



Copper in
Architecture
Awards



ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Platform of Arts and Creativity, Guimarães
in Portugal, wins the European Copper in
Architecture Awards

***Embargo: not for publication until 4 November 2013, 13.00 Brussels time**

Brussels, November 4th 2013: The winners of the *European Copper in Architecture Awards* were revealed this morning on the occasion of the opening of the BATIMAT trade show in Paris. This international award recognises the best architectural designs incorporating copper and copper alloys. The Grand Jury Award was given to the Pitágoras Arquitectos architectural firm for the Platform of Arts and Creativity in Guimarães, Portugal. “A clear trend in this year’s competition was the association of copper with raw materials such as glass and wood, and this was much appreciated by the jury”, says Nigel Cotton, Director European Copper Institute. “Malleable, attractive and long-lasting, copper once again proved its popularity with architects.” The works in competition are being presented as part of an exhibition at Batimat from 4 to 8 November (Stand N118, Hall 5A) and on the website www.copperconcept.org.

A European competition promoting innovation with copper in architecture

The [European Copper in Architecture Awards](http://www.copperconcept.org) celebrate architectural design incorporating and showcasing copper and copper alloys (e.g. brass, bronze) **A record number of entries were received for the 16th edition of the competition, with 82 projects in the running** from which the jury selected **10 finalists**. The jury, made up of award-winning international architects from previous years, was this year composed of Einar Jarmund, Craig Casci, Davide Macullo and Anu Puustinen.

The outright winner of this edition was the [Platform of Arts and Creativity in Guimarães](#) (Portugal), designed by the firm **Pitágoras Arquitectos**, which was awarded the **Grand Jury Award**. **Special commendations** were also given to the [Seinäjoki municipal library in Finland](#) (JKMM Architects), as well as the [Dolomitenblick apartment building in Italy](#) (Plasma Studio) and the [Covering for the runic stones](#) in Denmark (Nobel Arkitekter).

Prize winners of the 16th edition of the *European Copper in Architecture Awards*

Winner

Platform of Arts and Creativity, Guimarães, Portugal, designed by Pitágoras Arquitectos



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A key element of this majestic architectural structure is the copper alloy (brass) used here, which gives it its natural golden colour. The judges appreciated the skilful use of materials by the Pitágoras Arquitectos architectural firm, which took full advantage of the malleability of copper to create a uniform, but highly original, structure. Located right in the heart of the historic city of Guimarães, the site was already occupied by a public square as well as old buildings in a mix of motley designs requiring major renovation. Developed in partnership with UNESCO (the city was European Capital of Culture in 2012), the aim of the project was to recreate a multifunction, user-friendly living space. It also had to blend into the landscape and, at the same time, become a symbol of the city's modernity. The external metallic covering, composed of brass profiles, enabled the different buildings to be brought together while differentiating them from each other. In this way, today the space is home to an arts centre, a “creative lab” or business support office, as well as support workshops to assist with the development of young designers' talents.

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Esplanade of the Platform of
the Arts
and Creativity
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Exterior of the platform:
alternating glass and brass
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Detail of facade: grid of
metallic brass profiles
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**Seinäjäki City Library in Finland,
By JKMM Architects**

The new extension to the Seinäjoki library is one of an entirely unique series of buildings designed by Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. To create a dialogue between the past and the future, the architects relied on contrast: the surface alternates between warm-toned, brown, pre-weathered copper and painted concrete for immaculate whiteness. Used for both the roof and cladding, the copper creates a second, living skin that changes with the surrounding light. To bring out the building's personality the copper is used in panels, which also enabled ventilation to be maximised.



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**Dolomitenblick apartment building in
Sexten, Italy
By Plasma Studio**

To create this apartment building located in the Dolomites region of Italy, a combination of copper and wood was used to ensure its perfect integration into the surrounding alpine meadow landscape. The brown, pre-weathered copper, employed in horizontal bands, was chosen not only for its durability but also because it perfectly imitates the colour of time-weathered larch. In keeping with the principles of eco-design, a local variety of larch was used for the framework. Designed to maximise natural light and preserve the view, the six individual apartments all come with a terrace and a private garden. Finally, the shape of the building is reminiscent of traditional chalets, but with a firm modern take involving a novel use of space and original divisions.

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**Covering of the Runic Stones in Jelling,
Denmark,
By NOBEL Arkitekter**

Unveiled in December 2011, this creation, in an uncluttered style, combines bronze (an alloy of copper and tin) with glass to create a case for these thousand-year-old runic stones. Classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, they mark Denmark's transition to Christianity in 965 and are seen as a symbol of the country's birth. Relying on the natural beauty, resilience and unchanging nature of bronze, the architects designed the structures with one objective in mind: to showcase their contents.



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Available on request :

- High-definition images of the shortlisted projects;
- Interview with the winners;
- Special issue of Copper Architecture Forum, dedicated to the Awards.

About the European Copper Institute:

ECI, founded in 1996, represents the copper industry in Europe. ECI is also part of the Copper AllianceTM, an international network of trade associations funded by the copper industry, whose common mission is to defend and grow markets for copper, based on its superior technical performance and contributions to a higher quality of life.

Read more about us on copperalliance.eu.

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