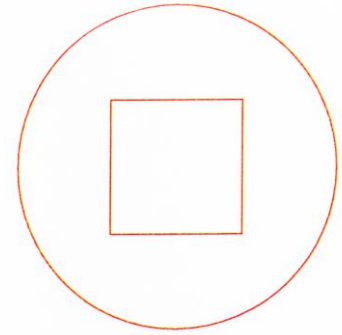# Press release

Swiss Architectural Award 2022

The Fondazione Teatro dell'architettura is pleased to announce that Xu Tiantian – DnA Design and Architecture (China) is the winner of the eighth edition of Swiss Architectural Award (2021-2022).

- **Xu Tiantian, founder of DnA Design and Architecture (China) wins the eighth edition of the Swiss Architectural Award, with 26 candidates from 14 countries.**

- **The eighth edition of the Swiss Architectural Award, promoted by the Fondazione Teatro dell'architettura with the organizational and operative support of the Università della Svizzera italiana - Academy of Architecture, confirms the collaboration between the three Swiss Schools of Architecture (Università della Svizzera italiana – Accademia di architettura; Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne – ENAC, Section d'Architecture, Federal Institute of Technology Zurich – Departement Architektur), represented in the jury by their deans/directors.**

- **The Swiss Architectural Award confirms itself as one of the most prestigious and endowed architectural awards, by virtue of an advisory committee consisting of internationally renowned architects and critics.**

- **The CHF 100,000 prize will be presented to the winner on 4th May 2023 at the Auditorium of Teatro dell'architettura Mendrisio of Università della Svizzera italiana. The ceremony will launch the exhibition of the works submitted by the candidates.**

Mendrisio, December 2022 – Xu Tiantian, founder of DnA Design and Architecture studio (China), is the winner of the eighth Swiss Architectural Award, a biennial international architecture prize promoted since 2018 by the Fondazione Teatro dell'architettura.

The eighth edition of the Swiss Architectural Award, confirms the collaboration between the three Swiss Schools of Architecture USI – Accademia di architettura, Mendrisio; EPFL – ENAC, Section d'Architecture, Lausanne; ETHZ – Departement Architektur, Zurich, represented in the jury, chaired by architect Mario Botta, by their deans/directors, Walter Angonese, Dieter Dietz and Tom Emerson. The Award benefits from the organizational and operative support of the Università della Svizzera italiana - Academy of Architecture.

With this cooperation, which reaffirms the Award's national importance, the Swiss Architectural Award confirms it is one of the best endowed and most prestigious architectural awards, by virtue of an advisory committee consisting of internationally renowned architects and architecture critics.

The Swiss Architectural Award aims to promote a kind of architecture that is sensitive to contemporary ethical, aesthetic and ecological issues and can facilitate public and disciplinary debate. The prize is awarded, on a biennial basis, to architects not older than 50 years (in the year in which the Award is launched), without distinction of nationality, who have completed at least three significant works.

The prize, which amounts to CHF 100,000, will be presented to the winner on 4th May 2023 at the Auditorium of the Teatro dell'architettura Mendrisio of the Università della Svizzera italiana. The ceremony will launch the exhibition of the works submitted by the candidates.

Xu Tiantian - DnA Design and Architecture was chosen from 26 candidates from 14 countries, selected by the committee of advisors, who fully met the expectations of the award promoters and jury.

The jury unanimously conferred the Swiss Architectural Award 2022 to Xu Tiantian for the reuse of the Shimen Bridge over the Songyin River (2016-2017), the tofu factory in Caizhai Village (2017-2018), and the reuse of the Jinyun quarries (2021-2022), with the following reasons:
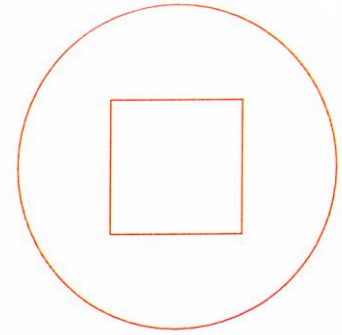
The three works presented by Xu Tiantian, located in both Songyang and Jinyun county (a rural area in Zhejang province (China) characterised by a landscape whose traditional structure has been preserved on the one hand, and on the other threatened by the depopulation process induced by the migration of younger people to the region's urban centres) convinced the jury for the successful combination between the civic instances animating them (as they aim to serve local communities) and the quality of the proposed architecture, characterised by a marked attention to the context, by a precise and poetic attitude at the same time, and by the blending of different scales and themes, between architecture and infrastructure, between permanent and ephemeral, between reuse and ex-novo intervention.

The jury considered the Xu Tiantian work perfectly suited to the objectives of Swiss Architectural Award, i.e. to recognise and raise the public profile of architects from all over the world who, through their work, have made a significant contribution to contemporary architecture, in particular by demonstrating environmental awareness and thus helping to improve the quality of life of humankind.

The jury of the eighth edition was chaired by **Mario Botta** and composed of **Walter Angonese** (Director of the Accademia di architettura, USI), **Stéphanie Bru** (winner, with the Paris-based studio Bruther, of the seventh SAA edition), **Dieter Dietz** (Director of the Section d'Architecture, EPFL-ENAC) and **Tom Emerson** (Dean of the Departement Architektur, ETHZ).

The candidates for the eighth edition were nominated by **a committee of advisor consisting of Manuel Aires Mateus**, Lisbon (Portugal); **Solano Benitez**, Asunción (Paraguay); **Angelo Bucci**, São Paulo (Brazil); **Marianne Burkhalter**, Zurich (Switzerland); **Sean Godsell**, Melbourne (Australia); **Junya Ishigami**, Tokyo (Japan); **Shelley McNamara**, Dublin (Ireland); **Valerio Olgiati**, Flims (Switzerland); **András Pálffy,** Vienna (Austria); **Elisa Valero**, Granada (Spain); **Paolo Zermani**, Parma (Italy).

The candidates in the 2022 edition of the Swiss Architectural Award were: Atelier Masōmī - Mariam Kamara (Niger), **Bernardo Bader** (Austria), **Barão Hutter** (Ivo Mendes Barão Teixeira, Peter Hutter, Switzerland), **Giulio Basili** (Italy), **Bloco Arquitetos** (Daniel Mangabeira, Henrique Coutinho, Matheus Seco, Brazil), **Manuel Cervantes** (Mexico), **dekleva gregoric architects** (Aljoša Dekleva, Tina Gregorič, Slovenia); **Domat** (Maggie Ma, Mark Kingsley, China); **Estudio Flume** (Christian Teshirogi, Noelia Montero, Brazil), **Estudio Macías Peredo** (Magui Peredo, Salvador Macías, Messico), **Graux & Baeyens** (Basile Graux, Koen Baeyens, Belgium), **Grillovasiu** (Romina Grillo, Liviu Vasiu, Switzerland), **Go Hasegawa** (Japan), **Carla Juaçaba** (Brazil), **Ryan Kennihan** (Ireland), **LACOL Arquitectura Cooperativa** (Spain), **lopes brenna** (Cristiana Lopes, Giacomo Brenna,

Switzerland), **Rozana Montiel** (Mexico), **Nickisch Walder Architekten** (Georg Nickisch, Selina Walder, Switzerland), **RAMA estudio** (Carla Chávez, Felipe Donoso, Carolina Rodas, Ecuador), **sugiberry** (Mayu Takasugi, Johannes Berry, Belgium), **Ted'A Arquitectes** (Irene Perez Pifferer, Jaume Mayol Amengual, Spain); **Terra+Tuma** (Danilo Terra, Fernanda Sakano, Pedro Tuma, Juliana Terra, Brazil), **Tropical Space** (Tran Thi Ngu Ngon, Nguyen Hai Long, Vietnam), **Xu Tiantian** – **DnA Design and Architecture** (China), **Raphael Zuber** (Switzerland).
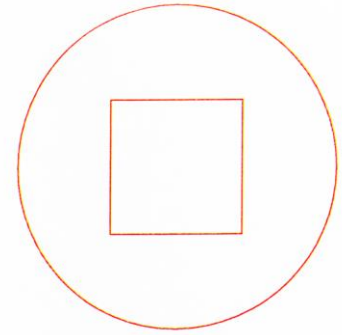
The Winner

Xu Tiantian (Fujian, 1975) gained a Bachelor's degree from Tsinghua University of Beijing and a Master of Architecture in Urban Design from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. After working in the United States and the Netherlands for OMA, she founded the studio DnA_Design and Architecture in Beijing. In 2006, she received the WA China Architecture Award and in 2008 the Young Architects Award from The Architectural League New York. In 2019 she was awarded the Moira Gemmill Prize for Emerging Architecture. In March 2018, an exhibition about her work, Rural Moves – The Songyang Story, opened at AEDES Architecture Forum in Berlin.

For all the information on the current and previous editions please refer to **www.swissarchitecturalaward.com.**

The press kit, with images of the winner's works, is available at the following link: https://drive.switch.ch/index.php/s/E3VugnvHl5U7X3N

Fondazione Teatro dell'architettura

The Fondazione Teatro dell'architettura is at the origin of the Teatro dell'architettura of Università della Svizzera italiana, a tool designed to fuel disciplinary debate, to strengthen the educational offer of the USI and the Academy of Architecture in particular, and to encourage a wider audience to become more aware of the crucial issues of contemporary architectural culture. Based in Mendrisio and chaired by Mario Botta, the foundation has been the promoter of the Swiss Architectural Award since 2018.
The Fondazione Teatro dell'architettura aims, in particular, to offer visibility to the new transdisciplinary interests that increasingly intervene in the design process and redefine the social role of architecture. The complex issues facing contemporary society - commitment to the environment, the availability of energy resources, drastic climate change and new complex social realities - strongly condition the dynamics linked to identity aspects at a territorial level, so much so that new approaches and a new disciplinary sensitivity are needed in the field of architecture, urban studies and landscape design. Among the activities promoted by the Fondazione Teatro dell'architettura are the exhibitions "Louis Kahn and Venice" (12 October 2018 - 20 January 2019; in collaboration with the USI - Academy of Architecture), "Koen Vanmechelen. The Worth of Life 1982-2019" (4 October 2019 - 2 February 2020; in collaboration with the USI - Academy of Architecture), "Le Corbusier's early drawings. 1902-1916" (19 September 2020 - 24 January 2021; in collaboration with the USI - Academy of Architecture).

Website of the Fondazione Teatro dell'architettura: www.fondazionetam.ch

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