arcVision Prize – Women and architecture

Winner

CARLA JUAÇABA

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Carla Juacaba, 37 year old Brazilian architect, trained at Santa Ursula University in Rio de Janeiro (1999) is the first winner of the arcVision Prize – Women and Architecture by unanimous decision of the jury.

Carla Juacaba embodies those qualities necessary in an architect of courage in approaching her profession, creativity in seeking unconventional solutions and enormous sensitivity to the context in which her works will reside. The Jury praised the functionality and appropriateness in her proposals to make sure that fully serve their purpose, and do so contributing to the beauty and quality of life of those who will use and inhabit her buildings. The Jury felt she embodies a "complete" architect, embracing all aspects of each commission:- context, environment, nature, parameters, materials….

After reviewing projects of completely different types, the Jury highlighted the ability of Carla Juaçaba to successfully manage projects of diverse scales. A temporary structure, conceived with artist Bia Lessa, the Pavilion Humanidade 2012 for Rio +20 housed private events and a public exhibition on sustainability that received 220,000 visitors in two weeks. The Jury made special note of the elegant simplicity and functionality of the pavilion. By selecting normal scaffolding elements to construct the pavilion, the architect has creatively demonstrated her full attention to sustainability, by re-using existing materials available locally to createthe structure and the walkways extending 170 meter in length of the pavilion, which will then be completely recyclable and re-usable again after dismantling. The building formed a wonderful dialogue with the surrounding setting, enhancing the site while the spectacular nature and setting also enhanced the pavilion.

The Varanda House, constructed on a site where all trees were to be preserved, is a wonderful example of a minimal house that is an inviting home, with simple spaces and the delicate and inventive play of natural light and beautiful Brazilian landscape.

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1976, since 2000, Carla Juaçaba developed her independent practice of architecture and research based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Her office is currently engaged in both public and private projects, focusing on housing and cultural programs.

Since undergraduate student she worked with the architect Gisela Magalhães of the Niemeyer's generation, mostly in the area of exhibitions related to the Brazilian native arts and historical museums.

During her first year after college (2000) she worked jointly with another architect Mario Fraga on the project named "Atelier House". Following that, a series of projects have been conceived such as the "Rio Bonito house" (2005), the "Varanda House"(2007), the "Minimum House" (2008),"Santa Teresa House" in its final stage (2012), and a couple of exhibition design. Current works includes the ephemeral pavilion conceived with the senior scenographer and theather director Bia Lessa, "Humanidade2012" for Rio+20, the recent international meeting held in Rio de Janeiro. And also tow houses on the outskirt of Rio.

Carla Juaçaba is constantly a part of the academic and teaching realms, as well as research studies, lectures, biennales, exhibitions and recently was the Jury at BIAU Bienal Ibero Americana in Madrid (2012). She is currently teaching at FAU-PUC RJ Pontifícia Universidade Católica.

Her work is focused on an intrinsic issue of the discipline: the poetics of tectonics, and its expressive potentiality.

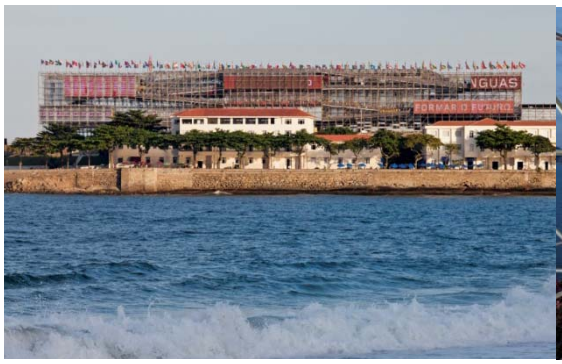
EDUCATION
1999 Bachelor Degree in Architecture and Urbanism, Santa Ursula University in Rio de Janeiro.
2004 Post graduated course on structure, Catholic University in Rio de Janeiro.

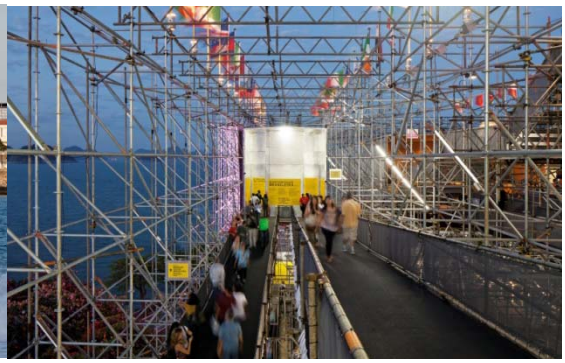
COMPETITIONS
2012 National Competition for the Olimpic Golf Rio de Janeiro
2010 National Competition for the new Environment Museum Rio de Janeiro
2008 UIA International Competition Torino
2003 Nam June Park Museum competition Korea
2000 1st prize CSN na Construção Civil Graduation Project Competition

Carla Juaçaba skips the weighty influence of historic modernism to develop methods and construction approaches closer to the temporary and ephemeral nature of real conditions in Brazil.
Her most exciting project in this research area, the Umanidade 2012 pavilion for Rio Mas 20 (the UN conference on sustainable development), was designed and built together with an artist, Bia Lessa, who also developed the design concept.
The symbolic value of the pavilion, an impermanent structure, is heightened by the fact that Rio Mas 20 was an important opportunity for a global assessment of what is being done or not being done to save the Earth from environmental disaster.
The best sustainability – Juacaba and Lessa seem to say – is achieved with low-cost, easily dismantled and continually recyclable constructions like the scaffolding tubes that form the 170 m long, 20 m high pavilion. Stefano Casciani, scientific director arcVision Prize

PAVILION HUMANIDADE – *Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

The ephemeral pavilion Humanidade 2012 for Rio+20 was built for the recent international meeting held in Rio de Janeiro, housed private events and also an exhibition open for the public that received 220,000 people in two weeks. The exhibition about sustainability was conceived by the senior scenographer Bia Lessa and the architecture by Carla Juaçaba. The structure is composed of 5 structural walls measuring 170m in length and 20 meters high, with 5,40 meters in between them, creating a suspended walkway over Rio's landscape. One of the main goals in architecture concerning sustainability is to build with what you have in hand. The materials we used are sustainable, meaning that everything is 100% reusable.





VARANDA HOUSE – *Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

A house made for the granddaughter of architect Sergio Bernardes and a Colombian artist was a challenge. The house divides the field into two in length, the skylight (24mx .60 m) is a feature that accentuates that division. This implementation has been the beginning of the project. The primary objective was to preserve all trees. The structure of steel was built in 15 days. The advantage of steel is that we can give the proportions we want to the material, what changes is the thickness of the sheet. The cover is of zinc-aluminum tiles, sandwich, which have been placed in one day.