

Press release

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Foster + Partners wins best New and Old and two high commendations at the World Architecture Festival

The Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard at the Smithsonian Institution was awarded best New and Old project at the inaugural World Architecture Festival, held in Barcelona last week. The Elephant House at Copenhagen Zoo and Wembley Stadium also received high commendations in their respective categories, Pleasure and Sport.

There were a total of 17 categories at the festival, which attracted over 700 entries from around the world. Judges cited the Smithsonian Institution as an exquisite example of the insertion of modern elements into an existing structure: the technically highly sophisticated canopy not only creates a new thermally conditioned urban room for Washington but also excellent acoustics and new connectivities.

Spencer de Grey, presenting the project at the Festival, said: I am delighted that our scheme for the Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard at the Smithsonian Institution won best New and Old project and it is especially rewarding to receive this recognition from our peers within the architectural community. It was a privilege to work on such an important landmark for Washington. We tried to celebrate the historic fabric of the building while transforming the visitor experience of the galleries and providing the city with its largest event space.

For further information
please contact Katy Harris at
Foster + Partners,
T +44 (0)20 7738 0455
F +44 (0)20 7738 1107
E press@fosterandpartners.com