

12TH EDITION INTERNATIONAL WOOD CONSTRUCTION FORUM FBC LILLE GRAND PALAIS 2023

THE MARTTA WENDELIN DAYCARE CENTRE IN TUUSULA (FINLAND) – WINNER OF THE 5TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR WOOD ARCHITECTURE

On March 9th, a jury composed of the heads of five magazines specialising in timber construction and architecture from five European countries analysed the shortlisted projects of the 5th International Award for Wood Architecture, presented by the press.

Completed in 2022, the Martta Wendelin Daycare Centre is located in Tuusula, in the north of Helsinki, in Finland. This project designed by the Helsinki-based agency AFKS architects was one of the three nominated by PUU Magazine, representing Finland in the competition facing the 4 other members of the jury and their affiliated magazines: Lignum (Switzerland), Mikado (Germany), Trä! (Sweden) and Séquences Bois (France).



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The Award Ceremony took place on April 13th 2023, during the plenary session "Tributes and Awards" of the International Wood Construction Forum in Lille, Grand Palais.

OVERVIEW OF THE 9 NOMINATED PROJECTS

Each year the five participating magazines propose three projects and submit the relevant information so that the other participants can consult and evaluate them. These are then whittled down to a shortlist of three for each editor-in-chief, assigning points to the projects by order of preference, those not winning any points being eliminated. The resulting shortlist this year was of nine projects.

Gundersheim library – Mikado

Location: Gundersheim, Germany

Delivery: 2020

Architect: Schlicht Lamprecht
Architekten

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Heudebouville Primary school – Séquences Bois



Location: Heudebouville, France

Delivery: February 2022

Architect: HEMAA Architectes

©Sergio Grazia

ALA Helsinki airport – PUU Magazine

Location: Helsinki, Finland

Delivery: 2022

Architect: Arkkitehtitoimisto ALA Oy

©Tuomas Uusheimo



Hardwald lookout tower – Lignum



Location: Dietlikon, Switzerland

Delivery: June 2022

Architect: Luna Productions

©Ladina Bischof

Hyreshus – Trä!

Location: Västerås, Sweden

Delivery: Summer 2021

Architect: Kaminsky Arkitektur

©Jan Tove





Location: Prévêrenge, Switzerland

Delivery: 2021

Architect: Localarchitecture

©Matthieu Gafsou

Magazin X – Trä!

Location: Uppsala, Sweden

Delivery: October 2021

Architect: White Arkitekter

©Måns Berg



Pikku Finlandia – PUU Magazine

Location: Helsinki, Finland

Delivery: 2022

Architect: Jaakko Torvinen, Havu
Järvelä & Elli Wendelin

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ABOUT THE AWARD

Created in 2017, the International Award for Wood Architecture is an annual award which aims to reward the achievement of excellence carried out in the wood architecture industry. The award aims to stimulate the development of innovative architectural thinking using wood, whilst establishing links between countries where wood construction will play an increasingly important role. The Award ceremony coincides with the International Wood Construction Forum. The participating media, who constitute the jury, agree to publish the winner of the year in their respective magazines, thus ensuring the international notoriety of the project.

THE AWARD WINNER



The Martta Wendelin Daycare Centre in Tuusula, Finland is the country's largest wood building (by volume of wood used). It is a two-storey wooden building (fire class P2) equipped with sprinklers. It has an open layout with a variety of spaces, including a hall, canteen areas, auxiliary facilities, and spaces for small groups. The idea of the project was to build a new daycare building with an enduring, stable and yet flexible structure, able to be modified over time. The exterior walls were built with a solid CLT structure, with the load-bearing, partitioning walls and intermediate floors also in cross-laminated timber. Inside the building, the CLT surfaces are left visible.

The completed building was awarded the Nordic Swan label, denoting low energy consumption, good indoor air quality, and the reusability and recyclability of building components. This nursery also reveals possibilities specifically developed in Finland in recent years, namely the use of CLT panels as columns, or CLT partitions with openings several metres wide, which do not jeopardise stability. These panels can also accept further openings in the future.

AFKS architects, founded by Jari Frondelius and Jaakko Keppo 30 years ago, now employs about 15 people, including associate architect Juha Salmenperä. The firm specialises in nurseries and schools, and has developed a style that sees the building as a kind of extended single-family home, or a building covered with a large house-like mantle, with spacious porches that act as a courtyard and articulate the passage from the outside to the inside. Another project by this team already competed for the International Award in the past years.



The jury states: "This light, unstructured architecture, all partitions in a Japanese manner, is present inside and outside. It is above all spectacular because of what it manages to avoid and, in return, allows massive recourse to wood in the interior fittings but also in the lining of the corridor walls without causing an overabundance effect. The architects play with the possibility of making openings in the panels as desired and brighten up the facade and the living spaces."

Unfortunately, the International Award for Wood Architecture allows only one winner project per year. However, the jury agreed that the panel of projects for the 2023 edition and more particularly the nine nominees provided an exciting range of today's timber architecture throughout Europe.

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