

Press release

28 June 2011

The Architectural Association Foster + Partners Prize

The Architectural Association and Foster + Partners are pleased to announce the award of the 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 years prize has been awarded to Aditya Aachi, of Diploma Unit 7, for his project Haiti Simbi Hubs. The project proposes sanitation infrastructure for Haiti and draws on the unprecedented need for cooperation between the Haitian Government and NGOs to combat cholera outbreaks.

A network of hygiene points known as Simbi Hubs is planned, providing localised sanitation processes. Each Simbi Hub includes areas for lavatories, bathing, and laundry, as well as facilities for food storage and preparation. Water and sewage are treated on site and the hubs address issues relating to storm drainage and earthquake safety. All the elements required to build the new infrastructure are designed to be made locally, using established craft skills.

Aditya Aachi, and the other six shortlisted candidates, will be invited to exhibit their work in the gallery in Foster + Partners studio in October, when there will be a formal reception and a cheque will be presented.

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The themes of sustainability and infrastructure that underpin the award were selected to highlight themes of common interest to the AA and Foster + Partners and for their significance in contemporary architectural discourse more globally.

"This is the second year we have awarded this prize and in Aditya Aachis project we see it going from strength to strength. We hope very much that the debate this prize generates will encourage students to address themes that are of increasing relevance to architecture today."

Mouzhan Majidi, Senior Partner and Chief Executive

"The AA School is delighted to have participated in the judging of the Foster + Partners Prize. The work of this years winner indicates the enthusiasm and commitment shown by AA Diploma students to address challenging, topical issues in architecture. We are grateful to Foster + Partners for their continued support of the prize and the innovative work it encourages."

Brett Steele, Director of the Architectural Association School of Architecture

"The Earthquake and cholera outbreak of 2010 exposed the lack of both

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governmental and physical infrastructure in Haiti. The vision for this intervention is not only to create a sustainable system of public sanitation, which will be freely available to all, but also help to make sense of the largely unplanned city by making interventions that reinforce the public realm."

Aditya Achi, winner of the 2011 Foster + Partners Prize

Press 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 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.

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