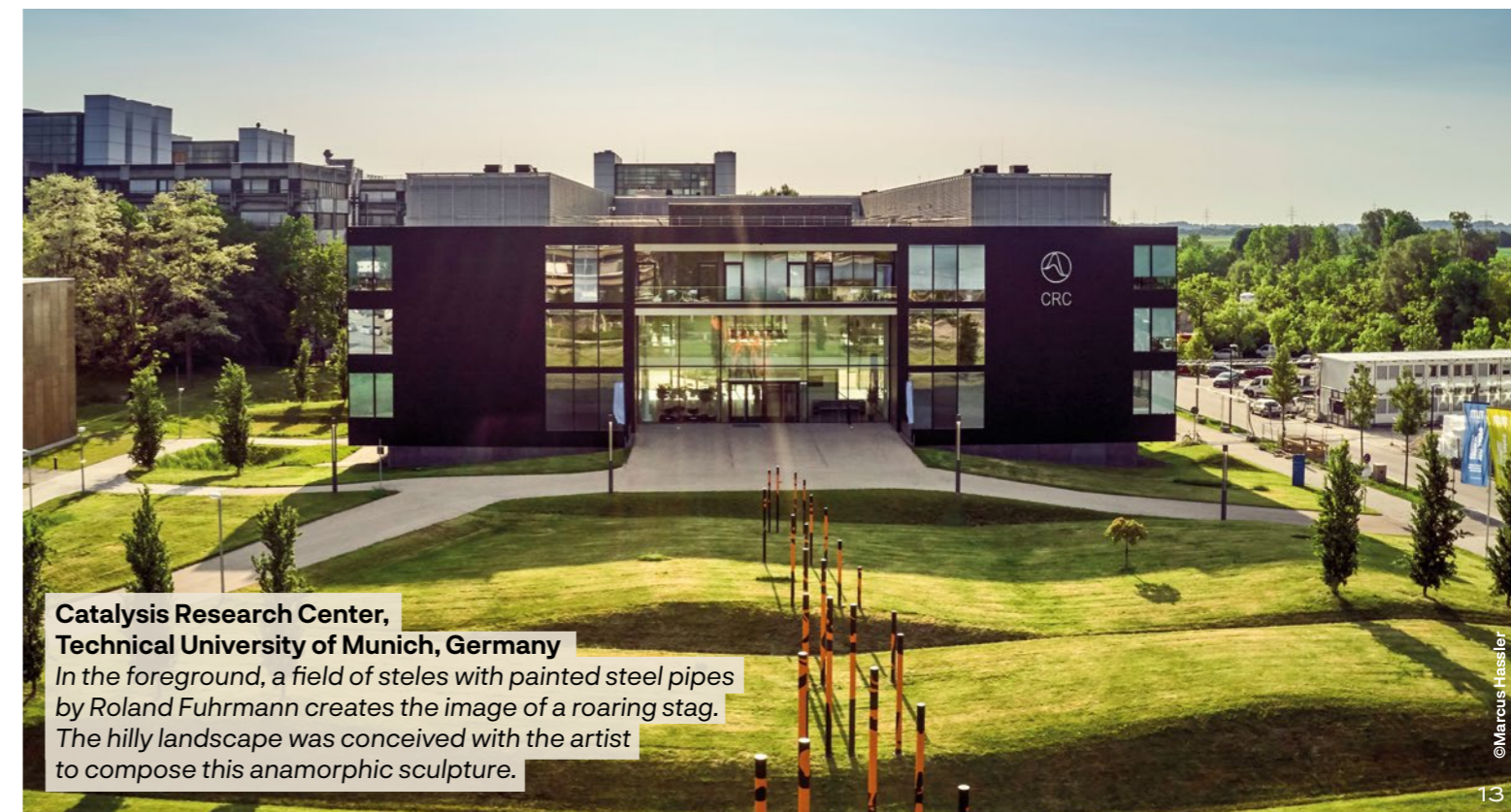
Catalysis Research Center, Technical University of Munich, Germany

The courtyard, with its colorful rubber matting, is laid out like an atrium, with lawns and magnolias.



Catalysis Research Center, Technical University of Munich, Germany

Indoor garden: the rubber flooring reflects Andrea Gebhard's vision, advocating for a site-specific approach to material selection rather than a predefined choice.



Catalysis Research Center, Technical University of Munich, Germany

In the foreground, a field of steles with painted steel pipes by Roland Fuhrmann creates the image of a roaring stag. The hilly landscape was conceived with the artist to compose this anamorphic sculpture.

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Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™

The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ was founded in 2006 by architect and researcher Jana Revedin. It promotes the principles of sustainable development and a participatory and experimental approach to architecture, in both the global North and South. The symposium is held under the patronage of UNESCO. In 2024, the Award received the endorsement of the Union of International Architects (UIA). The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ will have 90 winners in 2025, from all over the world, who share the ethics of sustainable architecture. This community pursues research, experimentation and transmission in the fields of architecture, urban renewal and academic social responsibility.

As a sign of its pioneering role, 5 Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ winning architects or teams have since been awarded the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize:

- **Wang Shu** (Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ 2007, Pritzker 2012),
- **Alejandro Aravena** (Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ 2008, Pritzker 2016),
- **Balkrishna Vitaldas Doshi** (Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ 2007, Pritzker 2018),
- **Anne Lacaton & Jean-Philippe Vassal** (Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ 2018, Pritzker 2021)
- **Diébédo Francis Kéré** (Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ 2009, Pritzker 2022).

Find more information about the winners of the 18th edition of the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ here: www.globalawardforsustainablearchitecture.com



Saint-Gobain, Official Partner

While the construction sector is responsible worldwide for almost 40% of greenhouse gas emissions and the consumption of 50% of raw materials, faced with the climate emergency, the scarcity of resources, population growth and the densification of cities, Saint-Gobain is committed to embarking all its stakeholders, including architects, to change the way we design, build, renovate and dismantle buildings. Through its support for the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™, the Group aims to contribute to the transmission and deployment of a more sustainable, inclusive and innovative architectural practice.

Worldwide leader in light and sustainable construction, Saint-Gobain designs, manufactures and distributes materials and services for the construction and industrial markets. Its integrated solutions for the renovation of public and private buildings, light construction and the decarbonization of construction and industry are developed through a continuous innovation process and provide sustainability and performance. The Group, celebrating its 360th anniversary in 2025, remains more committed than ever to its purpose “MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER HOME”.

- **€46.6 billion** in sales in 2024
- **161,000 employees**, locations in 80 countries
- Committed to achieving **net zero carbon emissions** by 2050

For more information about Saint-Gobain, visit www.saint-gobain.com and follow us on our social media accounts @[saintgobain](https://twitter.com/saintgobain)



Symposium under the patronage of UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) whose objective is to promote peace and security in the world through international cooperation in the fields of education, arts, sciences, and culture. Founded in 1945 and based in Paris, France, it has 194 member states and 12 associate members, as well as partners in non-governmental, intergovernmental, and private sectors. UNESCO's main priorities for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and improving human conditions are as follows: mobilizing education to transform lives; reconnecting with nature; promoting science and technology for humanity's service; promoting inclusion and mutual understanding. The symposium of the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ is held under the patronage of UNESCO.

www.unesco.com



The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ is endorsed by UIA

Founded on 28 June, 1948, in Lausanne, Switzerland, the International Union of Architects (UIA) is a global federation of national professional organizations. With its headquarters in Paris, France, the UIA unites architects from around the world. It has grown from 27 founding countries to 114 Member Sections in 121 countries. The UIA has become a prominent non-governmental organization and remains the only professional network that brings together architects from all continents. It works to unify the profession, influence public policy and advance architecture in service to the needs of society.

www.uia-architectes.org



GRAITEC Private Partner

GRAITEC is a global leader in software solutions and services for the construction and manufacturing industries. Since 1986, Graitec has been driving Building Information Modeling (BIM) technology, helping architects, engineers, and contractors optimize workflows and improve construction project efficiency. Operating in 14 countries with over 730 experts, Graitec is committed to supporting its clients in building a smarter, more sustainable world.

www.graitec-group.com



ArchiTangle Editorial Partner

ArchiTangle is an award-winning, independent publishing house based in Berlin that focuses on knowledge transfer and socially relevant projects related to the living environment. Its program covers the entire spectrum of architecture and is dedicated to facilitating and preserving the exchange of architectural knowledge through publications and digital services. With a global network of authors and a wide range of expertise and disciplines, ArchiTangle addresses current and future architectural challenges from various perspectives.

www.architangle.com



Università Iuav di Venezia

The Università Iuav di Venezia (Iuav) is one of the leading universities in Europe and the world in the fields of architecture, design, fashion, visual arts, urban planning, territorial planning, and theater. Founded in 1926 as one of the first architecture schools in Italy, Iuav combines a renowned tradition with a commitment to ongoing innovation, placing the design process at the heart of the entire educational experience.

www.iuav.it



École Spéciale d'Architecture

Founded in 1865, the École Spéciale d'Architecture de Paris is a higher education and research association recognized as a public utility since 1870 and by the state since 1934. It has been a member of the Conférence des Grandes Écoles since 2010. As the oldest architecture school in France, it offers an international and transdisciplinary education in architecture and urban planning with master's specializations in the major areas of sustainable design: Territorialization, Reconstruction, and Experimentation.

www.esa-paris.fr



Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University

Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University was established in 1882 in Istanbul, Turkey, by its founding director, Osman Hamdi Bey, an archaeologist, painter, and art historian. It is one of the oldest and most reputable universities in Turkey in the field of architecture and fine arts education. Today, the university comprises three faculties: the Faculty of Architecture, the Faculty of Fine Arts, and the Faculty of Sciences and Letters. It also includes the Istanbul State Conservatory, vocational schools, several institutes, and research centers. Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University in Turkey plays an important role in the field of architecture, art, and culture in Turkey, with its mission of sensitivity to the values of cultural and natural heritage, focusing on interdisciplinary research, innovation, and critical thinking in education.

www.msgsu.edu.tr



Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana

The Faculty of Architecture at the University of Ljubljana is considered one of the best architecture schools in Central Europe. Its status is evidenced by numerous students and graduates achieving desirable results in Slovenia and abroad, as well as by a high-quality teaching staff effectively covering the most modern aspects of architectural creation.

www.uni-lj.si



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