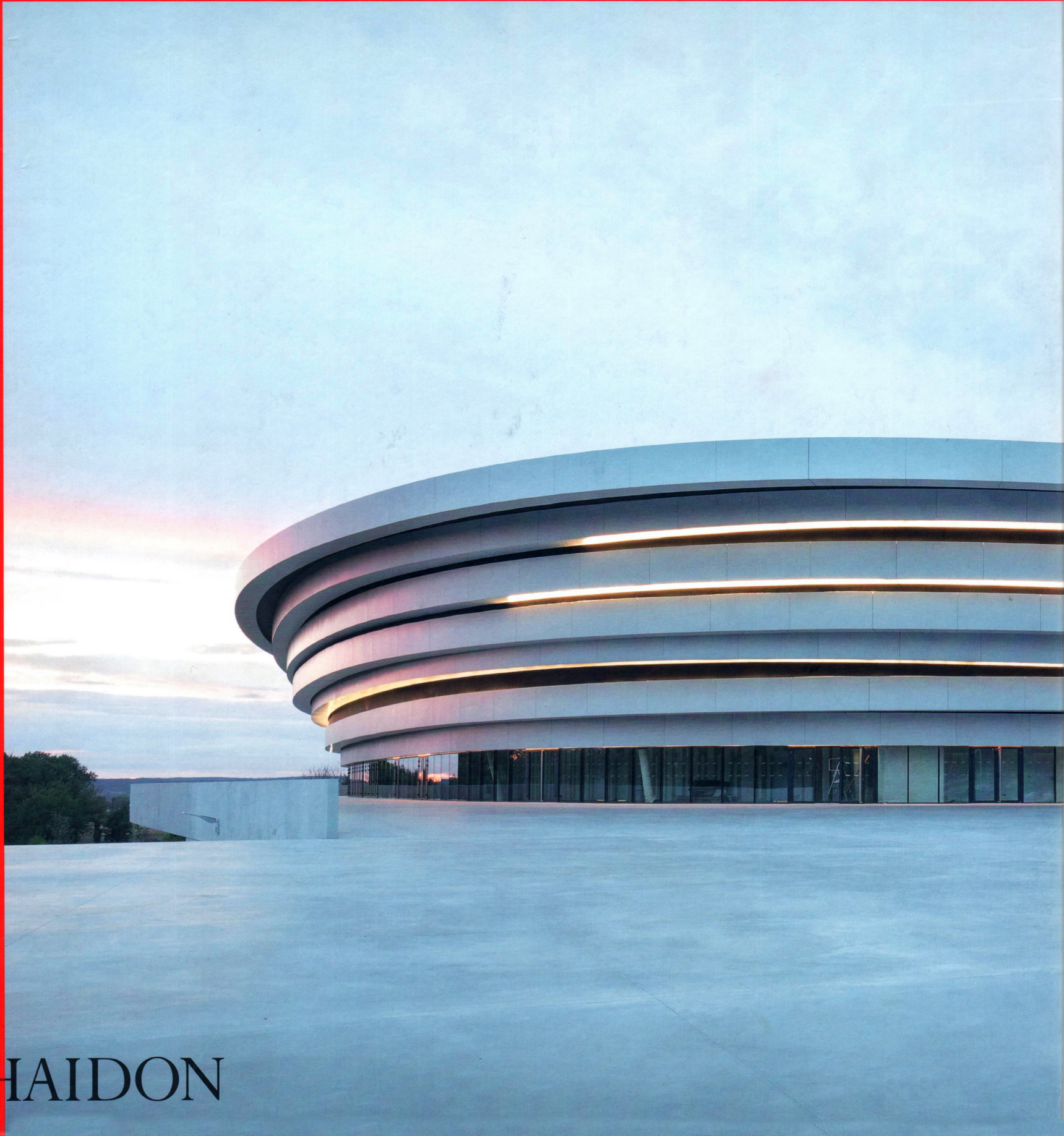


Architizer

The World's
Best Architecture



PHAIDON

Amazing Architecture— as Chosen by You

For too long, architecture has been intertwined with exclusivity. Prestigious industry awards are typically given out to star architects, presenting individual geniuses as the face of the profession. Oftentimes, the winners of these awards are chosen by a small group of fellow architects, each with his or her own agendas and historical biases. Surely, this system leaves out the most important opinions of all—those of the people who live, work, and play inside buildings every day.

Architizer's A+Awards, the world's largest awards program for architecture and building products, is dedicated to changing this prevalent imbalance. Launched in 2013, its design democracy attracts public votes from multiple hundred thousand users, giving a true picture of what outstanding architecture looks like today. The program's aim is not to create more starchitects. Instead, it gives the spotlight to entire design teams and the structures they work so hard to create. Architecture has never been an individual pursuit, and the A+Awards strive to demonstrate the power of great teamwork and collaboration. More importantly, the projects that follow illustrate the essential ingredients of amazing buildings, defined not by architecture's "inner circle," but by everyone who uses and participates in the creation of the built environment.

To this end, there are two types of A+Award given for each category. Winners of the Popular Choice Awards are chosen by the global public using an online voting system. Additionally, the Jurors' Awards are selected by a group of more than four hundred visionary practitioners from the world of design, technology, fashion, business, and more. These experts understand the power of stellar architecture to enrich global communities, while at the same time forming a community diverse enough to assemble balanced and fair results—a true reflection of exemplary design.

To ensure all types of architecture firms can be recognized for their work, the A+Awards are split into a

wide range of categories across three broad groups. Firstly, the Typology categories celebrate traditional building types, ranging from residential, office, and commercial to transportation, landscape, and cultural structures. Secondly, the Plus categories are designed to showcase how architects build relationships, celebrating the intersection of architecture with lighting, art, communication, technology, and others. Finally, the Product categories reward the spectacular products and materials that help make architects' visions a reality.

What, then, do the winning projects tell us about the state of contemporary design? While the projects in this book are incredibly diverse—both in terms of geography and typology—they share certain traits that elevate them from being simply good to being truly exceptional. As hand-picked examples in a gallery of innovation and creativity, these buildings are united by common factors that today's architects are striving to perfect.

First and foremost, materiality is key. Rojkind Arquitectos' Foro Boca Concert Hall in Mexico is a glorious ode to concrete, composed of monumental blocks that echo the rocky edge of the surrounding seawall. Steven Holl Architects' Maggie's Center in London is an urban lantern of translucent polycarbonate that glows softly each evening, emanating a comforting warmth that uniquely benefits its inhabitants. Meanwhile, H&P Architects' aptly named Brick Cave in Đông Anh, Vietnam, is a house wrapped in a veil of perforated bricks, creating a shaded interior sprinkled with dappled light.

The architects behind each of these magical spaces harnessed raw materials in a way that celebrates their unique properties, requiring no covering up or hiding away. There is a great sense of honesty embedded within these buildings—plasterboard, corning, and stucco are eschewed, allowing each material to be showcased in a way that inhabitants can instantly recognize and appreciate. This expressive approach to architecture can only be achieved

through impeccable detailing, which in turn necessitates a high level of craftsmanship—another trend running through the projects in this book.

For evidence, one can look to Heatherwick Studio's extraordinary transformation of grain silos for the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary African Art in Cape Town. The project's stunning faceted glazing was carefully conceived by the design team, expertly manufactured by Mazor Aluminum, and then gently slotted into the concrete shell. Similarly, the charred timber shingles of META-Project's Stage of Forest—a stunning retreat in the snowy hills of Changchun, China—were meticulously wrapped around the cantilevered shell of the building to form an extraordinary outlook onto Songhua Lake. Then, there is Luigi Rosselli Architects' Beehive in Australia's Surry Hills, its facade shrouded with a rhythmic veil of reclaimed terra-cotta tiles that mediate the sun and the wind.

In each of these cases, the collaboration between architects, fabricators, and builders was essential to the project's success. A single, carefully considered junction between two elements can make all the difference—look for where contrasting floor finishes meet, where tiles converge on a hipped roof, or where a door slides seamlessly into a wall. These key details form powerful examples of exactly that synergy between designers and construction teams that can be found throughout this book.

Beyond beautiful materiality and clever detailing, many winning projects also demonstrate the power of program to improve the lives of communities in need. ZAV Architects utilized innovative sandbag construction to create the Rong Cultural Center, a crucial gathering place for the people of Hormuz Island in Iran. In a very different environment, Matthew Mazzotta created another joyful social catalyst in the shape of the Storefront Theater in Lyons, Nebraska, formed by a shop facade that converts into seating and a stage for local performances. These projects illustrate the potential for architecture to bring

Coral Seafood Restaurant

Kish, Iran

BNS Studio

TYPE
HOSPITALITY:
UNBUILT HOSPITALITY

WINNER
POPULAR CHOICE

PROJECT STATUS
CONCEPT

YEAR
2018

FIRM LOCATION
TEHRAN
IRAN

The Coral Seafood Restaurant sits on a breakwater that is 590 feet (180 meters) in length, located by the beautiful Kish Island in the Persian Gulf adjacent to the Marina Park Hotel. This unique building looks as if it were in the middle of the sea and include spaces such as an indoor hall, an outdoor lounge, and an open-air coffee shop with lampshade-like umbrellas that provide shade during the day and illuminate the night. Like musical notes, the openings along the building's linear volume add rhythm and harmony to the design. These windows not only frame the view of the sea, but also create dynamic and pleasant spaces. In reference to the coral reef of Kish Island, abstract coral forms were used as a primary design concept.

