

Press release

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Inaugural RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship announced

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship will be launched at the RIBA President's Medals Students Awards ceremony on 6 December 2006. The biennial travel grant of £6,000 will be awarded to one student from up to 98 RIBA accredited architecture schools in the UK and abroad. The money will be directly available to the winning student to fund international research on a topic and in a location of their choice. Their findings will be presented in a report - which may be photographic, graphic or written - to be shown at the RIBA in an exhibition held to coincide with the following year's President's Medals presentation and exhibition.

The judging panel will comprise of Lord Foster, the President of the RIBA, two members of Foster + Partners and two further judges; one to be invited by Lord Foster and the other by the President of the RIBA. Launched in December this year, submissions will be required by 28 February 2007, with travelling to be carried out by the winning student between June and September 2007. Applicants will be chosen on the basis of proposals submitted for their proposed area of research, which might include: learning from the past to inform the future; the future of society; the density of settlements; sustainability; the use of resources; the quality of urban life; and transport.

Norman Foster said: "As a student I won a prize that allowed me to spend a summer travelling through Europe and to study first hand buildings and cities that I knew only from the pages of books. It was a revelation - liberating and exhilarating in so many ways. Today it is my privilege to fund the RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship, which I hope will have a lasting legacy - offering the chance for discovery and the inspiration for exciting new work - for generations to come."

Jack Pringle, President of the RIBA, said: "Norman Foster's passion for this scholarship has been apparent since he first conceived it. It will enable a student from any of our 98 recognised schools world-wide to have an extraordinary opportunity to travel and create a record of their architectural learning which will be exhibited at the RIBA. Coincidentally, I won a travelling scholarship as a student so I know what a horizon expanding opportunity this can be."

Notes to editors:

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The purpose of the President's Medals is to promote excellence in the study of architecture, to reward talent and to further a dialogue about architecture in education aimed at the profession and the public. Entry is open to those studying internationally recognised RIBA courses. An exhibition of the shortlisted

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and winning entries will be on show from the 7 December 2006, followed by a nation-wide travelling exhibition during 2007. For further information visit www.presidentsmedals.com

The President's Medals Student Awards 2006 are supported by Atkins, as Principal Sponsor, with iGuzzini, Paul Davis and Partners and SOM as Associate Sponsors.

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