



18th EUROPEAN
COPPER IN
ARCHITECTURE
AWARDS
2017



CELEBRATING COPPER ARCHITECTURE



The European Copper in Architecture Awards programme celebrates the beauty and versatility of copper and its alloys through some of the best contemporary architecture. It also seeks to expose to a wider international audience inspirational projects, some of which might otherwise go unrecognised.

The judging panel for this eighteenth iteration of the biennial awards consisted of four architects, all recipients of previous awards, with 'Copper Architecture Forum' Editor Chris Hodson acting as moderator. They assessed the 35 entries from photographs, drawings and architects' descriptions. Overall architectural design, response to programme and context, importance of copper to the scheme and copper treatment were all considerations.

The judges selected a shortlist of 8 projects that stood out from the rest, demonstrating a diversity of typologies and design approaches – and some exceptional architecture. They then went on to choose an overall Winner and two Commendations. In addition, registered copperconcept.org visitors voted on-line for their favourite shortlisted entry, resulting in a clear Public Choice Winner.

THE JUDGES' VIEWS

The judges found their role challenging due to the totally different types, scales, design approaches and contexts of projects – but also the high quality of entries generally. They commented that the winning and shortlisted projects display very different strengths but all demonstrate that great buildings can be made with copper, whatever their uses. They were also delighted to see all sorts of building typologies benefit from investment in good design and top quality materials like copper.

**Craig Casci,
GRID Architects (left)**

“It was heart-warming to see projects of all sorts benefit from investment in good design and high quality materials like copper”

Maxime Enrico, LAN (middle, right)

“The winning and shortlisted projects have very different qualities but they all show that you can make great buildings with copper, whatever their uses”

**Ebbe Waehrens,
BBP ARKITEKTER (middle, left)**

“The winning project delivers on many levels and is very much a part of the city, where it anticipates how copper will evolve over time”

**Ville Hara,
Avanto Architects (right)**

“Judging these awards was hard because of the totally different types, scales, design approaches and contexts, but also the quality of entries”



copperconcept.org/awards

Photo: Adam Mørk



A unanimous judges' choice, the Maersk Tower is a clear Winner. A major landmark building prominent on Copenhagen's skyline, it nonetheless delivers on many other levels as well. The conceptual development of its complex programme offers a fresh, more openly interactive research building typology. Its response to urban context is impressive with a gentle curved form making it slim and elegant. And its qualities extend to exceptional detailing throughout and the innovative use of gently animated copper facades that define the building.

WINNER

MAERSK TOWER COPENHAGEN, DENMARK C. F. MØLLER ARCHITECTS

The intent was to create a sustainable landmark in dialogue with the city and university in a new and open way. The new complex will also act as a catalyst for positive urban development. The 15-storey tower rests on a series of smaller buildings containing the common functions: three auditoriums, classrooms, canteen, show lab, conference rooms and book café. The tower contains state of the art facilities for research and teaching of health and medical sciences. But it is also designed specifically to foster communication and interaction.

The urban setting and lines of sight across the locality were key factors in shaping the Mærsk Building. The triangular footprint derived from angles of the adjacent streets and the shape presents its narrowest gable towards the slender spire of a nearby church. This orientation also contributes to the energy efficiency of the building by reducing southerly exposure.

Photos: Adam Mørk

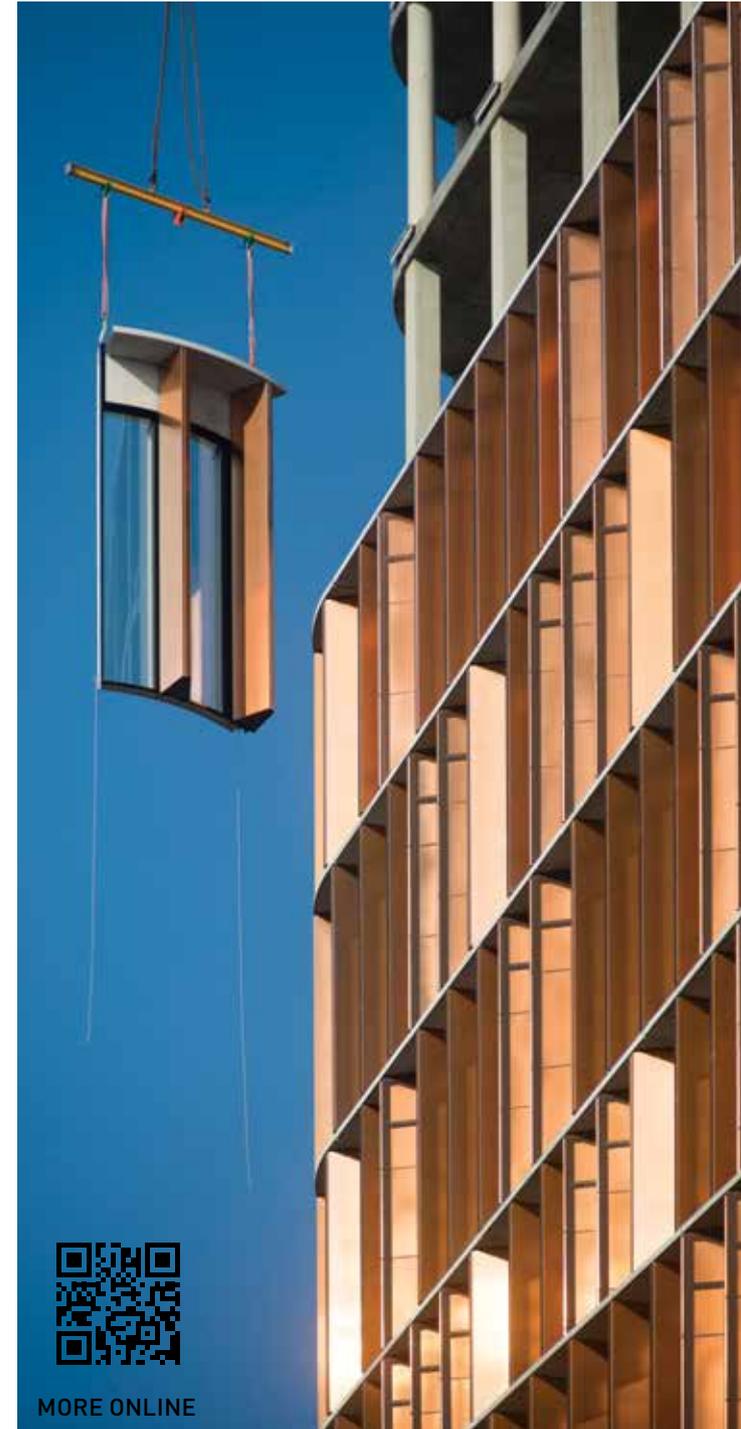




STOREY HEIGHT COPPER FINES

The tower's facade is in the form of a grid comprising storey-height window fields that break up the building's large scale. The storey-height bands are fitted with over 3,000 vertical copper fins. The choice of copper on this prominent building anticipates the natural changes that will occur, starting with shiny and developing to dark brown, with a green copper patina only after many years.

A third of the fins move, enabling the facade to constantly change character as they respond to the sun's path around the building. When activated, each section splits in two with one half remaining static while the other half slides in front of the window glass, providing efficient protection against heat gain into the laboratories. This adds to the building's sustainability credentials, alongside the choice of copper as an exceptionally long-life material that will eventually be recycled.



MORE ONLINE



Photos: Olaf Rohl



The judges rewarded this entry as an excellent example of copper elevating utilitarian structures, here in a challenging environment. The highly architectonic, larger scale approach taken responds to the dramatic landscape location and will enhance the experience of those travelling through the tunnel at speed.

COMMENDED

BOSRUCK TUNNEL, AUSTRIA RIEPL RIEPL ARCHITEKTEN

One of the most important connections to South East Europe, the 5.5km long Bosruck Tunnel passes through the Ennstal Alps. The original, two-way traffic tunnel has been renovated and a second, new tunnel built alongside. This impressive engineering feat is announced by new portal structures at both ends of the tunnel.

A series of screens – made up of perforated brass cassettes and arranged to reflect the verticality of the surroundings – partially conceal buildings and equipment essential to the tunnel's operation and safety. They impose a visual order and consistency for these disparate elements but also offer transparency and airiness. Brass was chosen for its long-life and durability, including resistance to road salt, following trials simulating the exposure of the material over 30 years.



MORE ONLINE



The judges welcomed the uniting of disparate elements and enhancement of everyday structures associated with transport interchanges with copper, which is extremely well detailed and executed. Politically, this is another exemplar for the benefits of good design and materials in the public realm, enhancing the travel experience.

COMMENDED

LAHTI TRAVEL CENTRE, FINLAND JKMM ARCHITECTS

The New Travel Centre – located at the heart of the city of Lahti and next to the existing, historic railway station – forms a transport hub connecting the rail network to both long-distance and local bus lines. It consists of a 60-metre long canopy for the bus terminal, enclosed lift and stair structures, local bus stops on the street and supporting landscape elements. There is also an 80-metre long tunnel underneath the centre.

Together, all these copper-clad elements create an easily perceived and high quality urban entity in the complex city environment, managing various level differences. They include delicate and airy elevator towers using glass in both the outer walls and load-bearing structures, with internal elevator shafts covered in copper sheet and copper wire mesh.



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BUS

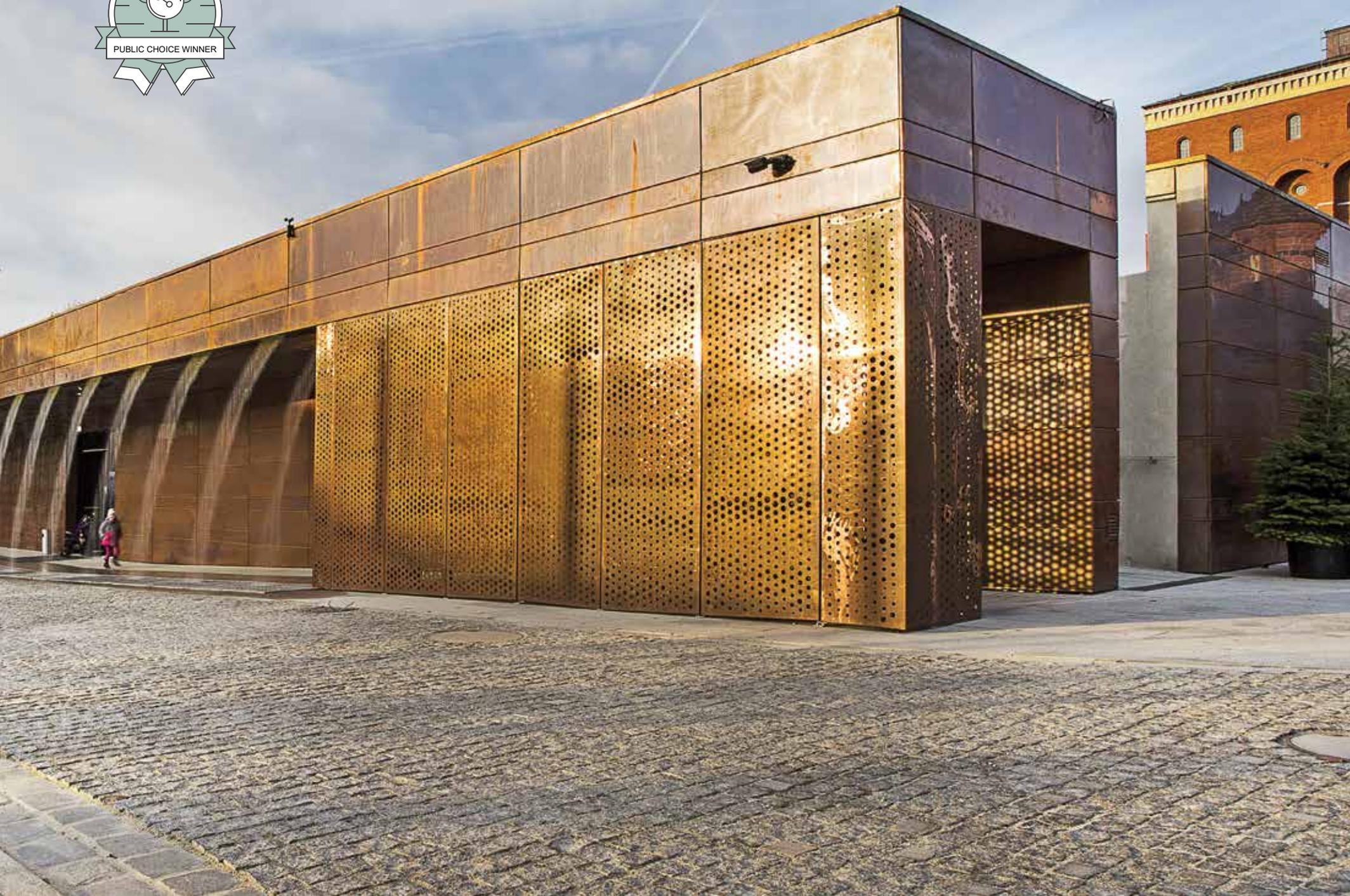
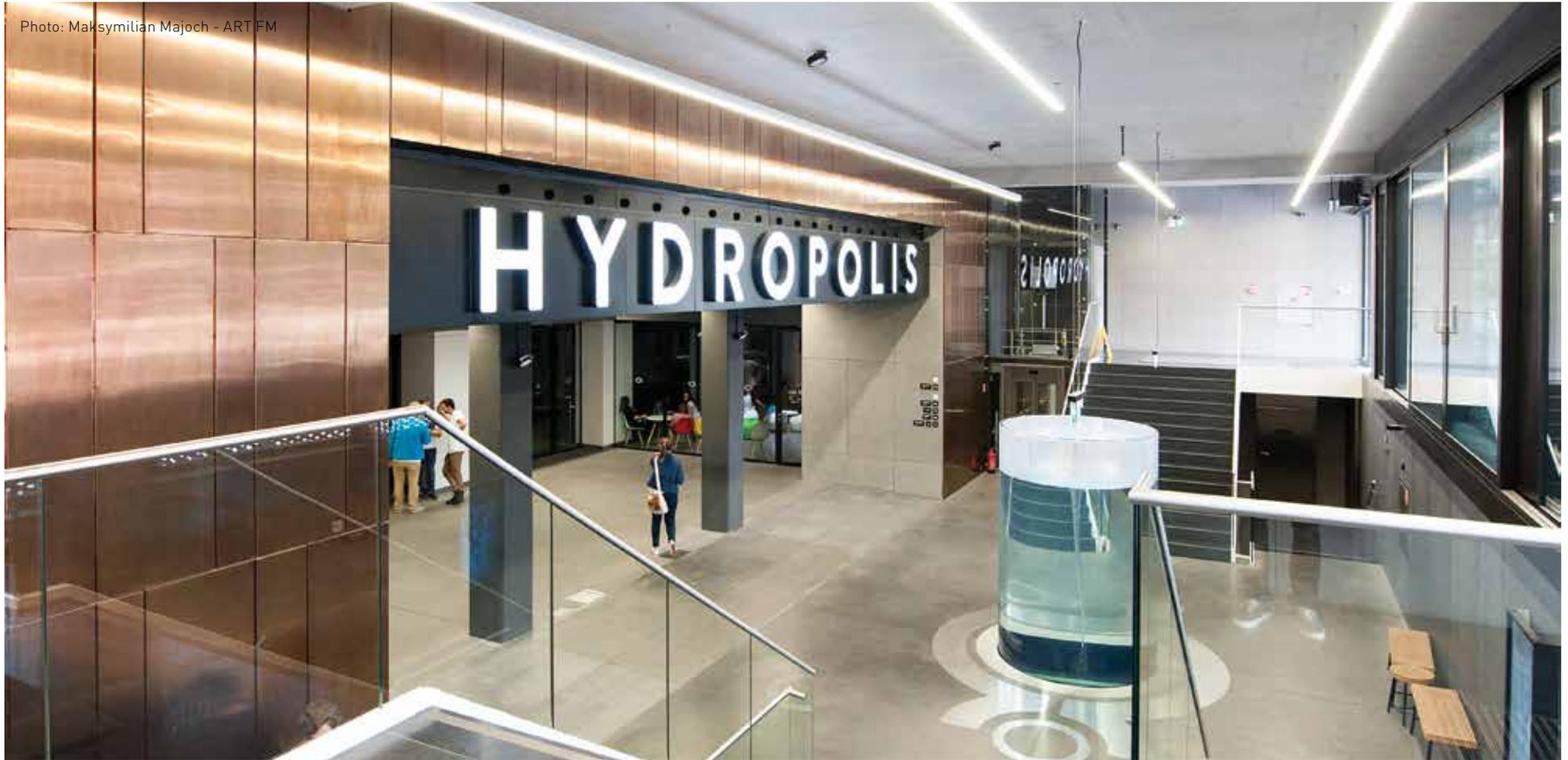


Photo: Maksymilian Majoch - ART FM



This contemporary copper pavilion – by far the most popular public vote – seems an entirely natural setting for its animated water sculpture, without competing with its historic neighbours.

PUBLIC CHOICE WINNER

HYDROPOLIS, WROCŁAW, POLAND
PRACOWNIA PROJEKTOWA ART FM



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A new copper entrance pavilion with an innovative 'water printer' sculpture celebrates the regeneration of a remarkable 19th century reservoir in Wrocław, converted into 'Hydropolis' – the only knowledge centre in Poland devoted entirely to water.

The new pavilion is roofed and clad in copper, intended to oxidise naturally and harmonise with the brickwork, including perforated panels – some sliding – in front of the glazed entrance. Copper, this time pre-oxidised, also adds the finishing touch to the entrance hall, illuminating the interior.



SHORTLISTED

COMMUNAL STAGE, TRONDHEIM, NORWAY HUS ARKITEKTER AS

The judges were intrigued by the canopy drum – innovative, cleverly conceived and beautifully executed – and keen to see it operating at night.

The architects' vision was a new, lively space focused on activity rather than form – a space bursting with people and life. The cylindrical stage 'loft' has an outer skin of perforated and hand-patinated copper, middle layer of natural copper and inner stainless steel reflector. The canopy is transformed from its rich patina green in daylight to an animated beacon at night by artificial lighting from the inner circle reflected throughout the screen.



MORE ONLINE

Photos: Mika Huisman



Shortlisted for a real sense of social purpose, this scheme looks to overcome multicultural challenges, fitting well into the urban fabric on its corner site.

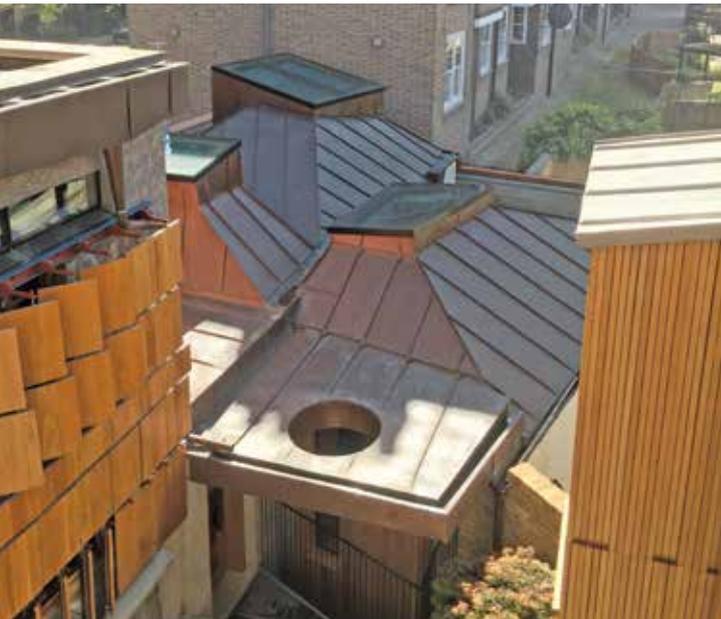
SHORTLISTED

**SUVELA CHAPEL
HELSINKI, FINLAND
OOPEAA**



MORE ONLINE

Located in one of the most multicultural districts in the metropolitan area of Helsinki, this scheme aims to meet the needs of its culturally diverse community. All spaces are on one level and the complex wraps into a single U-shaped entity forming an intimate central courtyard. The exterior shell of the whole complex is entirely clad in copper to emphasise the unity of the various volumes of the building. Copper was an ecological choice, being durable and recyclable, easy to maintain and sustainable.



The judges admired this complex, almost inscrutable scheme for its defiance of current architectural stereotypes and obvious love of materials and detail.

SHORTLISTED

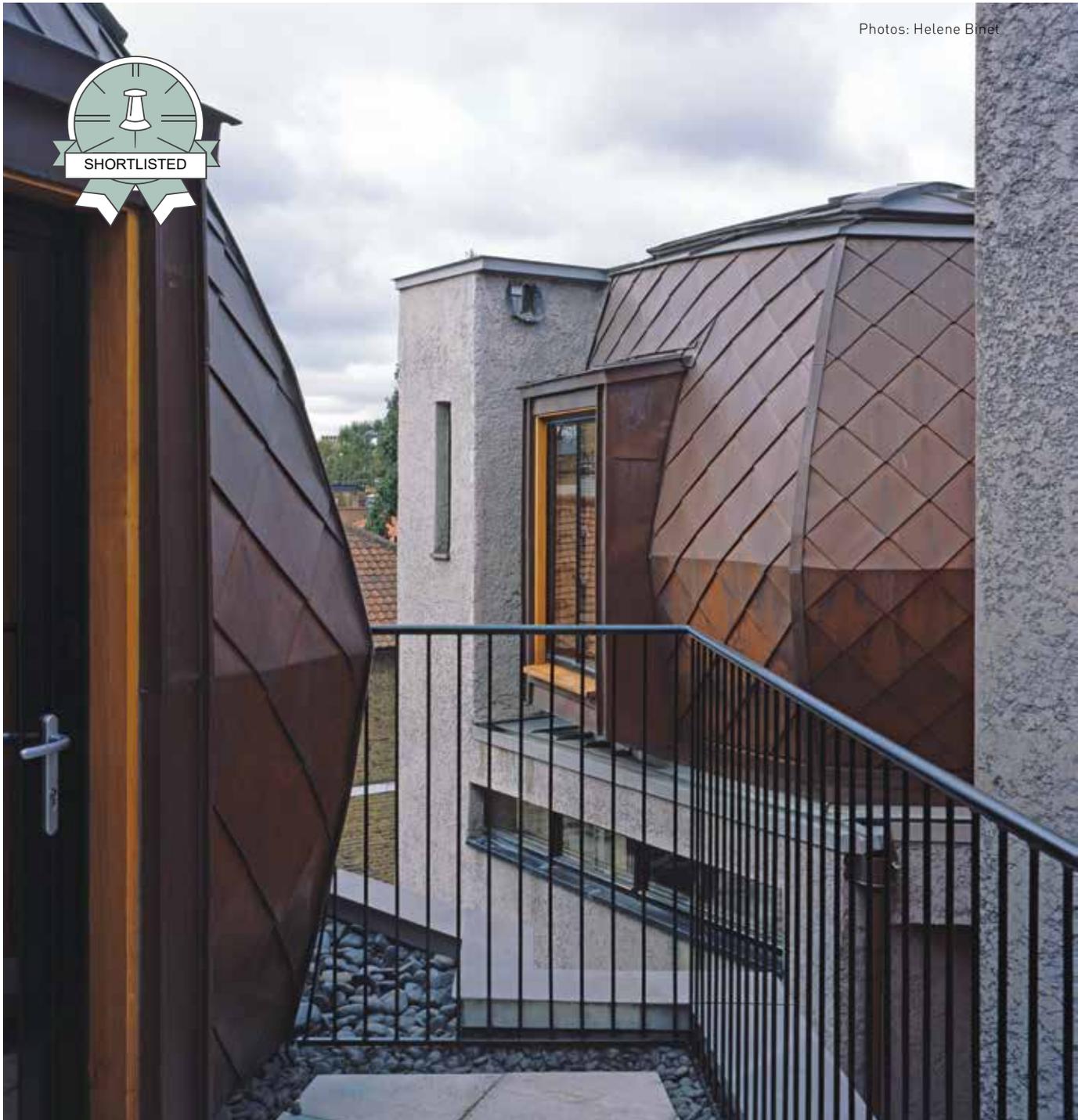


WALMER YARD
LONDON, UK

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PETER SALTER ASSOCIATES

Copper is used to clad various roof forms, relying on the expertise of craftsmen to successfully execute the shingle and standing-seam styles, numerous roof pitches and complex junctions. Two of the houses facing the courtyard have surface-mounted fascia gutters in copper, shaped to falls and forming a cornice to the shutters below. The underside of the gutter forms a belly that projects in front of the window as a hopper, connecting with a copper downpipe.



Photos: Helene Binet



Photos: Simone Bossi



SHORTLISTED

ROW OF SIX HOUSES IN A BARN MILANO, ITALY STUDIO ROBERTO MASCAZZINI ARCHITETTO, GINO GUARNIERI ARCHITECTS

With a fascinating juxtaposition of copper and recycled rubble to form both walls and roofs, the judges considered this a brave, innovative scheme.

Replacing a collapsing barn with a new building using the same materials presented fundamental challenges. The architect's response involved some of the demolition material being crushed and contained within steel gabions distributed uniformly across both walls and roofs. Between these 'legacy' zones, copper areas contain all the openings of the houses where they cannot compromise the integrity of the building. Here, openings can be hidden by vertically folding, copper-clad shutters.



MORE ONLINE





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The Awards programme is part of the European Copper in Architecture Campaign, which also includes Copper Architecture Forum magazine and the Copperconcept.org website, both of which include additional coverage of the Awards and all the entries, as well as information about future Awards.

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