

LIGHT OF TOMORROW

INTERNATIONAL VELUX AWARD 2006 FOR STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE

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THE WINNERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL VELUX AWARD 2006

Three winners and seventeen honourable mentions were presented and honoured at the International VELUX Award 2006 for students of architecture. Louise Groenlund from Denmark won first prize for her project "A museum of photography". Gonzalo Pardo from Spain and Anastasia Karandinou representing the UK took second and third prizes.



The winner – Louise Groenlund from Denmark

The winning project was created by 27-year-old Louise Groenlund from Denmark. In her project "A museum of photography" she used the camera as a metaphor in the definition and construction of a museum of photography. Louise graduated from the Copenhagen School of Architecture in January 2006 and her project for the International VELUX Award was the project for her final thesis. During the last years of her academic studies she worked intensively with perception through sight and light and thus she has built up extensive knowledge about the qualities of light within architecture and photography - her two passions. The Daylight Simulation Lab at the School of Architecture was an indispensable tool for Louise's research.

- The International VELUX Award theme 'Light of tomorrow' translates directly to my own research in the phenomenology and perception of light and sight. To design a museum of photography is to create the optimum conditions for seeing; i.e. not only to see the photography, but also to make the spectator aware of what he sees and the conditions within which he is seeing, says Louise Groenlund about her project.

She began by dissecting the definition of photography, which means writing with light. She then used the camera as a metaphor in the definition and construction of a museum of photography.

- The stacked room is the chamber of a camera. The façade of differing apertures can be viewed as different lenses of a camera. The lenses or apertures allow different quantities and qualities of light into the exhibition area and the in-between spaces (between the chamber and facades) - thus the museum is an instrument that amplifies the phenomenological qualities of light, explains Louise Groenlund.

2nd prize – Gonzalo Pardo Diaz from Spain

Runner-up and winner of the second prize was 26-year-old Gonzalo Pardo Diaz from Madrid, Spain, who has previously won several international and national architectural awards. Gonzalo explained that he uses competitions to develop his experimental thinking and focuses on theoretical and conceptual architecture rather than formal or final solutions. Thus, the IVA 2006 posed an interesting theme for his ideas within creative and conceptual architecture. "For me only concepts should remain: the attraction of architecture is the ability of an idea, when it is linked to concepts, not to forms, to acquire diverse formalisations." Gonzalo's project "A place for reading" is a three dimensional network – not a building. It is a working table, a space under construction made up of fragments, incomplete... like a forest.



3rd prize – Anastasia Karandinou from UK

The third prize was awarded to 25-year-old Anastasia Karandinou originally from Athens, Greece, now studying in Scotland and representing the UK with her project 'Light invisible bridges'. Anastasia's project is founded on her studies and research within the immaterial elements of architecture. The International VELUX Award theme "Light of tomorrow" challenged Anastasia to combine her theoretical knowledge of the qualities of light and practical research in the city of Shanghai into a brief project proposal. This forced her to ask fundamental questions and sharpen her focus to communicate her ideas and concepts. "It was a challenging and insightful exercise to communicate the complex theory and thoughts behind the practical proposal in a very brief project description". Anastasia feels that light is a fundamental element in the perception of space, and it can function as an interesting "narrative-making" tool in various scales – (and) in urban design too.



Apart from the three winners the jury awarded 17 honourable mentions from eleven different countries. Please find detailed information about all winners and honourable mentions at www.velux.com/a.

A GREAT DAY FOR ALL OF US!

To Louise Groenlund, the winner of the International VELUX Award 2006, the visit to Bilbao and the award event at Guggenheim stand out as one of the most exciting experiences in her life.

On 23 October, at the world famous Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, the 27-year-old Dane Louise Groenlund was announced winner of the International VELUX Award 2006.

- The award ceremony and my visit to Bilbao will stand out as a transition point from the idealistic world of science and aesthetics that we thrive in as students to the real world where you have to consider commercial and functional perspectives. This is a universal transition and to me the award symbolises the culmination of my pursuit of idealism in architecture, says Louise.

Louise was very moved by the speech of the chairman of the jury, Per Olaf Fjeld when he announced her as the winner of IVA 2006. The chairman of the jury complemented the winning project both in concept and presentation:

- To reach a spatial complexity through this type of architectural simplicity, embedded in a strong belief in the capacity of light, is very rewarding. It requires personal strength, talent and consistency, Per Olaf Fjeld reasoned for the jury's selection.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE DAYLIGHT

From being a newly qualified and comparatively anonymous architect, Louise Groenlund suddenly found herself centre-stage in Bilbao. She expressed her thoughts and gratitude in the speech that she gave to the 600 people attending the award event in the Guggenheim atrium.

- Though I was quite overwhelmed I wanted to express my feelings and share the celebration with my fellow participants. It was a great day of celebration for all of us. VELUX did a fantastic job hosting us, our visit to Bilbao and the entire set-up was quite extraordinary. It was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. I am very happy to have taken part in the International VELUX Award - a unique opportunity to influence the light of tomorrow, Louise Groenlund explains.

Louise went to Bilbao supported by her family. Teachers Nanet Mathiassen and Kjeld Vindum, as well as the Principal of the School of Architecture at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, Sven Felding were guests too, invited by VELUX Denmark.

Louise enjoyed meeting the other winners and honourable mentions, contemplating their projects and discussing views on daylight and contemporary architecture. Now, Louise is back in Denmark working full time at the Danish studio entasis where she had her internship. She is currently involved in building 30,000 m² of residential and business premises in Orestad near Copenhagen. Furthermore, she has just started as a part-time teacher at the School of Architecture at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts.

Louise graduated from the School of Architecture in January 2006. Her winning project is the project from her final thesis, which is a result of extensive research into perception of light and her interest in photography.



A CELEBRATION OF THE "LIGHT OF TOMORROW"



The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao was vibrating with tension and optimism during the award event of the International VELUX Award 2006. Three winners and seventeen honourable mentions from all over the world had arrived in Bilbao to receive honour, recognition and prizes for their projects concerning "Light of Tomorrow".

More than 400 people attended the award event in the spectacular setting of the atrium of the Guggenheim Museum.

The ceremony featured a lecture by the Japanese architect and jury member Kengo Kuma on the use of daylight in contemporary architecture. After the ceremony Jorgen Tang-Jensen, CEO of VELUX, motivated the award stressing the wish of VELUX to explore and discuss the role of daylight in architecture in a global context.

- Daylight and sunlight are important factors in how buildings are perceived and in the daily lives of people, their health and comfort at home or at work. With the International VELUX Award VELUX wants to encourage projects that go to the edge and demonstrate experimental thinking on daylight and its role in architecture, said Jorgen Tang-Jensen at the award ceremony.



A TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE

The award ceremony started off announcing the seventeen honourable mentions, these were followed by a speech from Gaetan Siew, the President of the International Union of Architects (UIA). When the time came to announce the three winners the atrium was vibrant with expectations. Each winner was handed over the prize by a jury member. Third prize went to 25-year-old Anastasia Karandinou originally from Athens, Greece, now studying in Scotland and representing the UK with her project 'light invisible bridges'. Second prize went to 26-year-old Gonzalo Pardo Diaz from Madrid, Spain, for his project "A reading place". The winning project was created by 27-year-old Louise Groenlund from Denmark. In her project "A museum of photography" she used the camera as a metaphor in the definition and construction of a museum of photography.

Following the announcement, Louise Groenlund gave a speech on her project, where she emphasized that she viewed the award as a universal celebration of the idealism of architecture and thanked VELUX for a great experience and for the company's support of students in pursuit of the "Light of tomorrow". Her message to the students present and their teachers was: **"We are all winners!"**

The award event was concluded with a press conference for all winners and honourable mentions who answered questions from more than 50 journalists representing a worldwide audience of media.

VELUX will follow up the International VELUX Award with an International Daylight Symposium at the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao in May 2007. The next International VELUX Award is planned to take place in 2008 and will be announced during 2007.



You will find more information about the event at www.velux.com/a