

12th Rosa Barba Casanovas International Landscape Architecture Prize

The Rosa Barba Prize seeks to honor the “**best and most innovative practices in landscape architecture.**” The jury consisted of five members representing various approaches to landscape architecture and different regions. The 2023 jury consisted of the following members:

Martha Fajardo, a Colombian landscape architect with over 38 years’ experience in leading national and international roles, playing a key role in establishing the profession in countries all around the globe.

Julio Gaeta is from Uruguay and lives in Mexico. Julio combines his professional practice with academia, working as an architect, professor and researcher focusing on architecture and the city. He is the founder of ELARQA, a research center and publishing house writing on topics related to architecture and the city.

Bruno Marques is the president of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), a registered landscape architect and a university educator. He is Associate Dean for the Faculty of Architecture and Design Innovation at Victoria University of Wellington and the immediate past Head of the Landscape Architecture Department.

Kotchakorn Voraakhom is a landscape architect from Thailand who works on building productive green public space that tackles climate change in urban dense areas and climate-vulnerable communities. She is a chairwoman of the landscape without the border IFLA APR, TED Fellow, Echoing Green Climate Fellow.

The jury president is **Gareth Doherty**, from Ireland, is an Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design,

The 2023 prize will be awarded to a landscape that was built between 2017 to 2022.

The call for applications for the prize was launched on **20 February 2023** with a deadline of **30 May 2023**. The deadline was extended to **10 June 2023**.

After receiving 225 nominations the jury met four times in June and early July 2023 to make a shortlist of first 25 projects, and then narrow the shortlist to the 11 projects that you saw yesterday.

Let's take a moment to briefly review the 11 shortlisted projects.

1. **Turenscape** working with the Thai firm, *Ar som sin* Community and Environmental Architect, developed four strategies for a former tobacco factory in the center of Bangkok, the **Benjakitti Forest Park**. The four strategies include: 1. Reusing and recycling. 2. Taking a modular approach to create porous sponge wetlands. 3. Designing “messy” low-maintenance landscape. and 4. Creating immersive spaces for the public and provide cultural services.
2. The University of New South Wales's **Alumni Park** by **Spackman Mossop Michaels** is a striking attempt to integrate indigenous knowledge in the design of a central space in a university campus.
3. **Edgar Mazo's** detailed and distinct community garden in the Prado district of (*Medejean*) Medellín, Colombia, is an abandoned residential site which becomes a place of encounter for the community. Located in a peripheric neighborhood it is becoming a gathering place with a strong connection with nature. The opening of the inside to the outside, indoor rooms become outdoor rooms, private becomes public.
4. **First (f)Light** at Auckland Airport, Aotearoa–New Zealand, by California-based **Surface Design** is a remarkable project with earthforms designed to be seen from above as much as from on the ground, when moving at different speeds entering or exiting the country. The project celebrates the volcanic heritage of the site.

5. With the **Tangshan Quarry Park** outside Nanjing, China, **Z&T Studio** have created a thoughtful, poetic, and well-considered landscape architectural project that considers the integration of the site and its users: human and non-human. At all stages of the design process, we can see the integration of environmental, and the social ecologies, manifest in an exquisitely executed project. The outstanding narrative on the relationship between nature and people uncovering dynamic processes captivated the jurors.
6. At **HOPE Cape Town**, **Tarna Klitzner Landscape Architect (TKLA)** has designed a space for, as she puts it, “gathering, holding and protecting” children, youth and families affected by HIV, and other social challenges. Working in difficult and sometimes violent urban conditions, TKLA demonstrates landscape architectures’ potential and ambition to change the quality of life for the disadvantaged. Participatory design process is exemplary; local materials (brick from factory) and plants. The jurors were struck by the humility of the project. Even though it is small in scale, it has a big impact.
7. At **Marconi Park, RTP (Temporary Grouping of Professionals)** created a living park giving new use to an abandoned place. Sometimes the river will flood, exposing the public to the fragility of the park and its ecosystem.
8. **LOMA’s Summer Island** in Heilbronn, Germany is a gem, a carefully sculpted 3D-generated and built park. The use of technology fosters an efficiency of design where motion becomes form.
9. **Miaojing River: From Ecological Gem to Climate-Resilient Infrastructure** by PLAT Studio in Kunshan, 20 km northwest of Shanghai, China, creates a complex urban ecology that brings the city to the river and the river to the city. The designers claim they have made a “holistic, poetic, and integrated infrastructure for all.”
10. **Phase Shifts in Taichung** by **Mosbach Paysagistes**, team head, Philippe Rahm, architect, and Ricky Liu & associates architect planners. This park recognizes and

highlights landscapes' sensorial dimensions and embraces the monsoon and flooding. The exquisite drawings and poetic design process are exemplary.

11. **West Midlands National Park** led by **Kathryn Moore** challenges the idea of a national park, to include cities and the spaces we live and work in. This radical proposal brings the idea of a national park—and landscape—closer to home and unleashes the power of landscape to shape us, and policy makers. Putting landscape first, the project wants landscape to think bigger and connect with its region, with politics and policy. The project is the voice of everyday landscape.

Common among these 11 projects are the following points:

Social Impact

The projects' demonstrate potential for positive social change and benefits to diverse publics.

Climate Change Adaptation or Mitigation

Projects address the challenges of climate change, either by adapting to its impacts or mitigating its effects.

Local and Regional Approach

Demonstrating a deep understanding and response to the local and regional context in which they are situated.

Regenerating and Reclaiming Proximity Spaces:

...fostering a sense of community and enhancing the quality of life.

Co-creation and Co-production:

Appreciating projects that embrace collaborative approaches, involving diverse stakeholders and communities in the design process. Nature based solutions. Appreciating landscape architecture projects that embrace co-creation and co-production involves recognizing their collaborative nature and the involvement of diverse stakeholders and communities in the design process.

In addition, we were impressed with the strength of concepts and narratives in the projects, and the clarity of many of the presentations.

The jury wanted to recognize a diversity of approaches to landscape architecture; in a range of contexts; and parts of the world.

We are awarding honorable mentions to three projects:

Prado district of (*Medejean*) Medellín, Colombia

HOPE Cape Town, Tarna Klitzner Landscape Architect (TKLA)

West Midlands National Park led by Kathryn Moore

There is so much hope in the honorable mention projects.

In selecting the winner, the jury was interested in a project that representing excellence in all aspects of the design process and touching on all the points above over social and environmental impact. We wanted to select a project that would inspire others and offer a model to follow. In the same way that Rosa Barba Casanovas who organized the first biennial continues to inspire this award.

The winning project had the highest scores in each stage of the judging process.

The unanimous decision of the jury is to award the 2023 Rosa Barba Prize to **Tangshan Quarry Park** by **Z&T Studio**.

Signed:

Gareth Doherty

Martha Fajardo

Julio Gaeta

Bruno Marques

Kotchakorn Voraakhom

Barcelona

28 November 2023