

Press release

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The Architectural Association Foster + Partners Prize 2014

The Architectural Association and Foster + Partners are pleased to announce the award of the 2014 Foster + Partners Prize, which is presented annually to the AA Diploma student whose portfolio best addresses the themes of sustainability and infrastructure. The recipient is selected jointly by the AA and Foster + Partners at the end of each academic year.

This year's prize has been awarded to Ioana Giurgiu, of Diploma Unit 18, for her project 'SMFoF. Uncovering the factory in nature.' Through an exploration of a Mediterranean salt marsh, which is being rescued from its current polluted and degraded state, the proposal aims to introduce a new understanding of nature and its inherent processes. Rather than attempting to emulate nature, the project focuses on understanding the potential uses of naturally occurring processes. The study examines the way in which the marsh performs the role of a factory, as natural phenomena suggest potential new ways of fabrication.

Armstrong Yakubu of Foster + Partners:

"Although Ioana has explored the typology of the salt marsh for the purposes of this study, her approach has wider applicability for a range of ecological sites – this is one of the aspects that most impressed the jury panel. There are many examples of architecture replicating natural growth patterns or utilising the inherent efficiency of natural forms. However, the idea that natural processes can be understood and potentially utilised in an industrial base is an interesting way of creating a new, more harmonious model of production."

For further information:

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The AA School

The Architecture Association School is the world's most renowned international and influential school of architecture. Since 1847 it has pioneered a belief in architecture as profession, culture and form of human enquiry and is credited with fostering the creation of worldwide leaders of architecture. AA School alumni include architectural leaders Zaha Hadid, Rem Koolhaas, Lord Rogers, Will Alsop and many others. Through its unique, year-long, unit based system of teaching, direct intervention in cities

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and its intensively collaborative team based approach to learning, the school brings together disconnected worlds, fresh ideas and inspiring insights. The AA School is celebrated worldwide as an imaginative setting for architectural culture.

www.aaschool.ac.uk

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