Superscape

2024

Press information

Superscape 2024
FORM FOLLOWS ENVIRONMENT –
Regenerative Architecture

Superscape 2024 | Facts

Deadline for submissions	Friday, March 15, 2024
Submission	all informations regarding submission can be found at www.superscape.at
Expert jury	
Anna-Vera Deinhammer	strategist, lobbyist and integral engineering expert
Angelika Fitz	director Architekturzentrum Vienna
Thomas Romm	Architect and expert for recycling economy
Announcement Shortlist	May 2024
Announcement winner project	October 2024

SUPERSCAPE 2024

Population growth, increasing urbanisation and social change pose new challenges for architecture and urban planning. Reflecting these processes of change, Superscape opens a creative space for unconventional ideas meant to deliver new impulses to real-life architectural output and urban development. The biennial prize seeks to encourage innovative and visionary architectural concepts with an interdisciplinary approach that explore new models of living and strategies for inhabiting an urban context in the future.

In 2024 the Superscape prize takes place for the sixth time – a joint venture of the non-profit developer WBV-GPA Wohnbauvereinigung für Privatangestellte and the private developer Lenikus Immobilien (in cooperation with Wirtschafts-agentur Vienna).

FORM FOLLOWS ENVIRONMENT – Regenerative Architecture

In light of the condition of our planet and of the gigantic demographic changes that will take place in the decades to come, architecture and construction industry are confronted with enormous challenges and issues that have to be addressed urgently and dealt with as fast as possible. Sustainability will not be sufficient in the future. Growth pressure and simultaneous depletion of resources demand a completely new way of and change in thinking. Regenerative principles have to

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Wien, October 2023

become an integral part of architecture and urban planning. Form follows environment: Architecture, understood as extension of the location, the terrain, the flora and fauna and the ecosystem, creates concepts that will turn around ecological damages and have a positive impact on the natural surroundings. The goal is to become climate-positive instead of climate-neutral.

In practice, this also means that construction has to be circular construction with sustainable materials and techniques and that the protagonists of the construction as well as of the real estate industry are required to choose innovative paths: Renovation instead of demolition; maintenance, transformation and flexible use of already existing buildings; material recycling, upcycling of building structures, retrofitting and urban mining – all of this and much more will contribute to optimising the use of stock and resources. The re-use-principle also helps revaluating and preserving technical skills and creates local jobs.

In this context, there are many central questions that have to be dealt with: What does regenerative/resilient architecture look like in practice? How can we use nature as medium and generator of architecture, how can we include living systems as components and imitate the restorative aspects of nature? How can we design structures that will not continue to use our limited resources but will restore them instead? What do fundamental changes of our construction industry look like and how can we provide a constructive input on the implementation of the holistic principles of a circular creation of value? How can we deal with natural resources in a careful and responsible way and at the same time create affordable and financeable living space in a socially sustainable way? How can we create resilient surroundings that can face the challenges caused by climate change? How can biomimicry and nature based solutions be integrated into planning considerations? Which and in what way can biomaterial be used for the development of regenerative urban ecosystems? What are concepts for dealing with the surroundings/ the urban structure?

Considering the urgence of the upcoming challenges, the Superscape Prize is more than ever a “call for action” that shall contribute to push innovative thinking towards urgent action. The current Superscape theme shall not only further the mind shift from sustainable to regenerative architecture as strategy for coping with the climate and biodiversity crisis and for establishing it as basis of a new architectural canon, but it is also the intention to make a practice-oriented contribution for an innovative building industry of the future for a social and sustainable society.

Motives Organisers

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impulses to real-life architectural output and urban development. The biennial prize seeks to encourage innovative and visionary architectural concepts with an interdisciplinary approach that explore new models of living and strategies for inhabiting an urban context in the future.

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Mode

Participation in Superscape 2024 takes place via a competition in two stages. During the first application period, the participants are asked to submit short, concise concept sketches containing visionary ideas on the focus theme of Superscape 2024. The first meeting of the expert jury will take place immediately after the end of the application period, and the nominations for the shortlist will then be announced. The teams and participants on the shortlist will be invited to elaborate on their concepts by the end of August 2024. During a second jury meeting, the winning project of Superscape 2024 will be chosen and announced in a public ceremony in October 2024. The winner will receive € 10.000, each shortlist participant will receive € 2.000.

Superscape Jury 2024

Anna-Vera Deinhammer:

Dipl.-Ing. Dr. techn. Anna-Vera Deinhammer is a Vienna based Strategist, Lobbyist, and Integral Engineering Scientist. She holds a diploma in architecture and a doctorate in integral engineering in Vienna and Sydney in the field of holistic quality assessment of buildings. Her work focuses on circular economy in construction, integral construction research and engineering science; since 2022 she is Director for Circular Cities & Regions in the Circular Economy Forum Austria. She also represents the Austrian Sustainable Building Council ÖGNI at the World Green Building Council and the Climate Positive Europe Alliance CPEA in Brussels and is involved in standards development in the „sustainability of buildings“ committee of the Austrian Standards Institute ASI. Since 2023, she is member of the Global Advisory Council under the auspices ALL Ladies League, regarding SDG Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities for the G100, Group of 100 Global Women Leaders and holds the Endowed Chair for Sustainable Real Estate Development at the University of Applied Scienes for Management and Communication FHWien der WKW.

Angelika Fitz:

Angelika Fitz has been Director of the Architekturzentrum Vienna (Az W) since 2017. Prior to this, she had already been working internationally as a curator and author in the field of architecture and urbanism. She focuses on the societal contextualization of architecture, the use of resources,

planetary and feminist perspectives. In 2022 she was awarded the Julius Posener Prize für architectural theory. Her most recent exhibitions and publications at the Az W include „Hot Question–Cold Storage“ (2022) with Monika Platzer, „Critical Care. Architecture for a Broken Planet with Elke Krasny“, the book has been published by MIT Press, as is her book „Yasmeen Lari. Architecture for the Future“, co-edited with E. Krasny and M. Mazhar, 2023.

Thomas Romm:
Arch. Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Matthias Romm studied architecture at TU Vienna and TU Berlin. He is a civil engineer and independent architect with a focus on the environmental effectiveness of planning and building. As an expert for recycling economy he is currently working on climate-generative design and development of urban districts and building sites mainly in residential construction. The focus is on value creation concepts that connect ecological and economical goals and that convey future-oriented alternatives for building. He is dedicated to ambitious research projects and is a founding member of the cooperative BauKarussel e. Gen. – Gesellschaft zur Vernetzung der zirkulären Bauwirtschaft – a cooperation network of socioeconomic companies for the dismantling of construction components for reuse, an employment and qualification project with an environmental background. Thomas Romm teaches Ecology for Architects at IKA, Institute for Art and Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

Impressum

All informations and submission documents can be found at www.superscape.at

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