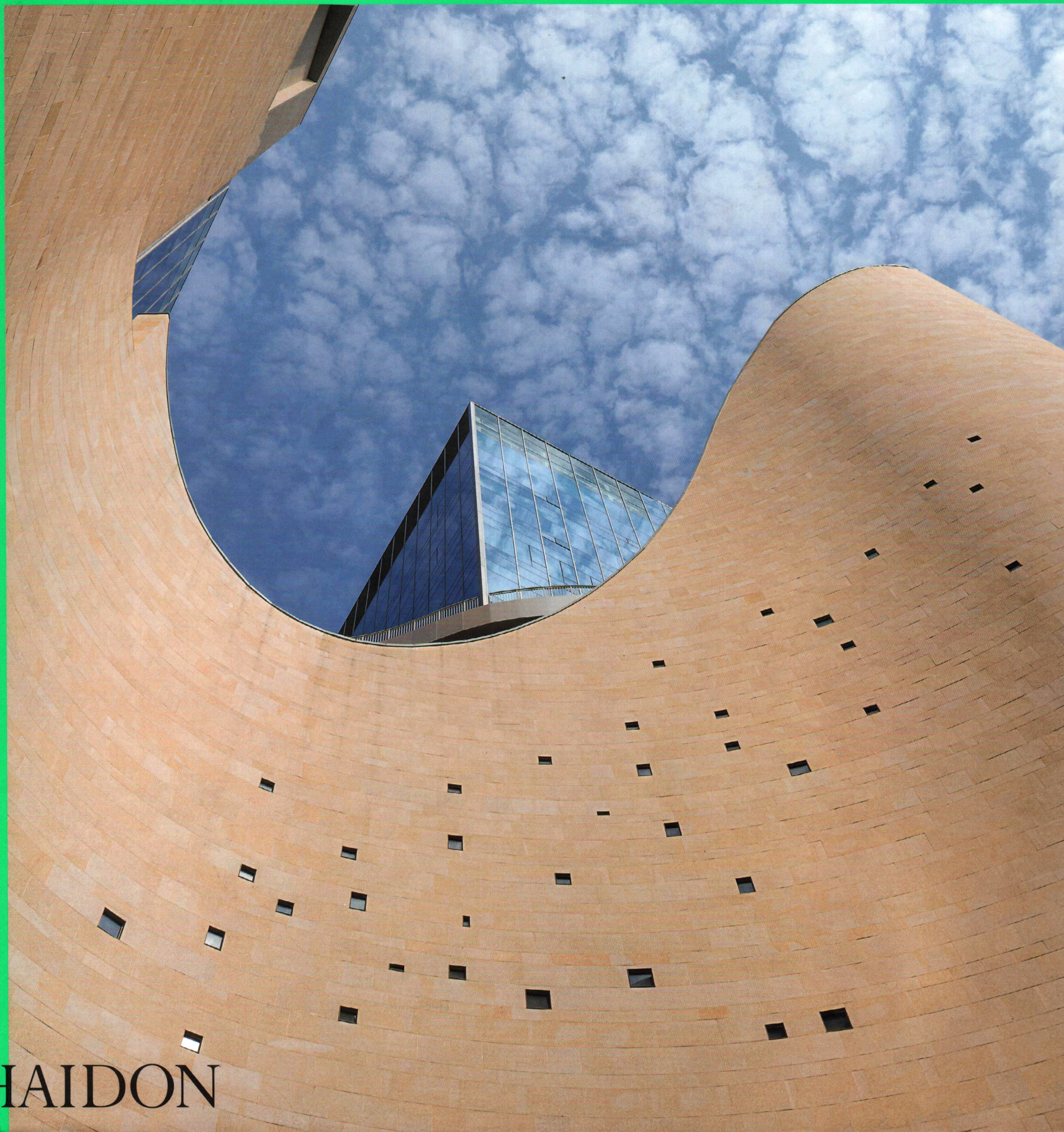


Architizer The World's
Best Architecture



PHAIDON

What does the future of architecture look like?

If we needed reminding that the world never stops changing, then 2020 delivered that perpetual truth with full force. From the first day to the last, ongoing environmental challenges were elevated to new heights, with climate change manifesting in the form of record temperatures, rising oceans, forest fires, and increasingly wild weather. Social movements gathered pace and were given new impetus by political and economic turbulence. Then, on top of it all, the COVID-19 pandemic brought much of the world to a standstill, forcing societies to reexamine almost every aspect of their way of life.

These global events raise a number of questions for those who design buildings and plan cities. How does where we live, work, and play impact our health and wellbeing? In what ways should our design and construction processes change to accommodate the evolving condition of our planet? Can architecture play a positive role in mitigating risk and keeping people safe? Can it go further still, forming a catalyst for healing or even rejuvenating communities?

These are just some of the questions that the 8th Annual A+Awards set out to answer. Founded in 2013, Architizer's global awards program for architecture and building products attracts entries from design firms in more than 100 countries each year, with both an esteemed jury and a democratic public vote helping to decide the year's best architecture. As a consequence, the selection of winning projects forms an in-depth showcase of the world's best modern design, as chosen by those who live, work, and play within it across the globe.

The A+Awards program was given renewed focus this year thanks to its theme, "The Future of Architecture." The 138 winning projects represented on these pages were conceived by pioneering architects and designers at the forefront of the industry, each breaking new ground in architectural thinking. Spanning the gamut of

typologies and geographies, these buildings are the culmination of cutting-edge approaches to both design and construction, devised to address the challenges of today with an eye to the cities of tomorrow.

Exploring the pages of this book, one can identify significant trends that provide a glimpse of an architectural future that is already unfolding.

Firstly, many of these inspiring projects have not emerged as sparkling new builds, but as ingenious reinventions of old structures. The concept of adaptive reuse—a bold approach to renovation that goes beyond restorative processes to give neglected spaces new purpose—has gained momentum in 2020. Examples include Atelier TAO+C's "Capsule Hotel in a Rural Library" in the mountains of East China (Page 112), a stunningly detailed transformation of an ancient mud-walled home into a welcoming communal hub. By contrast, there is Koning Eizenberg Architecture's MuseumLab (Page 54), an inspiring educational space inserted into the "beautiful ruin" of Pittsburgh's Carnegie Library. Finally, MVRDV's Tainan Spring (Page 248) is the ultimate architectural surprise: the skeletal concrete remains of a former shopping mall plays host to a public lagoon, crumbling columns now trees within a steamy urban oasis.

While the reuse of old buildings is one way to knit a more sustainable urban fabric, other firms took a more direct approach to address today's most pressing environmental concerns. Lake|Flato Architects' Marine Education Center at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (Page 204) is an elegant showcase in the use of low-impact materials in the pine flatwood forests of Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Meanwhile, Amber Book's experimental Bubble Wrap House (Page 203) employs unique translucent walls, challenging preconceived notions of energy efficiency and natural daylighting. On a grander scale, Turf Design Studio's Sydney Park Water Re-Use

Six House Villa *Iran*

BNS Studio

Six House Villa is a modern metaphor for the word "house" in traditional Persian architecture. In the past, "house" was often used to refer to what we call a "room." In this sense, a dwelling included a few "houses," each with a specific function.

Introducing a completely novel view of architectural planning, Six House Villa juxtaposes six different "rooms" as separate volumes. Located in the lush green north of Iran, which experiences high humidity and rainfall, the architects

designed it with the principles of sustainable architecture in mind.

One of the brief's main specifications was to maximize the visual relationship between the rooms and the outdoor spaces. The six volumes are arranged next to each other, like small cottages, connected by a central corridor. This approach maintains comfort and tranquility throughout the house and plays an important role in providing natural lighting and ventilation. The open-plan design, together with

the generous windows, allows air to circulate efficiently throughout the house, reducing the humidity. Living in this villa is like living within nature and experiencing the true meaning of life.

TYPE
RESIDENTIAL:
UNBUILT - PRIVATE HOUSE
(S <3000 SQ FT)

WINNER
POPULAR CHOICE

PROJECT STATUS
CONCEPT

YEAR
2020

FIRM LOCATION
TEHRAN, IRAN

