



arcVision Prize – Women and Architecture

THIRD EDITION FOR THE ITALCEMENTI AWARD
CREATED TO RECOGNIZE FEMALE ARCHITECTS

22 projects from 17 countries and every continent,
a revealing snapshot of contemporary female architecture

This year's award involves the cooperation of
WE-Women for Expo, the Expo Milano 2015 project set up to create
a worldwide network of women to *Feed the planet*

Milan, February 5, 2015 – The third edition of **arcVision Prize – Women and Architecture** was presented today in Milan, at La Triennale. The initiative is an international architecture award set up by Italcementi Group in 2013 to promote women whose work introduces innovative theoretical and practical design in the architectural field, with a specific focus on social values.

Growing numbers of women are taking a prominent role in contemporary architecture, with projects that place particular emphasis on economic and cultural conditions, citizens' needs, human relations, the creation of environments tailored to local residents. Italcementi Group wants to foster this trend to become a growing reality in the architecture community.

"In the year that Milan is hosting the World Fair, for its third edition arcVision Prize wanted to involve the ambassadors of WE-Women for Expo," said Italcementi CEO **Carlo Pesenti**. *"We believe that 'good architecture' combines creative and technical capabilities, but also imagination, emotions, the heart. Qualities that women know how to project, filling their daily activities – as actresses, athletes, business leaders, architects – with meaning and sensitivity."*

"ArcVision Prize," added Pesenti *"recognizes innovative, sustainable and social ideas and projects that incorporate beauty and functionality in construction and housing. The award puts the spotlight on a 'feminine' vision of architecture combining technology and environment, materials and form, style and efficiency to regenerate the city and the community."*

Italcementi and architecture, but also Italcementi and Expo. Many shared values lie behind the award's cooperation with **WE-Women for Expo**, an Expo Milano 2015 project in collaboration with the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation and the Fondazione Arnaldo e Alberto Mondadori. The World Fair has always been a lever for the development of the Italcementi Group's scientific research: from the silver medal at the Paris Expo in 1867, to the Italian Pavilion in transparent

cement at Expo Shanghai 2010, and now the new biodynamic cement for Palazzo Italia at Expo Milano 2015.

*“The commitment of **arcVision Prize – Women and Architecture** is an important example of recognition of **female talent** in architecture, which WE-Women for Expo wholeheartedly supports,”* said Marta Dassù, Executive President of WE-Women for Expo. *“Furthermore, **arcVision Prize – Women and Architecture** promotes international dialogue among different professions, a crucially important factor at the heart of the WE-Women for Expo project.”*

The members of the all-female Jury are outstanding professionals who have distinguished themselves in promoting a responsible and innovative vision of female professionalism in the socio-economic and architectural environment. They are: **Shaikha Al Maskari** (member of the board of the Arab International Women's Forum-AIWF), **Vera Baboun** (Mayor of Bethlehem), **Daria Bignardi** (writer and journalist, ambassador of WE-Women for Expo), **Odile Decq** (owner of the Odile Decq architecture practice in Paris), **Yvonne Farrell** (co-founder of the Grafton Architects architecture practice), **Louisa Hutton** (founding partner of the Sauerbruch Hutton architecture practice), **Sahasini Mani Ratnam** (an Indian actress, producer and writer), **Samia Nkrumah** (president of the Kwame Nkrumah Pan-African Center), **Benedetta Tagliabue** (owner of the Miralles Tagliabue EMBT practice), **Martha Thorne** (director of the Pritzker Prize, the architecture “Nobel”).

“ArcVision Prize has great significance for me, since it recognizes the leadership of women’s role and their professionalism in architecture,” said **Odile Decq**, an arcVision Prize jury member and owner of the eponymous architectural practice in Paris. *“The award is a way to foster a new vision of women in architecture. That’s why I am so proud to be part of and support the initiative.”*

Over the last few months, an international group of Advisors recommended around forty designers, whose work was subsequently examined by a technical-cultural Commission led by **Stefano Casciani**, the award’s scientific director.

The Commission then drew up a short list of nominations to be presented to the international Jury, who will meet in Bergamo from March 5 to 6.

The results of the arcVision Prize will be announced by the Jury on March 6, at a press conference at **i.lab**, the Italcementi Group Research & Innovation Centre in Bergamo, to mark International Women’s Day.

“With this third edition, once again arcVision Prize - Women and Architecture confirms its place as the most important international award reserved exclusively for female architects, who this year have come from all five continents,” said Stefano Casciani, the award’s scientific director. *“The tools for the selection of the candidates have been further refined, to make arcVision Prize not just an occasion to introduce new talents, but also an investigative tool on the condition of women in architecture, for a fuller picture of the identities and differences in the contemporary project culture. In this sense, we also have to thank the Jury, a group of outstanding people interested in constantly promoting wider activity for the recognition of the role of women in the complex design and construction world.”*

The projects and profiles of the shortlisted candidates will be presented in a special edition of arcVision, the magazine published by the Italcementi Group since 1997 to promote ties between corporate culture and architectural culture. For the first time, a pamphlet will be produced with interviews with all the finalists of this year's award, as a way to highlight the fact that architecture and buildings are the result of the work, creativity, sensitivity of each designer, reflecting her maturity and experiences.

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