

IUPA 2025



Originally a body of water, the site became a rainwater and later a wastewater channel, eventually turning into a polluted dumping ground.

Plan at scale 1:5000

The winners of the fifth International Urban Project Award enhance usability and comfort through architectural interventions between building and city.

The International Urban Project Award recognizes outstanding built projects that demonstrate how architecture and urban design can shape vibrant cities. The award focuses on the interface between architecture and urban space, highlighting projects that go beyond isolated buildings and contribute to the city as a whole.

The 2025 topic, Endurance, frames permanence not as a static condition, but as the capacity of architecture and urban space to remain in use, adapt, and evolve over time. Endurance

is understood as continuity through transformation: existing structures and spatial frameworks are modified and extended rather than replaced.

More than 75 projects from over twenty countries worldwide were submitted, demonstrating a high degree of precision in their response to the brief. The winning projects were selected in Beijing and honoured in Shanghai in November. The works establish new relationships between buildings, public space, landscape, and infrastructure. Embedded in dense, fragmented, or historically layered environments, they respond to existing conditions and improve accessibility, connectivity, and everyday use. Across different contexts, previously underused or inaccessible areas are activated and integrated into the urban fabric. Together, they show how cities can endure by building on what already exists, creating urban environments capable of evolving with changing needs. **my**

Conception and organization

Bauwelt, Berlin; World Architecture Magazine, Tsinghua University Beijing

Support

BAU China, Messe München

Jury

LI Cundong, CAO Jiaming, ZHANG Yue, HU Yue, Binke Lenhardt, Nicola Borgmann, Boris Schade-Bünsw



The Bulevar de Oriente was unanimously awarded the IUPA First Prize 2025. The jury highlighted the project's understanding of urban transformation as a collective, open, and adaptive process, fostering collaboration, human agency, and a strong sense of identification. With exceptional spatial and programmatic clarity, the Bulevar reclaims a formerly fragmented and ecologically degraded infrastructure, transforming it into a vibrant public space of high spatial, social, and climatic quality.

Aligned with the 2025 theme, Endurance, the project redefines longevity as the capacity to adapt, be appropriated, and evolve over

The 1.2 kilometer community-driven transformation reclaims the polluted canal infrastructure as a pedestrian-centered public corridor. Photos: Mauricio Carvajal, Andres Silva, Alcuadrado Arquitectos, Mauricio Carvajal

First Prize

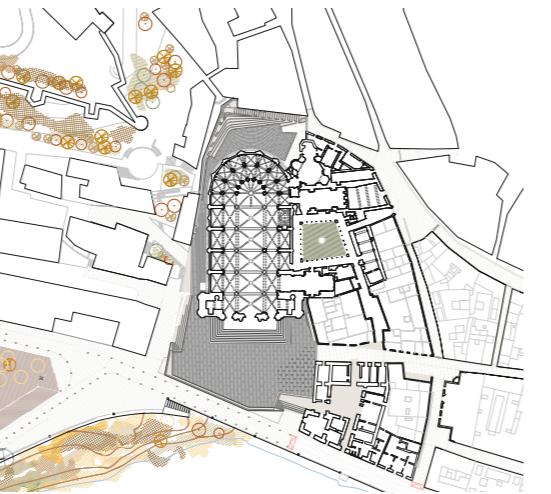
Bulevar de Oriente, Cali

Alcuadrado Arquitectos

Special Prize

Urban Intervention at the Tortosa Cathedral

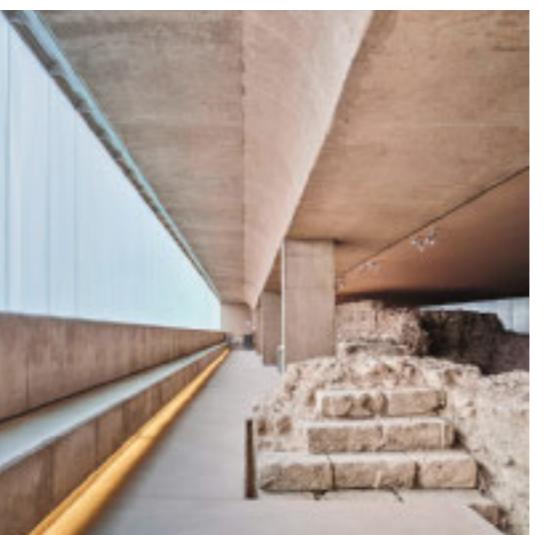
Camps Felip Arquitecturia



Excellent design often employs a restrained formal language to address complex challenges, a principle clearly demonstrated by the Urban Intervention at Tortosa Cathedral. The project's roof serves a dual purpose, doubling as a public plaza for the adjacent church and ingeniously reconnecting a city long fragmented by archaeological remains, a riverside roadway, and pronounced topography. This intervention creates a serene urban space with commanding views, effectively bridging the historic city and its waterfront. As a natural extension of the church entrance, the

elevated square uses its height to buffer the space from traffic while establishing a direct visual connection to the river. Beneath the plaza, the museum presents itself as both understated and distinctive. Its continuous glazed facade facing the river not only provides generous natural daylight, but also acts as a contemporary interpretation of the stone plinths characteristic of the riverside architecture. Ultimately, this subtle intervention seamlessly weaves together heritage, topography, and public space, injecting new vitality into the ancient city. **HUYue**

The project is structured around three layers: The river, the stairs and the surroundings. Photos: José Hevia, Plan at scale 1:3333



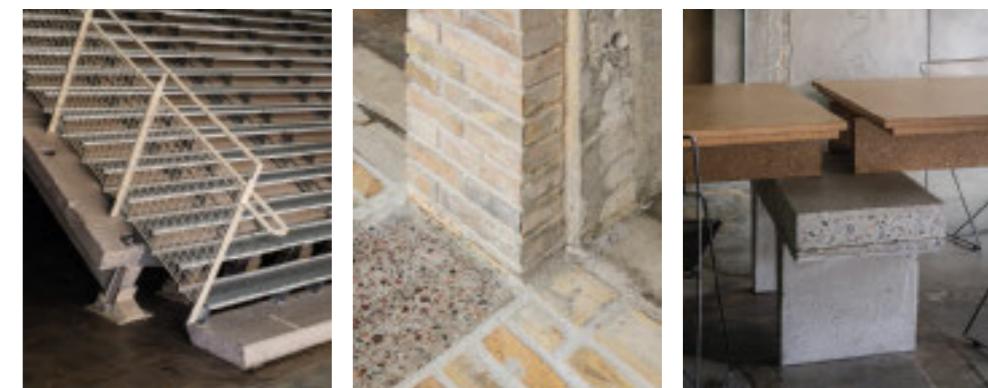
Special Prize

Thoravej 29, Copenhagen

pihlmann architects



The facade was opened up and fitted with large windows and transparent doors, giving the ground floor a direct connection to the street. Photos: Hampus Berndtson



The most sustainable building is one that already exists. Pihlmann Architects demonstrate this convincingly with their transformation of a former factory building from 1967 in Copenhagen's Nordvest district. Today, the building accommodates a diverse and vibrant program. It is home to a community of more than 150 people working across 30 organizations. The spaces include stages, galleries, studios, workshops, offices, meeting rooms, a production kitchen, a canteen, and a street-facing café. Public and private functions are carefully interwoven, creating a lively and open environment. What makes this transformation particularly remarkable is that the architects

did not limit their intervention to renovating the facade, structure, or interior. Instead, they worked almost entirely with the existing components and systems, often assigning them completely new functions. Former floor slabs become staircases or reappear as counters and tables; bricks are reused as paving. In total, 95 percent of the original materials are reused, resulting in a significant reduction of CO₂ emissions. Even more important, however, is the underlying attitude of the young Danish architects, which points toward a new aesthetic of architecture – one rooted in reuse, transformation, and architectural imagination rather than replacement. **Boris Schade-Bünsow**



Special Prize

Futian High School Campus, Shenzhen

reMIX Studio

Located in a high-density urban context, Futian High School exemplifies an innovative campus model that successfully balances outward openness with inward comfort. The project transforms spatial and environmental constraints into opportunities, offering a forward-looking paradigm for the coexistence of school and city. Spatially, the design breaks away from the conventional, enclosed campus typology. Sports and cultural facilities are oriented toward the street, while transparent glass facades replace solid walls, creating an active and permeable urban interface. The recessed main entrance forms a public plaza, inviting the community to

share the space and seamlessly integrating the campus into urban life. Environmentally, the porous building form and terraced volumes respond directly to Shenzhen's subtropical climate. By aligning with the prevailing southeast winds, the design facilitates natural ventilation: 80 percent of the sports halls beneath the elevated running track operate comfortably without air conditioning, significantly reducing energy consumption. Through careful spatial articulation and climate-responsive design, the project establishes a balanced model that integrates education, ecology, and community within a dense urban environment. **ZHANG Yue**



The buildings of the Futian Campus are oriented outward, with a series of visual corridors opening the volumes to the surroundings. Photos above: HU Kangyu Photo below: Yuan Xiaoyi



The Pyramid of Tirana

MVRDV

Opened in 1988 as a monument to Albania's communist regime, the Pyramid of Tirana has since embodied shifting political and social meanings. The transformation reclaims the concrete structure as an open public sculpture within a park. Colourful inserted volumes house cafés, studios, and educational spaces, while new steps allow people to climb the building freely. The project preserves history while turning the former symbol of power into a democratic space for learning, exchange, and collective use. (Photo: Iwan Baan)



V&A East Storehouse, London

Diller Scofidio + Renfro

Sited within the shell of a former broadcasting facility built for the 2012 London Olympics, the V&A East Storehouse marks a paradigm shift in museum practice by merging storage, archive, and exhibition into a single institution. Housing over 250,000 objects, books, and archives, it invites visitors behind the scenes of collecting, conservation, and research. The 20-metre-high Collections Hall immerses visitors in the scale of the V&A's collection, from small curiosities to full-scale architectural fragments. (Photo: Tom Jersø)

Carlsberg City, Copenhagen

C.F. Møller Architects

The Carlsberg Masterplan reflects a strong commitment to adaptable, enduring urban design. Based on the first masterplan from 2007, C.F. Møller, acting as adviser for Carlsberg City, has continuously developed and adapted the plan to current needs and requirements. Located between Frederiksberg and Vesterbro, the district blends historic brewery buildings with new housing, workplaces, culture, and green spaces, creating a dense yet walkable, climate-responsive, and vibrant urban neighbourhood. (Photo: Tom Jersø)



Sinovac Tianfu Factory, Beijing

China Architecture Design & Research Group

The Sinovac Tianfu Factory was transformed through a light, modular intervention within a dense industrial setting. Operating 24/7, the factory lacked sheltered open space for employees accessing the canteen. A prefabricated, semi-outdoor structure was introduced in a sunken courtyard, providing protection from wind and rain while activating residual space. Inspired by cellular geometry, the adaptable system can be replicated across Sinovac sites, creating social, and symbolic value. (Photo: Wei Jiayin)

Suzhou Shenze Tanqiu Silk Reeling Factory, Suzhou

parallel design

The renovation of the Suzhou Shenze Tanqiu Silk Reeling Factory reactivates a historic industrial complex through careful adaptive reuse.



Kulturdachgarten, Munich

Kollektiv A

The cultural rooftop garden on the Gasteig transforms a formerly unused roof into a publicly accessible open space at the heart of Munich's largest cultural center. Using simple, reversible interventions, the project creates zones for rest, movement, and gardening, responding to climate, views, and urban context. Conceived as a vertical extension of the city, the garden demonstrates how residual rooftops can foster social interaction, ecological value, and resource-conscious urban transformation. (Photo: M.T.M Group)



Rehabilitation of Vapor Cortès, Prodís 1923, Terrassa, Barcelona

Harquitectes

The rehabilitation of Vapor Cortès transforms a historic industrial complex into a contemporary social and working environment while preserving its architectural identity. The project reuses the existing structures, enhancing spatial clarity, light, and accessibility. By balancing heritage conservation with adaptive reuse, the intervention extends the building's life, and demonstrates how industrial architecture can be thoughtfully reactivated for present-day needs. (Photo: Adrià Goula)



Shortlist