



Italcementi Group names winner of the award for architecture by women and with the World Fair in Milan presents the WE-Women for Expo special award to Paula Nascimento, designer of the Angolan Pavilion at Expo 2015

**Architect Angela Deuber
wins the third edition of
the arcVision Prize – Women and Architecture**

**Special mentions for Kate Otten (South Africa),
Patama Roonrakwit (Thailand) and Samira Rathod (India)**

Bergamo, March 6, 2015 – Angela Deuber is the winner of the third arcVision Prize - Women and Architecture, an international architecture award for female designers instituted by the Italcementi Group. Angela Deuber is one of the youngest nominees in the year edition of the prize. The jury recognized the directions of her architecture that at the same time successfully synthesized the important aspects of structural construction, judicious use of materials, involvement and concern for the social role of women architects.

The ArcVision Prize was awarded today in the usual setting of **i.lab**, the Bergamo-based Italcementi's Research and Innovation Centre.

Architect Angela Deuber was chosen after two days of discussion by the Jury, composed as in the past editions by outstanding professionals from architecture and socio-economic fields: **Shaikha Al Maskari** (Board Member of the Arab International Women's Forum-AIWF), **Vera Baboun** (Mayor of Bethlehem), **Odile Decq** (owner of the Odile Decq architecture firm), **Yvonne Farrell** (co-founder of Grafton Architects) **Louisa Hutton** (co-founder of the Sauerbruch Hutton architectural 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 architectural firm), **Martha Thorne** (Director of the Pritzker Prize, regarded as the 'Nobel Prize' of architecture).

In line with the Italcementi entrepreneurial vision, the arcVision Prize aims to promote ideas and projects with a strong focus on innovation and functionality that are both sustainable and socially significant. It puts the accent on the "female" vision of architecture, to regenerate and design existing and future architecture.

"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 enhance, 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. *"I am truly happy to attend this third edition of the arcVision Prize -* said **Diana Bracco**, President of Expo Milano 2015 and General Commissioner of the Italian Pavilion. *This prize marks Italcementi's praise of the role of women in architecture. Quality excellence, creativity, attention to sustainability - considering also the social*

and cultural implications of the work context: this is the soul that enlivens the extraordinary architects engaged in this competition, and it is the same spirit that will animate our Expo event. Avant-garde architecture is not limited to the Italian Pavilion: many of the pavilions of the other participants have been signed by world-renowned architects. And this is also why Milano 2015 is going to be remembered as one of the most fascinating and innovative Expo editions: many countries have decided to merge their typical landscapes and food traditions into the shapes of their buildings in line with the "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life" theme. I would also like to say a few words on this wonderful research center that hosts us - concluded Bracco - i.lab reflects the vision of our friends at Italcementi and is the synthesis of the most advanced technology in terms of materials quality and green construction techniques. A place of scientific knowledge and expertise and, I say this as an entrepreneur in love with research, a place where I feel at home: because these are the places that help make our industry great, and that make Italy a great country in the world"

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."*

WE-WOMEN FOR EXPO SPECIAL AWARD TO PAULA NASCIMENTO

This year, arcVision Prize has been enhanced through cooperation with WE-Women for Expo, an Expo Milano 2015 project set up to create a world network of women to Feed the Planet. During the event, a special award was presented to **Paula Nascimento**, an emerging figure in contemporary architecture and designer of the Angolan Pavilion at Expo 2015.

The award presentation was attended by Albina Assis Pereira Africano (General Commissioner for Angola and Chair of the General Commissioners Steering Committee at Expo 2015), His Excellency Florencio Mariano da Conceicao de Almeida (Angola's Ambassador in Italy) and Luis Eugenio Saraiva de Carvalho (First Secretary at the Angolan Embassy in Italy).

*"Although Paula Nascimento is still a young woman," said arcVision Prize Scientific Director **Stefano Casciani**, "she has already reached a quality that is an excellent expression and enhancement of the role of women in the global architecture profession through her many activities: as cultural organizer of important exhibitions, designer of sensitive installations and buildings, committed advocate of sustainability and the pursuit of a new aesthetic language. For this reason, she has been awarded the Special arcVision Prize WE-Women for Expo Award, which this year is ideally linked with Expo 2015 and its core issues: the right to food of all the world's peoples, respect for nature, together with research and design of technologies and production processes that care for the equilibrium of the planet and its conservation for the future generations."*

The award was presented by the WE-Women for Expo ambassador Arianna Fontana, a young Italian short-track skater, winner of an Olympic silver and four bronze medals, and of the 2012 short-track World Cup in the 500 m.

ARCVISION PRIZE 2015

The third edition boasted impressive numbers: 50 candidates, a short list of **21 designers from 16 countries** – with all continents represented: Spain, India, Mexico, Italy, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, USA, Japan, Egypt, South Africa, Thailand, Morocco, Australia, Greece, Jordan.

“One of the most interesting talents on the international scene, **Angela Deuber** has emerged in 2014 from the flatness of European mainstream architecture with a building, the School in Thal (Switzerland) which evokes a glorious past of avant-garde architecture: her approach is in this respect actually “constructivist” in the original positive sense that revolutionary architects gave to the term. As she states “Construction is an underestimated and intrinsic part of architecture, but since we no longer build with our hands, construction has become indirect, remote and alien. My work is an attempt to escape this alienation.”

After the announcement of the prize, the winner declared: *“I am very honoured to get this prize; it means more than a lot to me. Of course I would like to thank the people who selected me and all the members of the Jury and everybody who supported me to come to this point. I think that the decision of the Jury is a decision for a pure architecture which pleases me very much for architecture itself. The prize encourages me to continue with my dedication to architecture. I really do wish it will also be seen as a prize to encourage my female colleagues in architecture to contribute their part to world architecture. Thank you so much.”*

The Jury, whose meetings were coordinated by the Scientific Director of the Prize, Stefano Casciani, also awarded Special Mentions to Kate Otten (South Africa), Patama Roonrakwit (Thailand) and Samira Rathod (India).

For a sensitive architect born, raised and educated in South Africa as **Kate Otten** is, it would seem impossible not to relate her work to the dramatic historical changes that the African country has seen in the last decades: in her professional practice - strongly based on the local culture, geography and materials – she had the opportunity to work on important public buildings and places of memory, highly significant of a new way of living without forgetting the past. Last but not least, Otten is actively engaged with her studio in the promotion of women in architecture, both by employing and training them and in creating, in her own words ‘... a working environment that allows female architects to achieve a flexible work-life balance, retaining them in the profession at a time when many would leave’.

Patama Roonkrawit is not only an architect but a community activist. Roonkrawit’s multidisciplinary approach involves good practices of collaboration with the population involved in projects, especially the poor which are the most important and needing “clients” in her visions. In her own, direct words “Architecture is the fruit of cooperative design where the architects are also the clients; the clients are also the architects. Therefore each and every design has to be shaped and reshaped collectively. The result is a unique collective project whose sense of totality is marked by the diversity of each individual design.”

Samira Rathod established her studio SRDA in 2000, after graduating in Mumbai and achieving a Master in Architecture at the University of Illinois. However small her firm is she’s been able to complete original buildings for the arts with a careful attention to details and material, from the interiors to the structures and surfaces, using concrete, glass and metal in a kind of “sculptural” matching of forms and functions. The Baroda Art gallery is in fact an artist’s studio but also is space for show and the visitors to the gallery can have a glimpse on the artist at work or vice versa. The House in Amhedabad also plays with the concepts of privacy and transparency of living, by revealing a possible “public” dimension also for private housing.”

The aim of the arcVision Prize is to enhance the figure of the female designer in contemporary world architecture, with a special focus on the qualities a modern architect requires to develop originality in her profession as she pursues advanced, non-conventional solutions and develops a particularly strong and mature sensitivity to the human and social context.

The finalists were selected from a group of professionals indicated by a committee of advisors and then assessed by a technical-cultural commission, who drew up a short-list for presentation to the Jury.

The nominees for the Prize must have designed and signed/co-signed at least one work (constructed or at the executive planning state) that presents innovative functional and technological solutions and values, with particular attention to sustainability.

arcVision Prize intends to highlight the most interesting female architects working on the international stage.

The Prize is a two-week research project and workshop (during Milan Design Week, April 2015) at i.lab, the Italcementi Group Research & Innovation Center in Bergamo designed by Richard Meier, which also acts as a center for the divulgation of innovative technologies and methodologies. The winner also receives a cash prize (€ 50,000), part of which may be devolved to social projects, at her discretion.

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