

As President of the 10th Jury of the International Rosa Barba Prize, I want first to thank the scientific committee, the staff, and the Col·legi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya for hosting this remarkable and important event of the past three days. And, I want to be sure that a remarkable fact does not go unnoticed: The dedicated group of practitioners, teachers, staff, and volunteers who put together the first Biennial here in Barcelona and awarded the first Rosa Barba Prize, exactly two decades ago, are the very same people who have feted us here for four days and amassed this incredible surplus of critical knowledge about how we are adapting and rescuing the world we live in. The Biennial and the Rosa Barba Prize remain vital to landscape architecture worldwide, twenty years and counting, and these committed individuals deserve our recognition and thanks. Their commitment is unstoppable and we have all benefitted from their dedication and determination and grace.

I would also like to extend a very sincere thanks to my fellow jury members for the 2018 Prize: Walter Hood, from Berkeley; Michael Jacob, from Geneva and Mendrisio; Teresa Moller, from Santiago; and Katherine Moore, from Manchester. A wily and devoted group of thinkers and practitioners. They have all traveled great distances to join in this formidable task. We endured a few long conference calls, reviewed more than 180 entries, and we shared some long

days and two very late nights here in Barcelona. It has been a joy to spend this time together, talking extensively about design and life—as these are inevitably intertwined in our kinship and in the work laid out before us.

I'm pleased to report that we felt, without any hesitation, that we'd landed an abundance of riches for the 10th Biennial. We had 9 potential winners. We offer special thanks to all of the teams for joining us in Barcelona and for bringing forward exceptional projects for our examination and edification. As a group, the presentations were extraordinary and informative. Collectively, they advance potential answers to the urgent ecological, economic, and social questions of our time, including how we protect or revive our vital urban resources, how we accommodate the dramatic rise of international tourism, how we sustain agrarian lands and land-based cultivation practices, how we capitalize and develop land resources artfully and sensitively, and how we propose equitable solutions to the stresses that urbanization and climate change bring to underserved populations in our cities. These projects prove that landscape architects are facing up to these challenges with seriousness and dedication.

The Jiahe River Country Park in Yintai City, China exemplified the increasingly urgent need for flood protection in our cities, with a

sense of beauty and poetry rarely achieved in infrastructure projects. In Venice, the Sacca Sessola Island Open Spaces and Historical Park demonstrated an attitude towards critical conservation of venerable historic resources, grounded with knowledge-based traditions of horticultural practice yet also with the freedom of contemporary design expression. In the Cyclades Islands of Greece, the so-called Landscapes of Cohabitation reminds us of that which is essential to Mediterranean coastal landscapes, even as they are rapidly transforming from agricultural to private development; the project deploys an approach rooted in deep respect for the structure of long-adapted habitat and cultural patterns.

In Paris, the Halle Pajol/Rosa Luxembourg Gardens recaptures underutilized rail infrastructure near the Gare de L'Est for mixed uses in a compelling urban transformation. The Central Promenade Renewal in Tel Aviv has revived that city's waterfront and now realizes a grand urban beach for the entire city population. The San Michele Open Air Museum brings a sophisticated material expression to geologic forms and the vivid and challenging memory of a military landscape—an evocative synergy with remarkable execution and the promise of yet further development in the coming years. The Quzhou Luming Park in the Zihjiang Region of China applies traditional farming and drainage techniques to

establish a healthy ecological community, recovering a vast despoiled site and serving a massive urban population's recreation needs. These hybrid kinds of projects exemplify the best of our disciplinary efforts.

The jury is pleased to award a Special Mention the Linear Park Curenavaca Railroad, in Mexico City, for its explicit attention to the needs of underserved populations and for recognizing the crucial importance of urban forestry for the survival of our cities. The project gives voice to diverse communities, provides spatial connectivity among and across them, and proves that unexpected, found space can unite people through the precise design of sometimes forgotten cracks and seams in the urban fabric. We are proud to celebrate this achievement and congratulate the design team and its partners for such a unique urban success.

Finally, the jury is proud to exclaim that the Rosa Barba International Landscape Prize for the 10th Landscape Biennial is awarded to the Saxholl Crater Stairway in Snaefellsjokull National Park, West Iceland. Congratulations, Landslag ehf! The surprising and evocative "Orange Stairway to Heaven," as it is known colloquially, provides an elegant, poetic response to one of the vital issues of our time—the myriad impacts of burgeoning global tourism on landscapes that are crucial to the survival of the earth

and its inhabitants. Technically elegant and tectonically sophisticated, the magical arc of 400 steps intervenes precisely on the steep topographic form of a volcanic crater. The project's constructional logic has minimized disturbance during its making and into the future. Confining visitors to the ascending path makes the public aware of the ultimate fragility of the landform and critical habitat of vast miles of moss-covered lava fields beyond. By recognizing the Saxholl Crater Stairway with the Prize, the jury embraces a way of working that achieves monumental impact through minimal intervention in a sensitive ecosystem, and demonstrates to the world that design can intervene boldly and effectively in the aim of conserving our planetary resources.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our reflections on these important works. They have rekindled in us a distinct and optimistic hope for the future. We are persuaded by these projects and our discussions that our collective practices will have enormous beneficial impact on the challenges of our time.