



CZECH CHAMBER OF ARCHITECTS ANNOUNCED CZECH ARCHITECTURE AWARD

Press release CCA, 20th of January 2016

Czech Chamber of Architects (CCA) announced 1st year of Czech Architecture Award (CAA). Architects are allowed to submit their works until half of April 2016. Winners from the display of high quality architectonic realisations will be introduced during ceremonial gala evening at the end of this year. The CAA is basing itself primarily on the presence of professional experts, prestigious seven-member international jury, unique idea of propagating architecture during the year throughout different regions of the Czech Republic. Good news, especially for the young architects, is also a null charge for submitting your works into contest.

Single individuals or agencies with projects **realised within the territory of the Czech Republic, finished between 2011 and 2015** can partake in the first year of the award. The results will be decided by the jury of experts, which will pick approximately 50 works into narrower selection, which will be presented in the catalogue of the display, and during accompanying events of CAA. From this narrower circle will the jury select between 5 to 10 works, which will be given the honorary title of **Finalist of CAA**, and will be presented during the ceremonial gala evening. The status of CAA also allows for awarding the **Award for Unique Feat**, which is performed by Board of CAA and Academy of CAA, and **Special Award**, which will be decided based on the nominations from the partners of the award. Its laureate will be selected by the Board of CAA.

MAINSTAYS OF CZECH ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

1. Background of stable professional body operated by rules

By announcing the award, the Chamber follows its other activities towards broad public, with which it propagates high quality works both of the well-established and starting architects. For example successful projects of Tribute of Czech Chamber of Architects or Display of Dissertations, which seeks to discover rising stars amidst students of architecture and related fields. Both of these events are within portfolio of CCA from the year 2000 and it is focused primarily on the public. From 2011 the Chamber organises informal event Architects on one Ship, which will have its 7th season this year. The social occasion will be preceded by panel discussion on serious issues, for example public procurement, architectonic contests, protection of cultural heritage and so on. By organising the Czech Architecture Award the Chamber wants to **present high quality architectonic products** to not only expert or laic public, but also to its associates from civil service and local administration. Based on the results of the award, the Chamber will also continue to publicize its priorities, as architectonic contests, public procurements on project works, or the subject of the city architect. The board of directors of CCA also charged the **Board of CAA** by dramatics, watch over abiding by the status, nominating the Award for Unique Feat or Special Award.



2. Academy of Czech Architecture Awards

Another important aspect is the activity of the experts in Academy of Czech Architecture Awards, which will actively search and submit more pieces of work and interesting feats of architecture, aside from those entered by their own authors. For this reason, the CAA will be covering broadest domestic architectural production in given period. The functions of the Academy will also include nominations for **unique feat within the field of architecture**. Approximately 650 persons of note from different regions of Czech Republic were approached with offer of membership in the Academy. It is comprised of leading Czech architects, theoreticians and publicists. The complete list of academicians will be published by CCA during January on www.ceskacenaarchitekturu.cz

3. International jury of experts.

Czech Chamber of Architects is very proud of the fact, that for the first year of CAA it has managed to acquire **seven erudite foreign experts**, which will be judging works of their Czech colleagues. Among the members of the international jury of experts will be British architect and holder of several prestigious RIBA Award **Joe Morris** from London agency Duggan Morris Architects. Also landscape architect of argentinian origin **Martin Rein-Cano** from Berlin agency TOPOTEK 1, which managed to get into finale of the Mies van der Rohe Award (European Award for Architecture) with its realisation of Superkilen square in 2013. Female part of the jury will be represented by Slovakian architect **Miriám Lišková**, from SLLA studio, which won award of the Slovak Chamber of Architects and nomination for European Award for Architecture, with its Commune centre Máj in České Budějovice (based on an architectonic competition). Also others jury members partake in architectonic competitions – quite a specialist in public tenders is the architect of Slovenian origin **Boris Bežan**, who is now working in Barcelona in MX_SI studio. From many works of this atelier there can be named for example children's museum Iztapalapa Papalote in Mexico City. Belgian architecture in the jury will be represented by **Jan De Vylder**, holder of several international Belgian Building Awards, and also nominations for European Award for Architecture. Sixth member of the jury is Professor **Ivan Koleček**, who lives and works on projects in Swiss city of Lausanne, and at the moment also acts as a lecturer on Faculty of Architecture, VUT Brno. Distinctive Dutch architecture will be introduced during his time on the jury by **Kees Kaan**, who, aside from architectonic practice, also devotes his time to lecturing and propagation of architecture. Many books and exhibitions were dedicated to his work.

More information on the jury can be found in profiles of each member, which are attached to this press release. Photographic background (portraits and choice of works) are available on: www.uschovna.cz/zasilka/HFWBY3DLPV5EZTSY-VN5/IS23TWI5L.

4. Year-long propagation of architecture

Central motive of the contest display of Czech Architecture Award is presentation of architecture to broad public, and not only from the view of its aesthetic and technical quality, but primarily in the context of its creations, relation to its environment and social benefits. Because of this the award will be accompanied by a series of concomitant events. The award will propagate the architecture throughout the year and across all regions of the Czech Republic. Tied with the narrower selection of the 50 works, which will be introduced to public in June, during the so called **nomination evening**, the award will promote this selection with **exterior exhibitions** or interventions in



public premises. Members of the international jury of experts, composed of prestigious awards for architecture holders, will be presented to public by **seminars, lectures or workshops**.

More information about structure of the award and its dates will be announced in the schedule of the CAA, which will be attached to this press release.

5. Equal opportunity to everyone

Czech Chamber of Architects is setting its priorities into building the Czech Architecture Award into prestigious, but not elite prize. For this reason it is **implementing null charge for registration into the contest**. CCA is hoping this decision will lead to **availability of young architects and starting** ateliers to enter, because for those the registration charge could represent not insignificant barrier for showing off their works, and not in the least, could lead to discovery of new and creative authors. CAA is also introducing a **simple registration system**. Architects can input their realisations into simple on-line form, whose fulfilment will take only a few minutes. Electronic record of the buildings will also decrease overall expenses for the competing architect, by omitting print costs and so on.

6. Inter-field cooperation of creators

The award will also strengthen cooperation between experts across their respective fields. In connection with the new award, the CCA is simultaneously announcing **competitive tendering for prize attribute** (statuette). Conditions for the competitive tendering will be announced on pages of **Czech Awards for Architecture** project (www.ceskenazaarchitekturu.cz) and on the site of the Chamber (www.cka.cz). In the next years we plan to increase cooperation between related fields, for example by moderated discussions or workshops.

More about Czech Architecture Award (including status of the award, etc.) can be found on www.ceskenazaarchitekturu.cz and on the Facebook page of the award.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAIABLE FROM

Zuzana Hošková, press agent of CCA, zuzana.hoskova@cka.cc, +420 608 427 516

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On its new portal www.cka.cz and on [Facebook](#).

ABOUT CZECH CHAMBER OF ARCHITECTS

CCA is an autonomous profession association with transferred executive powers of civil service, which was established by the Act No. 360/1992 Sb., on the professional practice of authorised architects and on the professional practice of authorised engineers and technicians active in construction. CCA bears responsibility for professional, expertise and ethic practices of the profession of architects in the Czech Republic. From the year 2014 the Chamber is the official



suggestion seat for laws, legal adjustments and regulations, whose concern the profession of architect.

All press releases of Czech Chamber of Architects can be found on www.cka.cz in the section PRO MÉDIA.