

ARCHITECTURE AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS 2019

Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio are awarded the 2019 Royal Academy Architecture Prize

Finalists for the Royal Academy Dorfman Award are announced

The Royal Academy of Arts today announced that **Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio** have been awarded the **2019 Royal Academy Architecture Prize**, honouring their inspiring and enduring contribution to the culture of architecture. The annual prize, supported by the Dorfman Foundation and now in its second year, was decided by a distinguished international jury, recognising an innovative partnership that from its inception has been passionately committed to interdisciplinary work that expands architectural ideas and urban culture. With their practice Diller Scofidio + Renfro, their work consistently demonstrates how buildings can enhance cities and capture the public imagination.

The jury are also pleased to announce the finalists for the **Royal Academy Dorfman Award**, which champions global talent that represents the future of architecture. The four architects are:

- **Fernanda Canales (Mexico)**
- **Alice Casey and Cian Deegan, TAKA (Ireland)**
- **Mariam Kamara, Atelier Masomi (Niger)**
- **Boonserm Premthada, Bangkok Project Studio (Thailand)**

Chaired by the Royal Academician and co-founder of Stanton Williams **Alan Stanton**, jury members include Director of LSE Cities **Ricky Burdett**, co-founder of Sauerbruch Hutton **Louisa Hutton RA**, Head of the Graduate School of Architecture at the University of Johannesburg **Lesley Lokko** and broadcaster **Kirsty Wark**. They will be joined by artist **Phyllida Barlow RA** to select the winner of the Royal Academy Dorfman Award following a public presentation at the **Royal Academy Architecture Awards Week, 13-17 May 2019**. The week-long public celebration will also include an address by Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio, and a cultural outreach programme which will be developed with the **British Council** as International Partner for the Awards

The new awards and dedicated spaces for architecture in Burlington Gardens have increased the existing architecture programme at the Royal Academy, including debates, lectures, displays and new commissions to inspire the profession and deepen the public's understanding of architecture. The reinvigorated programme demonstrates the Royal Academy's role as a global advocate for architecture, realising the Royal Academy's mission to garner a wider appreciation and understanding of architecture's vital relationship to culture and society.

Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio said:

“This wonderful recognition by the Royal Academy of Arts has prompted us to reflect on the trajectory of our practice. We started as dissidents, challenging architecture as a self-contained discipline and probing its intersections with other cultural forms using a large toolkit of media. A combination of naiveté and determination allowed us to realize some challenging projects over time but it was not until our collaboration expanded to include new partners and a growing staff that we were truly able to push architecture’s untapped agency and convert provocations into meaningful action in cities and institutions.”

Alan Stanton RA, Co-founder of Stanton Williams and Chair of the Jury, said:

“The Jury were unanimous in their decision to award this year’s Royal Academy Architecture Prize for Architecture to Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio. Their extraordinary architectural projects which are founded on their early experimental work in the visual and performance arts resonate with our ethos here at the Royal Academy, formed as it is by both artists and architects. The Royal Academy Architecture Prize recognises a practice at the height of its powers who are leading voices for imaginative urban and environmental design and are an inspiration to architects of all generations.”

Sir Lloyd Dorfman CBE, Trustee of the Royal Academy Development Trust, and Founding Partner of the Awards, said:

“With the Royal Academy Prize winner and Dorfman Award finalists coming from five different continents, they reflect a wide spread of global talent. We are delighted that they are attracting interest from all over the world, since when we conceived the Awards, we wanted them to be truly international. Now in their second year, it is wonderful to see the Awards gaining in momentum, through the attraction of both a commercial and international partner.”

Kate Goodwin, Head of Architecture and Heinz Curator, Royal Academy of Arts, said:

“At the Royal Academy we view architecture as a social artform that is integral to our lives and ever present. We therefore think about architecture broadly and aim to contextualise its relevance within society and culture, often acting as translators between the profession and the public. I believe in expanding the spatial literacy of us all so we can understand the world we inhabit and work towards shaping a better one.”

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS ARCHITECTURE PROGRAMME 2019

Exhibitions

Summer Exhibition 2019

Main Galleries and The McAulay Gallery

10 June – 12 August 2019

Press View: Monday 3 June 2019, 10am – 1pm

Spencer de Grey RA will select the works in the Architecture Room of the Summer Exhibition, in a celebration of our awareness of a more sustainable world. Spencer de Grey invites submissions that show how good design and a strong sustainable agenda can be mutually compatible, illustrating approaches necessary to help protect the environment.

Eco-Visionaries

The Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries

24 November 2019 – 23 February 2020

Press view: 20 November, 10am – 1pm

Eco-Visionaries will explore current practices of art, design and architecture that, beyond mainstream notions of sustainability, respond with innovative approaches to the ecological transformations that are disturbing our planet. Through photography, film, installation, architectural models and digital media, architects and artists including Superflex, Unknown Fields, BIG, Dunne & Raby, HeHe and Andrés Jaque, will examine the impact of human action on earth, suggesting ways in which we might respond to a rapidly changing world.

A project initiated by MAAT (Lisbon, Portugal), Bildmuseet (Umeå, Sweden), HeK (Basel, Switzerland) and LABoral (Gijón, Spain), in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Arts.

Architecture Studio

Invisible Landscapes: Imagination (Act III)

Architecture Studio

2 February – 1 April 2019

Invisible Landscapes is a free, almost year-long programme of experimental interventions exploring the impact of emerging technologies on architecture and society. The final act, *Imagination (Act III)* presents work by four pioneering architectural practices – Gilles Retsin Architecture, ScanLAB Projects, Keiichi Matsuda and Soft Bodies – each looking at the impact virtual and augmented-reality technologies have on physical space and vice versa. From immersive installations to film and live experiences, this project explores how these technologies might transform the way we interact with and look at the world around us, both now and in the near future

Supported by HTC Vive and Metsä Wood and NOWNESS as Media Partner

Architectural Futures: Royal Academy Dorfman Award

Architecture Studio

12 April - 19 May 2019

A display of the work of the four finalists for the Royal Academy Dorfman Award, which champions new talent in architecture from across the world. Through models, images, films, books and personal artefacts, the display will offer a window into their practice, local culture and work. Visitors will get the chance to vote for who they think should receive this illustrious award, which will be decided in front of a live jury during Architecture Awards Week (13-19 May 2019).

Events Programme

Alternate Languages: Confronting Boundaries

Burlington House and Burlington Gardens

16 March 2019, 11am – 7pm

Alternate Languages is a day of free immersive spatial activations, performances, workshops and discussions taking place throughout the recently opened, expanded campus. We use the public and private spaces of the Royal Academy as the context in which to raise questions about what unites us and what divides us; about exclusion and generosity; about isolation and connectedness. This is the third event in a series by the same name that was first initiated with the British Council to occupy the empty space of the British Pavilion, for *Island*, at the 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale.

Borders

Benjamin West Lecture Theatre

1, 15 and 29 April 2019

This series starting in April 2019 will interrogate the social, political and architectural implications of borders through performances, lectures and debates. Inspired by the UK's imminent departure from the EU, these events will span from considering the architectural and spatial implications of walls, to looking at the impact of climate change on the seemingly fixed nature of transnational borders.

Royal Academy Architecture Awards Week

Benjamin West Lecture Theatre

13 – 17 May 2019

The RA will host a week-long public celebration which will include the selection of the winner of the Royal Academy Dorfman Award following a public presentation, and an address by Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio, the winners of the Royal Academy Architecture Prize. The week will also include talks, activities and workshops that create cultural exchange between international and local practitioners and students aimed at both the public and profession.

Sir Richard MacCormac Memorial Lecture

Benjamin West Lecture Theatre

October 2019

In October 2019, the Royal Academy will launch the inaugural Sir Richard MacCormac memorial lecture, in memory of renowned modernist architect and Royal Academician. The annual lecture will see an international cultural figure discussing the social purpose of architecture.

Notes to Editors

The Royal Academy Architecture Awards

Founding Partner:

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About Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio

Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R), started in New York in 1981, is an international design studio whose practice spans the fields of architecture, urban design, installation art, multi-media performance, digital media, and print. Founding partners Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio established their practice's identity with independent, self-generated installation and performance pieces such as **Traffic**, **the American Mysteries**, **Moving Target**, **the Rotary Notary and His Hot Plate** and **Jet Lag** establishing them as inspired designers who were willing to look beyond genre and professional boundaries. Their ability to transcend traditional architectural thinking was particularly apparent in 2002 with their iconic **Blur Building**. Here they re-defined ideas about envelope, structure and form, with an amorphous cloud of fog, floating atop Lake Neuchâtel in Switzerland.

Today, DS+R's four partners—Elizabeth Diller, Ricardo Scofidio, Charles Renfro and Benjamin Gilmer—collaborate on every project, and work with over 100 architects, designers and artists. They completed two of the largest architecture and planning initiatives in New York City's recent history: the adaptive reuse of an obsolete, industrial rail infrastructure into the **High Line**, a 1.5 mile-long public park, and the transformation of **Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts'** half-century-old campus. The studio is also working on two significant projects for the arts in London: the **Centre for Music**, the new home for the London Symphony Orchestra and a new **Collection and Research Centre for the Victoria and Albert Museum**.

In parallel with these architecture works, DS+R has continued to develop and execute independent projects including: **Exit**, an immersive data-driven installation about human migration at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris; **Arbores Laetae**, an animated micro-park for the

Liverpool Biennial; **Musings on a Glass Box** at the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain in Paris. This past year, Elizabeth Diller created, directed and produced **The Mile-Long Opera**, an immersive choral work featuring 1,000 singers distributed along the 1.5 miles of the High Line.

About the finalists for the Royal Academy Dorfman Award

Fernanda Canales

Fernanda Canales founded her eponymous architecture firm in 2002 in Mexico City. She has worked internationally for architects such as Toyo Ito in Tokyo and Sola-Morales in Barcelona. While her practice spans from large scale architectural projects to small interventions, from public and institutional commissions to private retreats, Canales still sees each project as an opportunity to narrow the gap between what we build and where we actually want to live. Publications on Mexican architecture and an ongoing, active engagement with teaching are activities that complement Canales's commitment to research and deeply considered architecture. Her practice is closely connected to research and she notes that an essential part of her process is to resolve a building in writing prior to preparing drawings.

Alice Casey and Cian Deegan, TAKA

TAKA was founded in 2006 as the result of a longstanding collaboration between Alice Casey and Cian Deegan, based in Dublin, Ireland. Their local work is deeply informed by their international travel and study, particularly research undertaken as part of their respective PhD projects. The tension between vernacular and high architecture is particularly productive for TAKA and results in subtly detailed work that delivers tactile and visual impact. TAKA's early domestic projects developed a characterful architecture through an exploration of material language and social ritual. They then developed this approach in small and medium-scale public projects where place-making was a central focus. Both Casey and Deegan are also active as educators and have taught at University College Dublin and Queens University Belfast. They currently teach at the Dublin School of Architecture.

Mariam Kamara, Atelier Masomi

Mariam Kamara grew up in Niger in West Africa, which is also where she founded her architecture and research firm atelier masōmī in 2014. In 2013, she and an international group of colleagues formed a collective called united⁴design, whose work includes projects in the US, Kamara's native Niger, and Germany. Kamara came to architecture after obtaining degrees in information systems and computer science from Perdue and New York University. Her architectural work encompasses educational facilities, religious complexes, housing and community projects, with an emphasis on projects that engage with the social, political and economic realities of their environments. Kamara takes pride in going beyond the brief and amplifying the impact of the project by careful research, experimentation with local materials and the harnessing of local skills.

Boonserm Premthada, Bangkok Project Studio

Born and raised in the heart of Bangkok, Boonserm Premthada founded Bangkok Project Studio in 2003. The practice celebrates the importance of craft in architecture, leading to carefully detailed projects with a deep sense of authenticity. Local construction methods and materials are crucial to Premthada's work and his buildings, such as the Kantana Film and Animation Institute in Nakhon Pathom, often utilise the skills of local craftspeople and traditional production methods. He has a deep interest in the ways in which non-architects intuitively solve spatial problems and states that it is this that enables him to produce quality works that fulfil both their commercial and social potential regardless of scale. In addition to directing the studio, Premthada also teaches at Chulalongkorn University and is a regular lecturer at other universities and architecture associations.

About The Dorfman Foundation

The Dorfman Foundation is a charitable foundation based on the entrepreneurial success of its chair, Sir Lloyd Dorfman CBE. Founded in 2007, its main areas of focus are the arts and culture, education, healthcare and the Jewish community. The Foundation was a major donor to the Royal Academy for its 250th anniversary. As part of that, it was a founding partner of the RA Architecture Awards in 2018. Sir Lloyd serves as a Trustee of the Royal Academy Development Trust, and sits on the boards of six other charities.

About Derwent London plc

Derwent London owns a 5.5m sq ft portfolio of commercial real estate mainly in central London, with a value of around £5.0 billion (as at June 2018).

Design and architecture are always at the forefront of our vision for every project, with abundant natural light, volume and high quality detail in our projects. We are innovative and design with people in mind and believe in a building directly responding to its place and we partner with the most talented architects and designers who share our passion.

Equally, we believe in making spaces that are sustainable - both to their environments and users. This approach is achieved through research and thinking responsibly. We adopt this ethos and know we have succeeded when we see our tenants happy in their surroundings. Derwent London has become well known in the industry for its strong design-led philosophy and has won numerous awards. www.derwentlondon.com @derwentlondon

About British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with over 100 countries in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Last year we reached over 75 million people directly and 758 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. We make a positive contribution to the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed

by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive 15 per cent core funding grant from the UK government. www.britishcouncil.org

Architecture at the RA

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Architecture has always been at the heart of the Royal Academy. From William Chambers, the RA's first Treasurer, to John Soane and Edwin Lutyens, to Zaha Hadid and Thomas Heatherwick, the Royal Academicians have comprised the leading architects of their generation. Architecture holds an important place in the RA Collection, with work gathered from Academicians since 1768 and architectural casts and books acquired for the teaching of students in the RA Schools. Architectural works have always featured in the Summer Exhibition and are now given a dedicated room, each year curated by a Royal Academician. Architecture has also been the subject of major exhibitions at the Royal Academy such as *New Architecture: Foster, Rogers, Stirling* (1986); *Living Bridges* (1996); *Richard Rogers: Inside Out* (2013), *Sensing Spaces: Architecture Reimagined* (2014), and *Renzo Piano: The Art of Making Buildings* (2018).

The Architecture Programme, which was made possible through the Drue Heinz Endowment for architecture in 1993, has grown to encompass a regular series of lectures, debates and symposia, new commissions and curated displays. The programme focuses on the intersection of architecture with the arts, aiming to deepen the public understanding of architecture and inspire the profession.

There are currently 23 architect Academicians: David Adjaye, Ron Arad, Gordon Benson, Adam Caruso and Peter St John, David Chipperfield, Peter Cook, Edward Cullinan, Trevor Dannatt, Spencer de Grey, Norman Foster, Piers Gough, Nicholas Grimshaw, Thomas Heatherwick, Louisa Hutton, Michael Hopkins, Eva Jiricna, Paul Koralek, Farshid Moussavi, Eric Parry, Ian Ritchie, Richard Rogers, Alan Stanton and Chris Wilkinson.

For more information on the RA Architecture Programme visit:

www.royalacademy.org.uk/architecture

About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by a group of artists and architects, under the patronage of King George III, in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded charity led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to promote the creation, understanding and appreciation of the visual arts and architecture through exhibitions, education and debate.

The Royal Academy launched a new campus as part of the celebrations of its 250th anniversary year in 2018. Following this transformative redevelopment, designed by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the National Lottery, the new Royal Academy of Arts reveals more of the elements that make the RA unique – sharing with the public historic treasures from its Collection, the work of its Royal Academicians and the Royal Academy Schools, and its role as a centre for learning and debate about art and architecture – alongside its world-class exhibitions programme.
Royalacademy.org.uk

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