

The Pritzker Architecture Prize

2024 Laureate
Riken Yamamoto
Japan

Media Kit



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Media Release Announcing the 2024 Laureate

Riken Yamamoto Receives the 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize

The Pritzker Architecture Prize announces Riken Yamamoto, of Yokohama, Japan, as the 2024 Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, the award that is regarded internationally as architecture's highest honor.

Yamamoto, architect and social advocate, establishes kinship between public and private realms, inspiring harmonious societies despite a diversity of identities, economies, politics, infrastructures, and housing systems. Deeply embedded in upholding community life, he asserts that the value of privacy has become an urban sensibility, when in fact, members of a community should sustain one another. He defines community as a "sense of sharing one space," deconstructing traditional notions of freedom and privacy while rejecting longstanding conditions that have reduced housing into a commodity without relation to neighbors. Instead, he bridges cultures, histories and multi-generational citizens, with sensitivity, by adapting international influence and modernist architecture to the needs of the future, allowing life to thrive.

"For me, to recognize space, is to recognize an entire community," Yamamoto expresses. "The current architectural approach emphasizes privacy, negating the necessity of societal relationships. However, we can still honor the freedom of each individual while living together in architectural space as a republic, fostering harmony across cultures and phases of life."

The 2024 Jury Citation states, in part, that he was selected "for creating awareness in the community in what is the responsibility of the social demand, for questioning the discipline of architecture to calibrate each individual architectural response, and above all for reminding us that in architecture, as in democracy, spaces must be created by the resolve of the people..."

By reconsidering boundary as a space, he activates the threshold between public and private lives, achieving social value with every project, as each abounds with places for engagement and chance encounters. Small- and large-scale built works alike demonstrate masterly qualities of the spaces themselves, providing focus on the life that each one frames. Transparency is utilized so that those from within may experience the environment that lies beyond, while those passing by may feel a sense of belonging. He offers a consistent continuity of landscape, designing in discourse to the preexisting natural and built environments to contextualize the experience of each building.

He has evolved influences from traditional Japanese *machiya* and Greek *oikos* housing that existed in relationship to cities, when connectivity and commerce were essential to the vitality of every family. He designed his own home, GAZEBO (Yokohama, Japan 1986) to invoke interaction with neighbors from terraces and rooftops. Ishii House (Kawasaki, Japan 1978), built for two artists, features a pavilion-like room, that extends outdoors and serves as a stage to host performances, while living quarters are embedded beneath.

"Yamamoto develops a new architectural language that doesn't merely create spaces for families to live, but creates communities for families to live together," says Tom Pritzker, Chair of the Hyatt Foundation, which sponsors the award. "His works are always connected to society, cultivating a generosity in spirit and honoring the human moment."

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Media Release (continued)

Larger housing projects also embody relational elements, assuring that even residents who live alone don't dwell in isolation. Pangyo Housing (Seongnam, Republic of Korea 2010), a complex of nine low-rise housing blocks is designed with nonprescriptive transparent ground floor volumes that catalyze interconnectedness between neighbors. A communal deck across the second floor encourages interaction, featuring spaces for gathering, playgrounds, gardens and bridges that connect one housing block to another.

"One of the things we need most in the future of cities is to create conditions through architecture that multiply the opportunities for people to come together and interact. By carefully blurring the boundary between public and private, Yamamoto contributes positively beyond the brief to enable community," explains Alejandro Aravena, Jury Chair and 2016 Pritzker Prize Laureate. "He is a reassuring architect who brings dignity to everyday life. Normality becomes extraordinary. Calmness leads to splendor."

Civic buildings achieving specific functions also affirm public purpose and assurance. The Hiroshima Nishi Fire Station (Hiroshima, Japan, 2000), appears entirely transparent, with its glass louvered façade and interior glass walls. Visitors and passersby may view through to the central atrium to witness the daily activity and training of firefighters, and are encouraged to grow acquainted with the civil servants who protect them in the many designated public areas of the building. Fussa City Hall (Tokyo, Japan 2008) is conceived as two mid-rise towers, rather than one high-rise to compliment the surrounding neighborhood of low-rise buildings. Concave bases invite visitors to recline and rest, while green public rooftop and lower levels are designated for flexible public programming.

Saitama Prefectural University (Koshigaya, Japan 1999), specializing in nursing and health sciences, is composed of nine buildings connected by terraces that transition into walkways leading to transparent volumes that allow views from one classroom to another, but also from one building to the next, encouraging interdisciplinary learning. Such fellowship is fostered even within the youngest generations at Koyasu Elementary School (Yokohama, Japan 2018), which features generous, undivided terraces extending learning spaces, permitting sights into and from each classroom, and encouraging relationships amongst students across grades levels.

He considers the user experience first, designing Yokosuka Museum of Art (Yokosuka, Japan 2006) as both a destination for travelers and a daily reprieve for locals. While the inviting serpentine entrance evokes the surrounding Tokyo Bay and nearby mountains, many of the galleries are underground, providing those who approach with a clear, undisturbed visual experience of the natural geography. Visitors may view through to the landscape and other galleries from round cutouts in all common spaces, uniting these otherwise distinctive environments so that those inside are impressed upon not only by the artwork, but by the activity of others in the spaces alongside them.

His career has spanned five decades and his projects, ranging from private residences to public housing, elementary schools to university buildings, institutions to civic spaces, and city planning, are located throughout Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Switzerland. Significant built works also include Nagoya Zokei University (Nagoya, Japan, 2022), THE CIRCLE at Zürich Airport (Zürich, Switzerland, 2020), Tianjin Library (Tianjin, People's Republic of China, 2012), Jian Wai SOHO (Beijing, People's Republic of China, 2004), Ecoms House (Tosu, Japan, 2004), Shinonome Canal Court CODAN (Tokyo, Japan, 2003), Future University Hakodate (Hakodate, Japan, 2000), Iwadeyama Junior High School (Ōsaki, Japan, 1996) and Hotakubo Housing (Kumamoto, Japan, 1991).

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Media Release (continued)

Yamamoto is the 53rd Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize and the ninth to hail from Japan. He was born in Beijing, People's Republic of China, and resides in Yokohama, Japan. He will be honored in Chicago, Illinois, United States of America this spring and the 2024 Laureate Lecture will be held at S. R. Crown Hall, Illinois Institute of Technology, in partnership with the Chicago Architecture Center, on May 16th, open to the public in-person and online.

About the Pritzker Architecture Prize

The Pritzker Architecture Prize was founded in 1979 by the late Jay A. Pritzker and his wife, Cindy. Its purpose is to honor annually a living architect or architects whose built work demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision and commitment, which has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture.

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Jury Citation

The Pritzker Prize is conferred in acknowledgment of those qualities of talent, vision and commitment, which have persistently produced significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture. In his long, coherent, rigorous career, Riken Yamamoto has managed to produce architecture both as background and foreground to everyday life, blurring boundaries between its public and private dimensions, and multiplying opportunities for people to meet spontaneously, through precise, rational design strategies.

By the strong, consistent quality of his buildings, he aims to dignify, enhance and enrich the life of individuals—from children to elders—and their social connections. And he does this through a self-explanatory yet modest and pertinent architecture, with structural honesty and precise scaling, with careful attention to the landscape of the surroundings.

His architecture clearly expresses his beliefs through the modular structure and the simplicity of its form. Yet, it does not dictate activities, rather it enables people to shape their own lives within his buildings with elegance, normality, poetry and joy.

Riken Yamamoto deliberately engages with the widest range of building types as well as scales in the projects he chooses. Whether he designs private houses or public infrastructure, schools or fire stations, city halls or museums, the common and convivial dimension is always present. His constant, careful and substantial attention to community has generated public interworking space systems that incentivize people to convene in different ways. The entire building space of the Saitama Prefectural University (1999), for instance, is conceived as a community.

Yamamoto suggests rather than imposes this shared dimension through understated, yet precise architectural interventions. By including spaces for common activities within, in addition to and even regardless of the main function of his buildings, he allows these to integrate into the quotidian life of the community, instead of being only experienced in exceptional circumstances. The two departments for the students and researchers to work together in the Future University, Hakodate (2000), or the transparent louvred glass façade to expose the inner workings of the department in the Hiroshima Fire Station (2000) both exemplify his belief in the concept of transparency as a reflection of the functionality and accessibility of the space for users and viewers alike.

As a young architect born in China and trained in Japan, he felt the urgency to complete his own education with a real understanding of the ‘other than the self.’ He extensively travelled not (primarily) to visit renowned monuments, but rather to experience at first hand the culture and everyday life of communities on other continents. From North to South America, across the Mediterranean to the Middle East and Asia, Yamamoto has investigated the roots and history of community life that he might bring his own contribution to the modernization of the contemporary city through architecture. For him a building has a public function even when it is private.

Riken Yamamoto is not an architecture historian, yet he learns from the past as well as from different cultures. As an architect, he does not copy from the past, rather he adapts, re-uses and evolves, showing that fundamentals persist in their relevance. Yamamoto has expanded the toolbox of the profession towards both the past and the future to be able to give each time, in very different modes and at very different scales, the most pertinent response to the challenges of both the built environment and of collective living.

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Jury Citation (continued)

For creating awareness in the community in what is the responsibility of the social demand, for questioning the discipline of architecture to calibrate each individual architectural response, and above all for reminding us that in architecture, as in democracy, spaces must be created by the resolve of the people, Riken Yamamoto is named the 2024 Pritzker Prize Laureate.

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Jury Members

Alejandro Aravena (Chair)

Architect, Educator and 2016 Pritzker Laureate
Santiago, Chile

Barry Bergdoll

Architecture Historian, Educator, Curator and Author
New York, New York

Deborah Berke

Architect and Dean, Yale School of Architecture
New York, New York

Stephen Breyer

U.S. Supreme Court Justice
Washington, DC

André Aranha Corrêa do Lago

*Architecture Critic and Secretary for Climate, Energy and Environment,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Brazil*
Brasília, Brazil

Kazuyo Sejima

Architect and 2010 Pritzker Laureate
Tokyo, Japan

Wang Shu

Architect, Educator and 2012 Pritzker Laureate
Hangzhou, China

Manuela Lucá-Dazio (Executive Director)

Venice, Italy

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Biography

Japanese architect Riken Yamamoto (b. 1945) was born in Beijing, People's Republic of China and relocated to Yokohama, Japan shortly after the end of World War II. Negotiating a balance between public and private dimensions from childhood, he lived in a home that was modeled after a traditional Japanese *machiya*, with his mother's pharmacy in the front and their living area in the rear. "The threshold on one side was for family, and on the other side for community. I sat in between."

Yamamoto knew little about his father, who had passed away when the architect was only five years old. In some ways, he sought to emulate his father's career as an engineer, but instead forged his own path into architecture. At age 17, he visited Kōfuku-ji Temple, in Nara, Japan, originally built in 730 and finally reconstructed in 1426, and was captivated by the Five-storied Pagoda symbolizing the five Buddhist elements of earth, water, fire, air and space. "It was very dark, but I could see the wooden tower illuminated by the light of the moon and what I found at that moment was my first experience with architecture."

He graduated from Nihon University, Department of Architecture, College of Science and Technology in 1968 and received a Master of Arts in Architecture from Tokyo University of the Arts, Faculty of Architecture in 1971. He founded his practice, Riken Yamamoto & Field Shop in 1973.

During the earliest years of his career, the architect spontaneously journeyed across countries and continents by car with his mentor, Hiroshi Hara, spending months at a time in pursuit of understanding communities, cultures and civilizations. In 1972, he drove along the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea, visiting France, Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Italy, Greece and Türkiye. Two years later, he traveled from Los Angeles to Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Colombia before reaching Peru. He would also embark on a similar expedition to Iraq, India and Nepal, and concluded that the idea of a "threshold" between public and private spaces was universal. "I recognize the past system of architecture is so that we can find our culture...The villages were different in their appearance, but their worlds [were] very similar."

Yamamoto reconsidered boundaries between public and private realms as societal opportunities, committing to the belief that all spaces may enrich and serve the consideration of an entire community, and not just those who occupy them. With this in mind, he began designing single-family residences that united natural and built environments, welcoming to both guests and passersby. His first project, Yamakawa Villa (Nagano, Japan 1977), is exposed on all sides and situated in the woods, designed to feel entirely like an open-air terrace. The experience significantly influenced his future works as he extended into social housing with Hotakubo Housing (Kumamoto, Japan 1991), bridging cultures and generations through relational living.

Transparency, in form, material and philosophy remained an essential element in his works. He established an urban planning approach that demonstrated evolution as a vital property in the development of Ryokuen-toshi, Inter-Junction City (Yokohama, Japan 1994). Regardless of a building's identity or function, a regulation constitutes that all must allow passage through its site, cohering adjacent plots and unifying neighboring landowners. He continued to prompt societies in large buildings by adapting his architectural language to projects such as Saitama Prefectural University (Koshigaya, Japan 1999), and Tianjin Library (Tianjin, Republic of China 2012), attesting to his mastery of scale.

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Biography (continued)

His work grew more prolific, ranging from private residences to public housing, elementary schools to university buildings, and institutions to civic spaces, when natural disaster devastated Japan in 2011. In the aftermath of Tōhoku Earthquake and Tsunami, he established Local Area Republic Labo, an institute dedicated to community activities through architectural design; and instituted the Local Republic Award in 2018 to honor young architects who act with courage and ideals towards the future.

Yamamoto is a newly appointed visiting professor at Kanagawa University (Yokohama, Japan). He was a visiting professor at Tokyo University of the Arts (Tokyo, Japan 2022-2024) and has previously taught at Nihon University, Graduate School of Engineering (Tokyo, Japan 2011-2013); Yokohama National University, Graduate School of Architecture (Yokohama, Japan 2007-2011); Kogakuin University, Department of Architecture (Tokyo, Japan 2002-2007); and served as the President of Nagoya Zokei University of Art and Design (Nagoya, Japan 2018-2022).

He was appointed Academician by the International Academy of Architecture (2013) and has received numerous distinctions throughout his career including the Japan Institute of Architects Award for the Yokosuka Museum of Art (2010), Public Buildings Prize (2004 and 2006), Good Design Gold Award (2004 and 2005), Prize of the Architectural Institute of Japan (1988 and 2002), Japan Arts Academy Award (2001), and Mainichi Art Awards (1998).

Yamamoto continues to practice and reside in Yokohama, in community with his neighbors. His built works can be found throughout Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Switzerland.

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Built Works

- 2022** Nagoya Zokei University, Nagoya, Japan
- 2020** THE CIRCLE at Zürich Airport, Zürich, Switzerland
- 2019** Tokyo Weld Technical Center, Numazu, Japan
- 2018** Koyasu Elementary School, Yokohama, Japan
- 2016** Yokohama City University, Yokohama, Japan
- 2013** Yokohama Zoo Restaurant, Yokohama, Japan
Seoul Gangnam Housing, Seoul, Republic of Korea
- 2012** Home For All in Heita, Kamaishi, Japan
Tianjin Library, Tianjin, People's Republic of China
- 2010** Pangyo Housing, Seongnam, Republic of Korea
- 2009** Namics Techno Core, Niigata, Japan
Utsunomiya University Center for Optical Research & Education, Utsunomiya, Japan
- 2008** Fussa City Hall, Tokyo, Japan
Dragon Lily's House, Kiryu, Japan
- 2006** Yokosuka Museum of Art, Yokosuka or Kanagawa, Japan
- 2005** SUSTRG Office Project, Sukagawa, Japan
Future University Hakodate Research Building, Hakodate, Japan
- 2004** Ecoms House, Tosu, Japan
Jian Wai SOHO, Beijing, People's Republic of China
- 2003** Shinonome Canal Court CODAN, Tokyo, Japan
- 2002** D Clinic, Saitama, Japan
- 2001** Tokyo Weld Technical Center, Numazu, Japan
Ban Building, Niigata, Japan

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Built Works (continued)

- 2000** Yokohama Mitsukyo Housing, Yokohama, Japan
 Hiroshima Nishi Fire Station, Hiroshima, Japan
 Future University Hakodate, Hakodate, Japan
- 1999** Saitama Prefectural University, Koshigaya, Japan
- 1998** Office Kitano, Tokyo, Japan
- 1996** Iwadeyama Junior High School, Osaki, Japan
 Yamamoto Mental Clinic, Okayama, Japan
 Shimoizumi Community Center & Shimoizumi Care Center , Yokohama, Japan
- 1995** House in Kamakura, Kamakura, Japan
- 1994** Ryokuen-toshi (Inter-Junction City) CÔTE á CÔTE, Yokohama, Japan
- 1993** Ryokuen-toshi (Inter-Junction City) AMNIS, Yokohama, Japan
 Ryokuen-toshi (Inter-Junction City) LOGGIA, Yokohama, Japan
 Ryokuen-toshi (Inter-Junction City) OBERISK, Yokohama, Japan
 Ryokuen-toshi (Inter-Junction City) PRADO, Yokohama, Japan
 Ryokuen-toshi (Inter-Junction City) ARCUS, Yokohama, Japan
- 1992** Ryokuen-toshi (Inter-Junction City) XYSTUS, Yokohama, Japan
 Ryokuen-toshi (Inter-Junction City) G.F. Building, Yokohama, Japan
 House in Okayama, Okayama, Japan
 House in Katsushika, Tokyo, Japan
- 1991** Hotakubo Housing, Kumamoto, Japan
- 1989** Wakatsuki House, Kamakura, Japan
- 1988** HAMLET, Tokyo, Japan

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Built Works (continued)

- 1987** Marufuji (The Kosaku Store), Tokyo, Japan
ROTUNDA, Yokohama, Japan
Daiko Dormitory, Ashigarashimo-gun, Kanagawa, Japan
Fujii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1986** Marufuji (The Minamidenen Store), Tokyo, Japan
GAZEBO, Yokohama, Japan
Restaurant KIRARA, Tokyo, Japan
- 1985** Omata House, Yokohama, Japan
- 1984** Sato House, Tokyo, Japan
ESSES Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1983** Niikura House, Tokyo, Japan
- 1982** Fujii House, Yokohama, Japan
- 1981** Seno House, Tokyo, Japan
- 1978** Yamamoto House, Yokohama, Japan
Ishii House, Kawasaki, Japan
Kubota House, Tokyo, Japan
- 1977** Yamakawa Villa, Nagano, Japan
Shindo House, Yokohama, Japan
- 1976** Mihira House, Yokohama, Japan

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Selected Awards

- 2012** Public Buildings Prize, Yokosuka Museum of Art, Tokyo, 2012
- 2010** Building Contractors Society Prize, Namics Techno Core, Tokyo, 2010
The Japan Institute of Architects Award, Yokosuka Museum of Art, Tokyo, 2010
- 2008** Building Contractors Society Prize, Yokosuka Museum of Art, Tokyo, 2008
- 2006** Building Contractors Society Prize, Shinonome Canal Court CODAN, Tokyo, 2006
- 2005** Good Design Award, Gold Prize, Shinonome Canal Court CODAN, Tokyo, 2005
- 2004** Public Buildings Prize, Hiroshima Nishi Fire Station, Tokyo, 2004
Public Buildings Prize, Future University Hakodate, Tokyo, 2004
- 2002** Building Contractors Society Prize, Future University Hakodate, Tokyo, 2002
Prize of the Architectural Institute Japan for Design, Future University Hakodate, Tokyo, 2002
- 2001** Building Contractors Society Prize, Hiroshima Nishi Fire Station, Tokyo, 2001
Japan Art Academy Prize, Saitama Prefectural University, Tokyo, 2001
- 2000** Building Contractors Society Prize, Saitama Prefectural University, Tokyo, 2000
- 1999** Good Design Award, Gold Prize, Saitama Prefectural University, Tokyo, 1999
- 1998** Mainichi Art Award, Iwadeyama Junior High School, Tokyo, 1998
- 1997** Building Contractors Society Prize, Iwadeyama Junior High School, Tokyo, 1997
- 1988** Prize of the Architectural Institute Japan for Design, GAZEBO and ROTUNDA, Tokyo, 1988
- 1985** SD Review Kajima Award, GAZEBO, Tokyo, 1985

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- 2019** Yamamoto, Riken, et al, editors. *都市美 創刊第1号 コミュニティ権 新しい希望*. SAYUSHA, 2019.
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Ceremony Venue

Founded in the aftermath of the Great Chicago Fire, the Art Institute of Chicago opened its current location in 1893, situated in what has become the heart of Millennium Park. The Beaux Arts building was designed by Shepley, Ruten & Coolidge and has since evolved through eight major expansions, the latest of which established the Modern Wing, designed by Renzo Piano, 1998 Pritzker Prize Laureate, and his practice, Renzo Piano Building Workshop. The permanent collection presently includes over 300,000 works of art in fields ranging from Chinese bronzes to contemporary design and from textiles to installation art.

Past Pritzker Prize Laureates who have also been honored at the Art Institute of Chicago are the late Kevin Roche, 1982 Laureate, in the museum's Stock Exchange Trading Room, the preserved and reconstructed Chicago Stock Exchange, originally designed by Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler (1893/1894); and the late Gordon Bunshaft, 1988 Laureate.

The site is recognized today as the former homelands of the Council of Three Fires: Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi Nations.

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Previous Laureates

Sir David Alan Chipperfield CH, 2023 Laureate

United Kingdom

Presented at the Ancient Agora, Athens, Greece

Diébédo Francis Kéré, 2022 Laureate

Burkina Faso and Germany

Presented at The Marshall Building, The London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom

Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, 2021 Laureates

France

Presented virtually

Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara, 2020 Laureates

Ireland

Presented virtually

Arata Isozaki, 2019 Laureate

Japan

Presented at the Château de Versailles, Versailles, France

Balkrishna Doshi, 2018 Laureate

India

Presented at the Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada

Rafael Aranda, Carme Pigem and Ramon Vilalta, 2017 Laureates

Spain

Presented at the State Guest House, Akasaka Palace, Tokyo, Japan

Alejandro Aravena, 2016 Laureate

Chile

Presented at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, New York

Frei Otto, 2015 Laureate

Germany

Presented at the New World Center, Miami Beach, Florida

Shigeru Ban, 2014 Laureate

Japan

Presented at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Toyo Ito, 2013 Laureate

Japan

Presented at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston, Massachusetts

Wang Shu, 2012 Laureate

The People's Republic of China

Presented at the Great Hall of the People, Beijing, The People's Republic of China

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Previous Laureates (continued)

Eduardo Souto de Moura, 2011 Laureate

Portugal

Presented at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, Washington, DC

Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, 2010 Laureates

Japan

Presented at the Immigration Museum, Ellis Island, New York Bay

Peter Zumthor, 2009 Laureate

Switzerland

Presented at the Palace of the Buenos Aires City Legislature, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Jean Nouvel, 2008 Laureate

France

Presented at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC

Richard Rogers, 2007 Laureate

United Kingdom

Presented at the Banqueting House, Whitehall Palace, London, United Kingdom

Paulo Mendes da Rocha, 2006 Laureate

Brazil

Presented at the Dolmabahçe Palace, Istanbul, Turkey

Thom Mayne, 2005 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park, Chicago, Illinois

Zaha Hadid, 2004 Laureate

United Kingdom

Presented at the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia

Jørn Utzon, 2003 Laureate

Denmark

Presented at Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando, Madrid, Spain

Glenn Murcutt, 2002 Laureate

Australia

Presented at Michelangelo's Campidoglio in Rome, Italy

Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, 2001 Laureates

Switzerland

Presented at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia

Rem Koolhaas, 2000 Laureate

Netherlands

Presented at the Jerusalem Archaeological Park, Israel

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Previous Laureates (continued)

Norman Foster, 1999 Laureate

United Kingdom
Presented at the Altes Museum, Berlin, Germany

Renzo Piano, 1998 Laureate

Italy
Presented at the White House, Washington, DC

Sverre Fehn, 1997 Laureate

Norway
Presented at the construction site of the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain

Rafael Moneo, 1996 Laureate

Spain
Presented at the construction site of the Getty Center, Los Angeles, California

Tadao Ando, 1995 Laureate

Japan
Presented at the Grand Trianon and the Palace of Versailles, France

Christian de Portzamparc, 1994 Laureate

France
Presented at The Commons, Columbus, Indiana

Fumihiko Maki, 1993 Laureate

Japan
Presented at Prague Castle, Czech Republic

Alvaro Siza, 1992 Laureate

Portugal
Presented at the Harold Washington Library Center, Chicago, Illinois

Robert Venturi, 1991 Laureate

United States of America
Presented at Palacio de Iturbide, Mexico City, Mexico

Aldo Rossi, 1990 Laureate

Italy
Presented at Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy

Frank O. Gehry, 1989 Laureate

United States of America
Presented at Todai-ji Buddhist Temple, Nara, Japan

Oscar Niemeyer, 1988 Laureate

Brazil
Presented at the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois

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Previous Laureates (continued)

Gordon Bunshaft, 1988 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois

Kenzo Tange, 1987 Laureate

Japan

Presented at the Kimball Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas

Gottfried Böhm, 1986 Laureate

Germany

Presented at Goldsmiths' Hall, London, United Kingdom

Hans Hollein, 1985 Laureate

Austria

Presented at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California

Richard Meier, 1984 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Ieoh Ming Pei, 1983 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York

Kevin Roche, 1982 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois

James Stirling, 1981 Laureate

United Kingdom

Presented at the National Building Museum, Washington, DC

Luis Barragán, 1980 Laureate

Mexico

Presented at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC

Philip Johnson, 1979 Laureate

United States of America

Presented at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC

About the Medal



The bronze medallion awarded to each Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize is based on designs of Louis Sullivan, famed Chicago architect generally acknowledged as the father of the skyscraper. On one side is the name of the prize. On the reverse, three words are inscribed, “firmness, commodity and delight.” These are the three conditions referred to by Henry Wotton in his 1624 treatise, *The Elements of Architecture*, which was a translation of thoughts originally set down nearly 2,000 years ago by Marcus Vitruvius in his *Ten Books on Architecture*, dedicated to the Roman Emperor Augustus. Wotton, who did the translation when he was England’s first ambassador to Venice, used the complete quote as: “The end is to build well. Well-building hath three conditions: commodity, firmness and delight.”

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History of the Prize

The Pritzker Architecture Prize was established by The Hyatt Foundation in 1979 to annually honor a living architect whose built work demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision and commitment, which has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture. It has often been described as “architecture’s most prestigious award” or as “the Nobel of architecture.”

The prize takes its name from the Pritzker family, whose international business interests, which include the Hyatt Hotels, are headquartered in Chicago. They have long been known for their support of educational, social welfare, scientific, medical and cultural activities. Jay A. Pritzker, who founded the prize with his wife, Cindy, died on January 23, 1999. His eldest son, Thomas J. Pritzker, has become chairman of The Hyatt Foundation. In 2004, Chicago celebrated the opening of Millennium Park, in which a music pavilion designed by Pritzker Laureate Frank Gehry was dedicated and named for the founder of the prize. It was in the Jay Pritzker Pavilion that the 2005 awarding ceremony took place.

Tom Pritzker explains, “As native Chicagoans, it’s not surprising that we are keenly aware of architecture, living in the birthplace of the skyscraper, a city filled with buildings designed by architectural legends such as Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe and many others.”

He continues, “In 1967, our company acquired an unfinished building which was to become the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. Its soaring atrium was wildly successful and became the signature piece of our hotels around the world. It was immediately apparent that this design had a pronounced effect on the mood of our guests and attitude of our employees. While the architecture of Chicago made us cognizant of the art of architecture, our work with designing and building hotels made us aware of the impact architecture could have on human behavior.”

And he elaborates further, “So in 1978, when the family was approached with the idea of honoring living architects, we were responsive. Mom and Dad (Cindy and the late Jay A. Pritzker) believed that a meaningful prize would encourage and stimulate not only a greater public awareness of buildings, but also would inspire greater creativity within the architectural profession.” He went on to add that he is extremely proud to carry on that effort on behalf of his family.

Many of the procedures and rewards of the Pritzker Prize are modeled after the Nobel Prize. Laureates of the Pritzker Architecture Prize receive a \$100,000 grant, a formal citation certificate, and since 1987, a bronze medal. Prior to that year, a limited edition Henry Moore sculpture was presented to each Laureate.

Nominations are accepted from all nations; from government officials, writers, critics, academicians, fellow architects, architectural societies or industrialists, virtually anyone who might have an interest in advancing great architecture. The prize is awarded irrespective of nationality, race, creed, gender or ideology.

The nominating procedure is continuous from year to year, closing each November. Nominations received after the closing are automatically considered in the following calendar year. The final selection is made by an international jury through undisclosed deliberations and voting.

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The Evolution of the Jury

The first jury, assembled in 1979, consisted of the late J. Carter Brown, then director of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC; the late J. Irwin Miller, then chairman of the executive and finance committees of Cummins Engine Company; the late César Pelli, architect and at the time, Dean of the Yale University School of Architecture; the late Arata Isozaki, architect from Japan and 2019 Pritzker Prize Laureate; and the late Kenneth Clark (Lord Clark of Saltwood), noted English author and art historian.

Jury members are invited to serve for a minimum three-year tenure. The gradual changes over time in the jury composition allow for a balance between stability and new perspectives on the committee. Lord Rothschild of the UK was Chair of the Pritzker Prize Jury from 2002–2004. Lord Peter Palumbo, well-known architectural patron and former chairman of the Arts Council of Great Britain, former trustee of the Mies van der Rohe Archives of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and former chairman of the trustees, Serpentine Galleries, served as Chair from 2005–2016 and continued as a member through 2018. 2002 Pritzker Prize Laureate Glenn Murcutt, joined the Jury in 2011 and held the Chair position from 2017–2018. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, joined the Jury in 2012, was appointed Chair from 2019-2020, and presently remains a member of the Jury.

Jury members are assembled from around the world and reflect a variety of professions and points of view. The current Jury Chair is Alejandro Aravena of Santiago, Chile, 2016 Pritzker Prize Laureate, Founder and Executive Director of ELEMENTAL, and former Juror.

Other current members include André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, architectural critic, curator and Brazilian Ambassador to India (Delhi, India); Barry Bergdoll, Meyer Schapiro Professor of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University (New York, NY); Deborah Berke, architect, educator and Dean of the Yale School of Architecture (New York, NY); Sejima Kazuyo, 2010 Pritzker Prize Laureate and Japanese architect (Tokyo, Japan); and Wang Shu, 2012 Pritzker Prize Laureate, Chinese architect and educator (Hangzhou, China).

Others who have served include people from the world of business such as the late Thomas J. Watson, Jr., former chairman of IBM; the late Giovanni Agnelli, former chairman of Fiat; Rolf Fehlbaum, then chairman of Vitra, Basel, Switzerland; and Ratan N. Tata, Chairman of Tata Trusts, Mumbai, India.

Critics, journalists and curators include the late Toshio Nakamura, former editor of *a+u* in Japan; the late Ada Louise Huxtable, author and architecture critic and the longest serving juror to date; Victoria Newhouse, architectural historian and author; Karen Stein, writer, editor and architectural consultant in New York; and Kristin Feireiss, architecture curator, writer and editor based in Berlin, Germany.

Numerous architects from around the world have served including Americans Frank Gehry, the late Philip Johnson and the late Kevin Roche; as well as the late Ricardo Legorreta of Mexico, Fumihiko Maki of Japan and the late Charles Correa of India; Jorge Silvetti, architect and professor of architecture at Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts; and Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi, 2018 Pritzker Prize Laureate, architect and professor of architecture from Ahmedabad, India.

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The Evolution of the Jury (continued)

Since 2000, there have been many outstanding architects associated with the Pritzker Prize Jury including Juhani Pallasmaa, architect, professor and author, Helsinki, Finland; Shigeru Ban, 2014 Pritzker Prize Laureate, architect and professor at Keio University, Tokyo, Japan; Carlos Jimenez, architect and professor at Rice University, Houston, Texas; the late Zaha Hadid, 2004 Pritzker Prize Laureate and architect; Renzo Piano, 1998 Pritzker Prize Laureate and architect, of Paris, France and Genoa, Italy; the late Richard Rogers, 2007 Pritzker Prize Laureate and architect, London, United Kingdom; Yung Ho Chang, architect and educator of Beijing, The People's Republic of China; and Benedetta Tagliabue, Italian architect and educator (Barcelona, Spain).

Manuela Lucá-Dazio, based in Venice, Italy, is the current Executive Director of the Pritzker Prize and the former Executive Director of the Department of Visual Arts and Architecture of La Biennale di Venezia. Martha Thorne, former Dean of IE School of Architecture and Design (Madrid, Spain) and former associate curator of architecture at the Art Institute of Chicago (Illinois, USA), was Executive Director from 2005-2021, following the late Bill Lacy, architect and advisor to the J. Paul Getty Trust, and former president of the State University of New York at Purchase, who was Executive Director from 1998 to 2005. Previous secretaries to the jury were the late Brendan Gill, who was architecture critic of *The New Yorker* magazine, and the late Carleton Smith. The late Arthur Drexler, former Director of the Department of Architecture and Design at The Museum of Modern Art in New York City, was a consultant to the jury for many years.

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Pritzker Ceremonies Through the Years

Soon after establishing the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1979, the Pritzker family began a tradition of moving the award ceremonies to architecturally and historically significant venues throughout the world. Befitting a truly international prize, the ceremony has been held in fifteen countries on four continents from North and South America to Europe to the Middle East to Far East Asia.

For the first two years of the Prize, the ceremony was held at historic Dumbarton Oaks in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. where the first Laureate, Philip Johnson, designed a major addition to the estate. For six of its first seven years, the Prize was awarded in the District of Columbia. For the fourth year of the Pritzker Prize, the ceremony traveled for the first time—to the Art Institute of Chicago. It wasn't until 1986 that the Pritzker Prize was awarded at an international location.

Since then, Europe has hosted the ceremony thirteen times in eight countries, thrice in the United Kingdom and twice each in Spain, Italy and France. Beyond Europe and the U.S., the Prize has traveled twice to the Middle East and Latin America, and thrice to East Asia.

The ceremony has taken place at three UNESCO World Heritage sites. In 1989, Frank Gehry was honored at the 8th century Buddhist temple Todai-ji in Nara, Japan. Tadao Ando and then Arata Isozaki, in 1995 and 2019, respectively, were celebrated at the Palace of Versailles in France. In 2001, Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron were awarded jointly at Monticello in Virginia.

Historically significant sites have served as venues for the prize, including the 1991 ceremony at the Palace of Iturbide in Mexico City where the first Emperor of Mexico was crowned, the 9th century Prague Castle in the Czech Republic in 1993, and at the foot of Temple Mount in Jerusalem Archaeological Park in 2000, which at the time, was the oldest site to date. In 2002, the ceremony took place on one of the seven traditional hills of Rome in Michelangelo's monumental Piazza di Campidoglio. In 2004, the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, comprised of palaces of the Russian czars, hosted the ceremony honoring the first female winner of the award, Zaha Hadid, and in 2010, the ceremony was held in the middle of New York Harbor at Ellis Island's Immigration Museum.

In 2012, the Prize ceremony was held for the first time in China. Coincidentally, Chinese architect Wang Shu was the Laureate and received the award in Beijing's Great Hall of the People. Shu was not the first architect to be honored in his home country, but as ceremony locations are usually chosen each year long before the Laureate is selected, there is no direct relationship between the honoree and the ceremony venue.

As architecture is as much art as design, the Pritzker Prize ceremony has been held in numerous museums including New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, Washington, D.C.'s National Gallery of Art, Fort Worth's Kimball Museum, Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum, Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum and Toronto's Aga Kahn Museum. Libraries have been a popular venue choice, including the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, the Harold Washington Library in Chicago, the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. and the Huntington Library, Arts Collections and Botanical Gardens near Los Angeles.

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Pritzker Ceremonies Through the Years (continued)

The Pritzker Prize ceremony often visits newly opened or unfinished buildings such in 1996, when the occasion was held at the construction site of the Getty Center, Los Angeles. In 2005, the ceremony was held at the new Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Chicago’s Millennium Park, designed by 1989 Laureate Frank Gehry. In 2022, the ceremony took place at the recently opened Marshall Building, London School of Economics and Political Science, designed by Grafton Architects, led by 2020 Laureates Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara.

Heads of state have been among the many dignitaries to attend Pritzker Prize ceremonies. U.S. Presidents Clinton and Obama attended ceremonies in Washington in 1998 and 2011 respectively, the former being held at the White House. The King of Spain attended the 2003 ceremony at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid. The Prime Minister of Turkey and the President of the Czech Republic also attended ceremonies when held in their respective countries. Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan, attended the 2017 ceremony at the Akasaka Palace, Tokyo, which was originally built as the residence for the Crown Prince in 1909.

In 2020 and 2021, special ceremony videos were produced and shared virtually due to limitations associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Farrell and McNamara, 2021 Laureates Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, and dignitaries filmed their remarks remotely, at public and private locations around the world including the Long Room, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland; the State Reception Room, Áras an Uachtaráin, Dublin, Ireland; Palacio de Liria, Madrid, Spain; Fort of Bregançon, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, France; and at built works by the Laureates including Frac Grand Large—Hauts-de-France, Dunkerque, France and Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France.

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