

TERRA Award

First international prize for contemporary earthen architecture

Exhibition and related catalogue – Free access database

Earth is becoming increasingly popular in contemporary architecture: hundreds of projects of high aesthetic and technical quality are emerging across five continents. This material, which has low embodied energy, is readily available and appropriate for participatory buildings. It could help provide a solution to the needs for ecological and economical housing.

To enable both professionals and the general public to fully appreciate this building material, all the involved stakeholders must be recognised at their real value. Under the auspices of the **UNESCO Chair** "Earthen architectures, construction cultures and sustainable development", the following partners have therefore taken the initiative to launch the **first international prize for contemporary earthen architecture**: the Labex AE&CC-CRAterre-ENSAG Lab research unit, the amàco project, the Grands Ateliers, the CRAterre association and *EcologiK/EK* magazine.

Wang Shu, winner of the Pritzker Prize 2012, is the **president of honour** of this **TERRA Award**, the trophies for which will be presented in Lyon on July 14, 2016 at the Terra 2016 World Congress.

CONTEXT

Since its creation in 1979, the CRAterre-ENSAG Lab has been considered as the international research and training reference centre for earthen construction. It will organize in July 2016, under the auspices of the UNESCO Chair "Earthen architectures", the **Terra 2016 World Congress**. This event takes place every four years on a different continent and will be held for the second time in Europe. It is expected to draw around 800 professionals, teachers and researches to Lyon (France).

The **TERRA Award** was initiated within this framework. It will be the **first international prize for contemporary earthen architecture** and a natural furtherance of the national award launched in 2013 in France by CRAterre-ENSAG, AsTerre and *EcologiK/EK* magazine.



OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the TERRA Award is not only **to identify and distinguish outstanding projects**, but also to highlight the audacity of the project owners for choosing to use earth, the creativity of the designers and the skills of the craftsmen and entrepreneurs.

An **itinerant exhibition** will feature 40 buildings from all continents, constructed using various techniques (adobe, cob, CEB, rammed earth, plaster, etc.) for all types of programs: housing, public facilities, activities, and exterior and interior designs. The exhibition will be completed with lectures and workshops by CRAterre-ENSAG and the amàco project.

The search for outstanding achievements deserving of this prize and the associated exhibition will make it possible to generate the first worldwide **database** on contemporary earthen architecture. The resulting virtual library will be available both to the general public and professionals via the website:

www.terra-award.org

All documents will be published in French, Spanish and English.

STAKEHOLDERS: ATELIER TERRA

The stakeholders involved in the TERRA Award, the exhibition and the database are all part of the Atelier TERRA. This includes members of the CRAterre-ENSAG Lab and the amàco project, students and alumni of the DSA-Terre (Master for earthen architecture) and of the master's program "Architecture et cultures constructives" at the Grenoble École nationale d'architecture, as well as students from other schools of architecture and international professionals specializing in earth construction, etc.

The joint objective, under the coordination of Dominique Gauzin-Müller, is to create a dynamic to increase awareness of contemporary earthen architecture..

INVOLVED PROJECTS

The projects must have been completed **after January 2000**.

There are eight categories covering all types of programs, whether new or renovated:

- Individual housing
- Collective housing
- School, sports and health facilities
- Cultural facilities and religious buildings
- Offices, shops and factories
- Interior layout and design
- Exterior design, art and landscape
- Architecture and local development

SELECTION

Two juries will be formed consisting of **prestigious international experts** along with professionals and institutions involved in the earthen construction field. The competition will be in two phases.

- Phase 1: nomination of **40 buildings**, which will be presented within the itinerant exhibition.
- Phase 2: a jury of honour will choose **one winner for each of the eight categories** from the preselected buildings.

The selection criteria will include **quality of architecture** and **showcasing of skills**, taking account of social and environmental requirements:

- Architectural quality and landscape integration
- Environmental approach and energy performance
- Creativity and innovation
- Technical performance
- Local economy and social intensity
- Showcasing of skills

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION

In order for the TERRA Award to become a reality, it needs many patrons. Institutions, companies, professionals, students ... you can participate in several ways:

- by **reporting interesting earthen contemporary projects**;
- by **relaying information** concerning the call for applications, the award results and the exhibition dates (media, web sites, social networks, etc.);
- by writing, for the **inventory of earthen contemporary architecture**, one or more files describing a project upon the model developed by the Atelier TERRA;
- by **providing a space for the exhibition** and organizing its presentation;
- by **participating to the funding** of the prize, exhibition, catalogue, videos and database.

If you are interested in becoming a **TERRA Award partner**, the members of the Atelier TERRA will be glad to receive your messages at atelier@terra-award.org

Many thanks in advance for your help!

SCHEDULE

	May 29, 2015	Launch of the TERRA Award at the closing ceremony of the 14th Grains d'Isère festival
	November 26, 2015	Closing date for applications
	January 15, 2016	Jury in Grenoble to choose the projects to be exhibited
	May/June 2016	Inauguration of the exhibition in Grenoble
	July 10, 2016	Jury composed of international professionals to select one winner in each category
	July 11, 2016	Inauguration of the exhibition in Lyon within the Terra 2016 World Congress.
	July 14, 2016	Award ceremony in Lyon as part of the closing ceremony of Terra 2016 Online publication of the virtual library
	October 6-8, 2016	Presentation of the exhibition at the UNSFA Congress at Biarritz (France)
	2016/2017	Presentation of the exhibition at "Maisons de l'architecture", the "24 heures d'architecture" in schools of architecture, in French Institutes overseas, etc.

For the Atelier TERRA,
Dominique Gauzin-Müller