



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS COMMISSION

2023 ICC Special Edition

**Achieving design excellence
through international
architectural competitions**

2023 ICC Special Edition

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UIA-endorsed competitions are a main contributor to the organisation's reputation. In all parts of the world, architects and architecture students get to know the UIA through its competitions. This is not surprising, since architectural design competitions challenge the core specificity of the profession – the ability to translate needs into spatial solutions and respond to the particularities of a task and its context with innovative architectural ideas and technology.

UNESCO-UIA collaboration

The history of international competitions is closely related to the history of the UIA, which began collaborating with national professional organisations in conducting international competitions as far back as 1949. The need for regulations that are internationally accepted and considered valid was evident from the beginning of the UIA's creation; this goal was achieved in collaboration with UNESCO.

The UIA developed regulations for international competitions which were approved by the General Assembly in 1955. Adopted in 1956 by the General Conference of UNESCO and revised in 1978, the UNESCO Standard Regulations for International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning remain the global reference for competitions with a focus on the quality of the solution. They are based on the main tenets of transparency, equal treatment and non-discrimination. They guarantee professional evaluation under anonymity as well as the protection of authors' rights.

The UIA Competition Guide for Design Competitions in Architecture and Related Fields, developed by the UIA International Competitions Commission (ICC) in 2016 and amended in 2020, includes updated best practice recommendations for the implementation of the UNESCO Regulations and can also be used for national competitions.

The history of professional international competitions

Entrusted by UNESCO since 1956 to promote international competitions worldwide, supervise the application of the Standard Regulations and assist competition organisers, the UIA can proudly affirm at its 75th anniversary that it has successfully fulfilled this responsibility. 300 UIA-endorsed professional competitions conducted in 86 different countries since 1949, and over 50 student competitions conducted since 1998, is a remarkable performance.

A brief analysis shows that the geographical repartition of the 300 competitions is not equal among the five UIA Regions. 59% of the competitions were conducted in European countries in Region I and Region II, which already had a tradition of organising competitions before 1956, and 41% were conducted in countries in the other three Regions (III, IV and V). This is an important finding that will influence promotion efforts in the future.

The UIA intends to build a database of all endorsed competitions in addition to conducting research and analytical studies in order to measure the concrete successes of UIA competitions. This is especially relevant because it is not the number but the quality of procedures and successful realisations that contribute to their overall reputation. The goal of a competition is not accomplished by fair procedure alone its ultimate aim must be the successful realisation of the best project.

Student competitions

With student competitions, the UIA aims to:

- elevate awareness for specific challenges facing society and the profession
- invite reflection about general and specific domains to which architecture can contribute
- train design skills and build capacity for finding architectural solutions
- give insight to specific topics, materials, technologies
- introduce students to professional practice and help future architects start their career.

Student competitions are usually ideas competitions without a concrete project commission for the winner. It is nevertheless recommended, whenever possible, to envisage some involvement of the first prize winner in a further development of the competition topic as a reward, provided there is a chance to do so.

When the UIA organises an international student competition in architecture and related fields, the aim is to elevate awareness on current challenges and attract students. Student competitions must have an evident educational value and a holistic approach. They also play an important role in familiarising the future generation of architects with competition practice, as well as with the International Union of Architects and its mission.

Competitions organised in relation to the UIA Congresses, usually on topics related to the Congress theme and/or location, are an important chapter of UIA student competitions. They attract numerous participants from all parts of the world and often require tutor supervision of submitted projects. Jurors of student competitions are challenged to highlight the didactic value and document the didactic approach in their report.

ICC consultancy

The UIA provides consultancy for competitions and awards/prizes through the expert advisory team of its specialised Commission. Since 2017, the International Competitions Commission (ICC) has professionalised the consultancy offered to competitions seeking UIA endorsement and successfully proved the compatibility of UNESCO Regulations with all public procurement legislation (including EU legislation) under which UIA-endorsed competitions have taken place. During this period, the ICC has also started advising interested Member Sections on the elaboration or review of their national regulations for architectural design competitions.

ICC consultancy on competitions consists of advising on the competition type, the definition of the task, the evaluation criteria, the deliverables, formal and procedural aspects, the composition of the jury, the number of prizes, the amount of total prize money, the key parameters of the proposed mandate in the case of professional competitions, the educational value in the case of student competitions, the elaboration of the jury report and the organisation of the exhibition. The ICC also provides recommendations for the conduct of the jury evaluation session, with an observer supervising and giving competent advice on formal and procedural matters.

The UIA recommends that professional design competitions should, in principle, be open and avoid excessive requirements. This enables the promotion of new talents and ensures that competitions remain accessible and affordable for all. In accordance with the UIA's wider objectives, competitions endorsed over the last few years have respected the holistic, culture-centred and interdisciplinary approach promoted by the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The ICC's task is to promote UIA competitions and competition culture worldwide. With a handful of UIA-endorsed competitions launched every year, the goal is to set high standards, advocate best practices worldwide and promote design quality. UIA competitions must serve as an example.

Endorsement by the UIA is nowadays not only an assessment of conformity to the UNESCO Regulations and the UIA best practice recommendations, but has also become a guarantee of fair conduct with equitable conditions for the competitors, the winner and the organiser. It is thus a quality label.

Competitions as the best tool to promote quality

The ongoing political discourse, particularly in Europe, where discussion centres on the "Baukultur" and "New European Bauhaus" initiatives, recognises that a high-quality built environment is a necessity and a matter of public interest. Such an environment is best achieved through well-managed design competitions, which are proven to be the best tool for finding the most suitable solutions for architectural tasks. Their recognition and appropriate implementation in national legislation and cultures is in progress, although the process is slow. The context is today more favourable than ever for the promotion of architectural design competitions and competition culture. In this regard, the UIA has an important role to play over the coming years in showing how the comparison offered by competitions makes them the best tool for achieving a worldwide high-quality built environment, designed in the interest of the public.

Competition Organiser

Expertise France

Pauline Lecomte
Emin Turki
Ghada Jleli

Carthage National Museum, Tunisia (2023)
One-stage open project competition
221 registered participants
94 submitted projects from 30 countries



Why did you choose to organise an international competition?

Expertise France, the French inter-ministerial agency for international technical cooperation, organised this competition on behalf of the Tunisian Ministry of Cultural Affairs as part of the EU-funded Tounes Wijhetouna programme. The choice of this competition was made in consultation with the Tunisian Order of Architects in order to meet the complex and technically demanding requirements of the UNESCO World Heritage site. It was also an opportunity for Tunisian architects to make their skills better known internationally and to open up to multidisciplinary and multicultural collaborations.

Did your competition encourage debate (between architecture professionals and the political representatives in charge of the project)? Did it improve acceptance of the project?

This international competition is a first for both the project owner and the competition organiser. It gave rise to numerous debates between all the stakeholders. These debates have helped to improve the clarity and overall quality of the competition rules and programme, so that they can resonate with architects around the world.

In your opinion, what is the added value of the UIA? What was your experience?

With almost 94 projects received from 30 different nationalities, we can consider that the gamble of choosing an anonymous international competition has been a success for Tunisia. It has highlighted the place of Tunisian architects on the international scene, as well as attracted the participation of some of the biggest names in architecture. The UIA's methodology and experience reassured both the organisers and the architects, whose participation in a competition represents a major technical, human and financial investment.

Jury members:

- Alberto Veiga, Architect, Veiga Barozzi, Spain (UIA representative, jury president)
- Fathy Kouched, Architect, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Tunisia
- Lamine Hibet, Architect, Tunisia (Order of Architects of Tunisia representative)
- Gabriela Carrillo, Architect, Taller de arquitectura, Mexico
- Neil Porter, Landscape architect, Gustavson porter + Bowman, United Kingdom
- Meriem Chabani, Architect and urban planner, New South, France/Algeria
- Momoyo Kajjima, Architect, Atelier Bow Wow, Japan

Alternate jurors:

- Grichka Martinetti, Architect, Atelier png, France (UIA representative)
- Ammar Khammash, Architect, Khammash Architects, Jordan
- Nawel Laroui, Landscape architect, Aleaolea, Tunisia/Spain



Requalification of Byrsa Acropolis and Rehabilitation of the Carthage National Museum
Competition site

Results:

First prize: German team represented by Thorsten Kock

Lead partner: bez+kock architekten in consortium with Koeberlandschafts Architecture, Grauwald Studio

Second prize: Tunisian-French consortium represented by Sami Aloulou

Lead Partner: SEPTEMBRE

In consortium with Arkitektaal, Solstice, Achille Racine, Clémence Lasagna Studio and Luseo Group

Third prize: Tunisian-French consortium represented by Karim Chaabane

Lead partner: ARKE ARCHITECTES ASSOCIES

In consortium with Bassinet Turquin Paysage, NeM / Niney et Marca architectes, Sélim Adhoum, Salah Ksouri, Béchir Riahi

Fourth prize: Tunisian-Mexican-French consortium represented by Sana Frini

Lead partner: LOCUS

In consortium with STUDIO METEORES, PHILIPPE RAHM ARCHITECTES

Fifth prize: Tunisian-Finnish consortium represented by Anis Souissi

Lead Partner: ARCHITECT ANIS SOUISSI

In consortium with URAM International, Opus ark, Sami Montsaar

Competition Organiser

European Commission

Professional Adviser

Hugo Soriano

European Commission Joint Research Centre,
Spain (2022)
Restricted one-stage project competition
69 applicants from 19 countries
15 teams selected to participate in the competition



Why did you choose to organise an international competition?

The new JRC premises in Seville is the first European Commission building inspired from its very conception by the philosophy of the New European Bauhaus, and as such it called for a daring, innovative approach. Moreover, the intervention involves a site of huge cultural and urban sensitivity in Seville. A high-quality international competition was therefore the natural way for the Commission to attract the interest of a broad number of diverse international teams.

Did your competition encourage debate (between architectural professionals and political representatives of the city)? Did it increase the acceptance of the project?

The competition outcome has been the subject of an exhibition in one of the city's main public spaces (La Avenida de la Constitución), a public presentation and several press articles. Debates took place during the jury phase of the competition and involved a city representative, and this led to a fruitful result and a higher acceptance of the project.

What do you think is the added value of the UIA? What was your experience?

The UIA proved to be invaluable in the contest preparation phase by contributing its wealth of experience in procedures of this kind, and in the contest publication phase by helping to ensure the maximum dissemination of the brief to design teams worldwide.

Jury members:

- Bernard Magenhann, Deputy Director General of JRC, European Commission, Jury Chair, Belgium
- Mikel Landabaso, JRC Seville site Director, European Commission, Spain
- Lone Wiggers, Architect, Denmark
- Silvia Benedito, UIA representative, Architect, Portugal
- Patrick Bouchardon, Landscape Architect, France/Britain
- Christiane Gerlach, Chief architect of European Commission, OIB (Brussels Infrastructure Office), Architect, German
- Felipe Castro Bermúdez-Coronel, Architect, representing the Seville City Council, Architect Spain

Alternate jurors:

- Asunción Fernández Carretero, Deputy Director of Directorate JRC.R, European Commission, Spain
- Vincenzo Cardarelli, Adviser, Seville Site Development, Directorate JRC.B, European Commission, Italy
- Anne Holtrop, Architect, Netherlands
- Laurent Gravier, UIA representative, Architect, France



Competition site for the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Results:

- **1st Prize:** Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), with team members Argenia Ingeniería y Arquitectura (Spain), Buro Happold Limited (UK) and HCP Arquitectos y Urbanistas (Spain)
- **2nd Prize:** Dorte Mandrup (Denmark), team leader, with Ines Ingenieros Consultores (Spain), Jansana, De la Villa, De Paauw, Arquitectes (Spain), Installacions Arquitectoniques (Spain) and Activitats Arquitectoniques (Spain)
- **3rd Prize:** Cobe (Denmark) with Esteyco (Spain), FSL Ingeniería y Diseño Sostenible (Spain), Estudi Ramon Folch i Associats (Spain) and b720 Arquitectura (Spain)

Honourable Mentions:

- ALA Architects Ltd (Finland), group leader, with Ove Arup & Partners (Ireland) and Mareld landskapsarkitekter (Sweden)
- Mecanoo International (Netherlands), group leader, with Bakpak Architects (Spain), Eddea Arquitectura y Urbanismo (Spain), Arquitectura Agronomia (Spain) and Valladares Ingeniería (Spain)
- Muoto Architectes (France) with Schnetzer Puskas International (Switzerland)

Competition Organiser

Larissa Municipality

Professional adviser Vasiliki Agorastidou

Ancient Theatre A' Larissa, Greece (2022)
One-stage open ideas and project competition
1037 registered participants
52 submitted projects from 22 countries



Why did you choose to organise an international competition?

I was invited to organise the international competition by the President of the Municipal Council, architect Dimitris Tachos, and the Vice Mayor of Technical Works, mechanical engineer George Soultis.

We believed that such a unique and important project, concerning the impact of an ancient theatre in the heart of the city centre, should become a topic of reflection and interest among the global community of architects. Furthermore, it could add to the global urban competitiveness of Larissa, through the competition itself, its results and the further development of the project.

Did your competition encourage debate (between architectural professionals and political representatives of the city)? Did it increase the acceptance of the project?

One of our expectations in holding an international ideas competition was to encourage debate between architectural professionals, citizens and the municipality of Larissa. The plurality of professional architectural approaches from all over the world to such a sensitive project located in the centre of the city certainly contributed to the mitigation of the black and white thinking on the subject. Thanks to the competition, the project triggered great interest and discussions throughout the city.

What do you think is the added value of the UIA? What was your experience?

The UIA played a significant role, both during the preparation of the competition and its conduct, by adding experience and publicity, and by raising the reliability and prestige of the competition. For me personally, switching to the role of professional advisor rather than participating as a competitor or jury member in international competitions endorsed by UIA was instructive, compelling and challenging too. The ICC significantly assisted in resolving any issues raised during the stages of the competition, from the drafting of the competition brief to the announcement of the results.

Jury members:

- Renato Rizzi, Italy (Chair)
- Aristidis Sapounakis, Greece
- Deniz Incedayi, Turkey
- Rainer Mahlamäki, Finland
- Christian Sumi, Switzerland (UIA Representative)

Alternate jurors:

- Jacek Lenart, Poland (UIA Representative)



Surrounding Area of the Ancient Theatre A' of Larissa ideas competition (2022), Greece
Competition site

Results:

- **1st prize:** Armando dal Fabro (Italy) with architects Vincenzo d'Abramo, Claretta Mazzonetto, Mattia Cocozza, with architecture students Valeria Defilippis and Vittoria Pizzol.
- **2nd prize:** Evangelos Pournaras (Greece), Amalia Vranaki (UK), Aikaterini Margariti (Switzerland), architects, and large-scale urban landscape sculptor Nella Golanda (Greece).
- **3rd prize:** Team: FREA (Turkey) with architects Fatih Yavuz, Ömer Emre Savural, Bilal Ugur Liman, Güney Gürsu Tonkal, Muhammed Talha Yazici, Ceyda Tokcan, with architecture students Kaan Özdemir and Ebru Evin, and consultant architect/historian Pelin Yoncaci Arslan.
- **4th prize:** Antonio Nitti and Vincenzo Bruni (Italy), architects, with architecture students Alessandro Benedetto, Martina Morelli, Sebastiano Narracci, Gian Luca Ranieri and Rossella Zeverino (Italy).
- **5th prize:** Alexios Tzompanakis (Greece), Manuela Raitano, Alessandro Lanzetta, Anzela Fiorelli, Benedetta Tamburini, Laura Terrone, Beatrice Pia Pizzicaroli, Stefano Pannella (Italy), architects, with landscape architect Federico Di Cosmo (Italy), consultant archaeologist Efthymia Royka (Greece), and consultant sociologist Irene Tuzi (Germany).

Competition Organiser

TIF-HELEXPO

CEO
Kyriakos Pozrikidis

Thessaloniki ConfEx Park, Greece (2021)
Restricted one-stage project competition
116 applicants from 22 countries
15 teams selected to participate in the competition



Why did you choose to organise an international competition?

Tif-Helexpo is the owner and operator of the Thessaloniki Exhibition Centre, located in the heart of the city. Our vision is to replace the existing buildings with new, modern and environmentally friendly Exhibition Halls and Congress Center, and also to install an urban park that will upgrade the quality of life of all citizens. The ConfEx Park project is considered the largest intervention within an urban environment in Greece.

To create an emblematic landmark, an international competition was chosen as the best way to access versatile, fresh and sustainable ideas from architects all over the world.

Did your competition encourage debate (between architectural professionals and political representatives of the city)? Did it increase the acceptance of the project?

The location of ConfEx Park means that many aspects of the city are affected, which provoked a long debate with all the authorities, the municipality and the residents of Thessaloniki. Many decisions and regulations were established in a masterplan before the architectural competition launched under the auspices of the UIA.

Although several design parameters were set, the competitors' design proposals provided 15 outstanding creative solutions to the requirements of the brief. The selection of the jury was accepted by all stakeholders and increased the overall public acceptance of the project.

We, as organisers, feel confident that the result of the competition has emerged from a fair, transparent procedure that led to a high quality, functional and sustainable first prize.

What do you think is the added value of the UIA? What was your experience?

As the ConfEx Park project is of high importance for the stakeholders and the city of Thessaloniki, launching the architectural competition under the UIA regulations has definitely and undeniably added a lot of value to this urban project.

The global publicity generated by the UIA's endorsement contributed to the participation of architectural firms from all over the world and the optimal final design of the project.

The experience of the UIA International Competitions Commission Co-Directors was very useful in clarifying the regulations of the brief, establishing the jury and conducting the evaluation sessions.

Jury members:

- Joan Busquets, architect and urban planner, Jury chair (Spain)
- Farshid Moussavi, architect (Great Britain)
- Rena Sakellaridou, architect (Greece)
- Simone Ewings, architect (Norway)
- Samuli Miettinen, architect, UIA representative (Finland)
- Areti Markopoulou, architect (Greece)
- Irene Djao-Rakitine, landscape architect (France)
- Dimitrios Kerentzes, International Bureau of Exhibitions General Secretary (Great Britain)
- Kyriakos Pozrikidis, TIF-HELEXPO CEO (Greece)

Alternate jurors:

- Fani Vavili, Prof., Architect (Greece)
- Simon Hartmann, Prof., Architect, UIA Representative (Switzerland)
- Daniel Fügenschuh, Architect, (Austria)



Competition site for the Thessaloniki ConfEx Park

Competition Organiser

TIF-HELEXPO

Legal adviser
Ennie Dodou

Thessaloniki ConfEx Park, Greece (2021)
Restricted one-stage project competition



Why did you choose to organise an international competition?

The vision of TIF-HELEXPO S.A. is to build a sustainable, ecological and state-of-the-art ConfEx Centre, together with a new urban park. TIF-HELEXPO S.A. is envisioning a project that will dominate the downtown area of the city of Thessaloniki as an exceptional example of future cityscape developments, establishing close spatial connections between business areas, buildings and green open spaces.

In order to fulfil the above goals, TIF-HELEXPO S.A. was convinced that the launch of an international competition, under the auspices of the UIA, was the most powerful tool to attract forward-looking architects with the required qualities to complete such an ambitious project.

Did your competition encourage debate (between architectural professionals and political representatives of the city)? Did it increase the acceptance of the project?

With the launching of the competition, publicity regarding the project increased significantly and discussion among the city's stakeholders became much more vivid. The competition contributed to making the project and TIF-HELEXPO's vision more apparent to the public and encouraged the city's political representatives to endorse it even more actively. Any prior concerns of how TIF-HELEXPO would proceed to the appointment of an architectural team with all the necessary skills and competences to fulfil such an ambitious project were extinguished when the competition was published, since it was more than obvious that the path chosen by the organiser was that of full transparency and inclusivity.

What do you think is the added value of the UIA? What was your experience?

The competition attracted 116 distinguished professionals from 33 countries and 5 continents. This success was largely owed to TIF-HELEXPO's decision to organise the competition in accordance with the UNESCO-UIA Regulations. The continuous cooperation with the UIA was most valuable and critical in all steps of the international competition, from the preparation and drafting of the brief to the organisation of the jury sessions and the announcement of results. UIA participation resulted in incredible global visibility as well as a framework of trust, transparency, fairness and quality. UIA involvement also paved the way to the formation of an interdisciplinary jury composed of prominent professionals, guaranteeing a fair, transparent and unquestionable result in line with the needs of the organiser.



TIF-HELEXPO fairgrounds and the Direct Impact Zone

Results:

- **1st Prize:** Sauerbruch Hutton (Germany), Gustafson Porter + Bowman (United Kingdom) and Elena Stavropoulou (Greece).
- **2nd Prize:** Lina Ghotmeh Architecture (France), Vogt Paysage + Urbanisme (France), LAN (France), LOT (Greece), Tractebel Engineering (France), Systematica (Italy)
- **3rd Prize:** UNStudio (Netherlands), Schema4 (Greece), OKRA

Competition Organiser

UIA Region V

Convenor: Tokunbo Omisore



Great Green Wall (2022)
Student open ideas competition
1176 registered participants
150 submitted projects from 49 countries

Why did you choose to organise a competition?

The Great Green Wall (GGW) project, an initiative of the African Union, was an idea introduced to the UIA by the UIA Honorary President, Vassilis Sgoutas, a few years ago. Recently, the idea of holding a competition was developed to engage the future of the architectural profession: our students, lecturers and researchers. The GGW, which is 8000km long, 16km wide and stretches across Sub-Saharan Africa from Djibouti to Dakar, was adopted as the competition site to explore solution-driven architectural approaches to indigenous challenges that unleash the SDGs Potential of the GGW. The objective was to further unlock Africa's historical and cultural heritage, promoting a new mindset on nature and architecture all whilst encouraging ecosystem habitation.

What were the biggest challenges you encountered?

The first major challenge was to identify sponsors for the competition. Those approached declined, perhaps because they could not foresee its added value.

The competition brief initially proposed the participation of young architects and students in a competition; this was professionally analysed as requiring two separate prizewinning categories, which was not the original intent. The competition was subsequently restricted to the targeted category – students in schools of architecture.

We had a challenge defining a concrete site within the GGW that was representative of the many countries it spans. The student ideas competition adopted the description of a typical site based on geotechnical information such as satellite imagery and names of human settlements.

What were the lessons learned for future competitions?

The UIA as adviser and organiser of competitions for the built environment should develop a 'bank of diversified sponsors' to embrace thought leaders, educators and for commercial benefits. Future competition evaluations should become more digitally enhanced to reduce cost, while still adhering to the anonymity of the UNESCO Standard Regulations for International Competitions. Competition platforms, especially for student submissions, should be improved to make them easier to use.

What did it mean to you to initiate this competition as the 2023 Student Congress competition?

The conformity stamp that endorsed this, the first competition initiated by UIA Region V in which other Regions could participate, was a welcome achievement. The participation of students from seventeen Member Sections of Region V led to the African continent having one prize winner and three honourable mentions. We have developed a collaborative network among architecture schools to examine how the architectural profession can contribute to regenerating the social-ecological systems of the Region and building resilience in the face of climate change and ecological degradation. It has brought awareness of indigenous knowledge and traditional technologies that can be used to propose architectural solutions for communities within the GGW.

Jury members:

- Gaetan Siew, Architect, Mauritius (jury president)
- Daniel Balo, Architect, Hungary (UIA representative)
- Helena Sandman, Architect, Finland
- Francisco Rodriguez-Suarez, Professor of Architecture, University of Illinois, USA
- Zhang Yue, Professor of Architecture, Tsinghua University, China

Alternate jurors:

- Alba Alsina-Maqueda, Architect, Spain

Results:

- **1st Prize:** Altynai Isaeva from the Kyrgyz State University of Construction and Architecture (KSUCTA), Kyrgyzstan for the project "Sustainable housing for Africa" in Burkina Faso.
- **2nd Prize:** Yuto Takenaka from the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, **USA** for the project "Dandelion ARC Journey".
- **3rd Prize:** Tian Haoran, Yang Mohan, Wu Ruopan and Cao Chuangwei supervised by tutors Hou Shuai and Ren Zhonglong from the Inner Mongolia University of Technology, China for the project "Green Colonies" in Niger.
- **4th prize:** Quan Dao and Quang Ngo, Hanoi Architectural University, Vietnam for the project "Co-Living" in Burkina Faso.
- **5th prize:** Abdulhameed Yakubu, Khadija Oyanki, Rayyan Garba and Amina Musa from Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria for the project "The Gidajen Laka" in Nigeria.

Honourable Mentions:

- Denis Ezekiel and Christopher Luvanda, Ardhi University, Tanzania for the project "The design of sustainable dwelling" in Senegal.
- Yiyang Liu and Meijia Sun, Chongqing Metropolitan College of Science and Technology, Department of Architecture, China for the project "Sprawling Community" in Chad.
- Asena Janset Odaci and Zeynep Yazici, Tobb University of Economics And Technology, Turkey for the project "Patch" in Chad.
- Hatice Bahar Çoklar, Ece Irem Tuncer and Okan Temür, Yıldız Technical University, Turkey for the project "Urban Loop" in Burkina Faso.
- Nde Keulek Sidoine Baudrel, Mahamat Talba, Lizette Marlaine Tsafack Donfack, Parfait Audry Migoue Ymbeand Emy Sandrine Masso, École Nationale Supérieure des travaux publics de Yaoundé, Cameroon for the project "Competitive Cluster House" in Senegal.
- Eren Vardar, Alperen Iraz and Süleyman Enes Kurt, Istanbul University, Turkey for the project "Saltogether" in Djibouti.
- Li Bei Bei, Feng Yu Qing, Cai Zhen and Li Jun Jie supervised by their advisor Chen Chao, Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology, China for the project "Eco Tree" in Burkina Faso.
- Johanna Lentzkow, Nils Hayoz and Laura Camerlingo, Instituto Superior Técnico, Portugal for the project "EcoVillage" in Burkina Faso.
- Lelissa Erkissa, Mikyas Tekle and Simon Mucheye, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia for the project "Sustainable Hidmo Housing" in Ethiopia.
- L.A.S Shikara Silva and S. Suwanka Senadheera, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka for the project "African Dream" in Burkina Faso.

Jury President Alberto Veiga (Spain)

Carthage National Museum, Tunisia (2023)
One-stage open project competition



What is the role and mission of a jury in architectural competitions?

The main mission, in general, of any architectural jury is to choose the project that best responds to all the conditioning factors that surround a project.

In this sense, it is important that the jury establishes a hierarchy among these aspects, analyses and discusses them, and then chooses the proposals that best meet them in order to ensure that the winning project can be developed with certain guarantees in the future.

What challenges did you face as president of an international jury?

In a jury there are always different sensitivities, different ways of thinking, different points of view. I believe that a jury president has the mission to make room in the discussion for all sensitivities and all points of view, with the aim of enriching the analysis and therefore ensuring that the choice of the winning project is as fair as possible.

What was your experience with the UIA recommended evaluation procedure?

It has been a great experience. Fortunately, the recommended evaluation process guides the whole process of selection and analysis of the projects in a clear and orderly manner. It gives a certain objectivity to a process that, by its very nature, is subjective.



1st prize: German team represented by Thorsten Kock
Lead partner: bez+kock architekten in Koeberlandschafts Architecture, Grauwald Studio



2nd prize: Tunisian-French consortium represented by Sami Aloulou
Lead Partner: SEPTEMBRE in consortium with Arkitektaal, Solstice, Achille Racine, Clémence Lasagna Studio and Luseo Group



3rd prize: Tunisian-French consortium represented by Karim Chaabane
Lead partner: ARKE ARCHITECTES ASSOCIES in consortium with Bassinet Turquin Paysage, NeM / Niney et Marca architectes, Sélim Adhoum, Salah Ksouri, Béchir Riahi

Alternate Juror Grichka Martinetti (France)

Carthage National Museum, Tunisia (2023)
One-stage open project competition



What is the role and mission of a jury in architectural competitions?

Architecture must first and foremost understand a place before proposing to intervene there, in a given civilisational context: this is a unique and unfalsifiable response. When a competition is launched, when architects think about what this site should become and make their proposals, the jury must assess them all with the same acuity to bring out the one that has best grasped this unity of place, time and people.

What challenges did you face as president of an international jury?

All competitions emerge for political reasons, for reasons good or bad. It is important to ensure that the legitimate expectation of choosing the project that will change the way the place is viewed is taken into account, with a view to inviting the whole world to attend. This is the case for the Carthage Museum competition that is an exceptional UNESCO World Heritage site. But we mustn't forget that architecture goes beyond this political dimension, because it is part of a thousand-year-old history, far removed from contemporary developments.

What was your experience with the UIA recommended evaluation procedure?

The UIA's evaluation procedure ensures that each project is given a chance, and that the best projects are gradually selected, from which the jury will extract what it considers to be the best project within the time allowed. The only criterion is architectural quality, in all its dimensions, and each member of the jury is given the opportunity to express his or her opinion to ensure the legitimacy of the jury's choice as a whole.



4th prize: Tunisian-Mexican-French consortium represented by Sana Frini
Lead partner: LOCUS In consortium with STUDIO METEORES, PHILIPPE RAHM ARCHITECTES



5th prize: Tunisian-Finnish consortium represented by Anis Souissi
Lead Partner: ARCHITECT ANIS SOUISSI In consortium with URAM International,
Opus ark, Sami Montsaar

Juror

Silvia Benedito (Portugal)

European Commission Joint Research Centre,
Spain (2022)
Restricted one-stage project competition



What is the role and mission of a jury in architectural competitions?

The role and mission of the jury is to make sure that the proposals follow the programme developed by the client. Moreover, the jury ensures that winning entry embraces the most sustainable practices and is inclusive in its multidisciplinary objectives. In high-profile competitions, we also need to make sure that the winning proposal, particularly for institutional programmes, is a reference of best practices as it will be object of community scrutiny.

What challenges did you face as a member of an international jury?

The challenges are normally focused on the best balance between budgets, design quality and innovation. Very often, we face the challenge of validating design principles that due to its innovative ambitions, raise questions about their viability and budget limitations. Being in an international jury allows us to discuss amongst us and use all the different expertise to find the most suitable proposal — one that embraces all those objectives in an integrated manner.

What was your experience with the UIA-recommended evaluation procedure?

The evaluation procedure was fair and integrated. It allowed the integration of social, ecological and budgetary objectives toward the best proposal that simultaneously brought innovative practices and civic outcomes. It was also aligned with the larger objectives of the client (JRC) in their vision for a benchmark for the city of Sevilla.



1st Prize: Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), with team members Argenia Ingenier.a y Arquitectura (Spain), Buro Happold Limited (UK) and HCP Arquitectos y Urbanistas (Spain)



1st Prize: Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), with team members Argenia Ingenier.a y Arquitectura (Spain), Buro Happold Limited (UK) and HCP Arquitectos y Urbanistas (Spain)

Alternate Juror Laurent Gravier (France)

European Commission Joint Research Centre,
Spain (2022)
Restricted one-stage project competition



What is the role and mission of a jury in architectural competitions?

Architectural competition juries are made up of people with very different professional backgrounds: representatives of the contracting authority, representatives of the construction industry (architects, landscape architects, engineers, etc.), representatives of future users, and so on. Their role is to collectively select, through architectural, urban, landscape and societal debate and teamwork, the project that they feel best meets the challenges of the programme and the future society.

What challenges did you face as president of an international jury?

Being a member of an international jury is both an honour and a great responsibility. At a time when the younger generation of architects is questioning the meaning of the construction, at a time when Europe is laying the foundations of the New European Bauhaus, this responsibility is all the greater. It is therefore vital to select projects that embody a vision of the future in terms of environmental issues and respect for the planet.

What was your experience with the UIA recommended evaluation procedure?

The evaluation procedure recommended by the UIA is a principle that we have defended for many years as an architectural practice. The anonymity of the competition is, in our view, a key selection criterion in the evaluation of projects. Above all, it enables a project to be selected for its qualities in the broadest sense: urban, architectural, landscape and environmental qualities, etc.



2nd Prize: Dorte Mandrup (Denmark), team leader, with Ines Ingenieros Consultores (Spain), Jansana, De la Villa, De Pauw, Arquitectes (Spain), Instal·lacions Arquitectoniques (Spain) and Activitats Arquitectoniques (Spain)



3rd Prize: Cobe (Denmark) with Esteyco (Spain), FSL Ingeniería y Diseño Sostenible (Spain), Estudi Ramon Folch i Associats (Spain) and b720 Arquitectura (Spain)

Juror

Samuli Miettinen (Finland)

Thessaloniki ConfEx Park, Greece (2021)
Restricted one-stage project competition



What is the role and mission of a jury in architectural competitions?

In an architectural competition, the role of the jury is to help the organiser of the competition to succeed in their task and to secure the requirements for a good and sustainable environment. The main task of the jury is an impartial professional assessment and the selection of the winner of the competition.

To begin its work, the jury specifies the starting points and goals of the competition programme. Together with the organiser of the competition, it then defines the evaluation criteria for the competition, and in a two-step procedure must also evaluate the applicant candidates and select the competitors.

Quality assessment is always done using heuristics, i.e., methods based on experience. The overall view of the jury is formed through the mutual professional discussion and work of the jury members. Understanding the competition task means understanding the context, the cultural environment and the typology, and putting yourself in the position of the organiser and the competitors. The jury must remember to defend the interests of the competitors by evaluating the proposals consistently according to the criteria they have given.

To perform its task, it is important for the jury to create a good working atmosphere. When choosing the winner and the proposals to be awarded, the jury presents the reasons for its decision and gives instructions for the further development of the winning project.

What challenges did you face as president of an international jury?

The international jury consists of individuals whose professional traditions may differ strongly from each other. In the Nordic tradition, common understanding is sought through discussion. The goal is a choice that all members of the jury can unanimously agree on.

In an international jury, selection is often done very quickly through voting. This method must be understood as an efficient use of time, but it easily bypasses substantive analysis and ends up in compromises. It is my task to challenge the parties in the international jury to a discussion on what the task is about and which proposal has solved it most insightfully.

What was your experience with the UIA recommended evaluation procedure?

Overall, participating in the UIA evaluation procedure has been a wonderful experience both professionally and personally. Meeting high-level international colleagues is like the first day of school, where strangers get to know each other very quickly. The group's positive dynamics have been born quickly. The work of the jury is comparable to making the competition proposal itself. The experience is like a journey of discovery, ending with an understanding of the significance of the task.



2nd prize: Lina Ghotmeh Architecture (France), Vogt Paysage + Urbanisme (France), LAN (France), LOT (Greece), Tractebel Engineering (France), Systematica (Italy)



2nd prize: Lina Ghotmeh Architecture (France), Vogt Paysage + Urbanisme (France), LAN (France), LOT (Greece), Tractebel Engineering (France), Systematica (Italy)

Alternate Juror Simon Hartmann (Switzerland)



Thessaloniki ConfEx Park, Greece (2021)
Restricted one-stage project competition

What is the role and mission of a jury in architectural competitions?

A jury enables, frames, and eventually judges the work provided by the participants of an architectural competition. A proper jury can work in absolute freedom to achieve its mission to select the best project from an array of submitted contributions. The jury must be the best possible advisor to the client and the fairest judge to all competitors.

What challenges did you face as a member of an international jury?

International juries are composed of a majority of international jurors and are, therefore, more diverse and less tied to local power structures than national or regional juries. As an international juror, I tried to deal with the challenges by being aware of them. The most obvious challenge is that when you come from afar, you have no relevant knowledge about local culture and must still decide. I am profoundly convinced that this awareness of your limited knowledge makes the international jurors so valuable.

What was your experience with the UIA recommended evaluation procedure?

The UIA procedure is very pure, rigid, and formal. Let me explain why this is not only good but essential for a good result: A jury comprises high-profile designers and entrepreneurs, and most of us tend to speed things up as soon as we think we understand the best path to take. Procedures like that of the UIA ensure that no one can take a shortcut that would be detrimental to a competitor and that the inevitable group dynamics of a jury process have clear boundaries.



3rd prize: UNStudio (Netherlands), Schema4 (Greece),
OKRA Landschapsarchitecten (Netherlands)



3rd prize: UNStudio (Netherlands), Schema4 (Greece),
OKRA Landschapsarchitecten (Netherlands)

Jury President **Gaëtan Siew (Mauritius)**

Great Green Wall (2022)
Student open ideas competition



What is the role and mission of a jury in student competitions?

As the jury chair, it has been important to facilitate a collaborative and inclusive approach to harmonise the views of each jury member regarding environment and sustainability. This was particularly important when dealing with different cultural approaches to these issues from both sides, the jury as well as the participants. The balance between unlimited creativity and practical solutions is essential in a student competition. Open communication, active listening and respectful dialogue can help bridge cultural differences and promote a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities we face. Consensus came as a natural process, taking into account these diverse perspectives.

What was your experience for this particular competition?

It was refreshing to see how Gen Y, in spite of their diverse geography, can turn their wild imagination into action to contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future for the planet. We saw with optimism how future architects can demonstrate their desire to play an active role to create a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle. We felt their engagement, activism and advocacy on every environmental issue. I was particularly pleased that the laureate comes from Karakol, a small town in Kyrgyzstan that I had the privilege to visit during my trip along the Silk Road.



2nd prize: Yuto Takenaka
from the Graduate School of Design,
Harvard University,
USA for the project
“Dandelion ARC Journey”.



3rd prize: Tian Haoran, Yang Mohan, Wu Ruopan
and Cao Chuangwei supervised by tutors
Hou Shuai and Ren Zhonglong from the Inner
Mongolia University of Technology,
China for the project “Green Colonies” in Niger.



4th prize: Quan Dao and Quang Ngo,
Hanoi Architectural University,
Vietnam for the project
“Co-Living” in Burkina Faso.



5th prize: Abdulhameed Yakubu, Khadija Oyanki,
Rayyan Garba and Amina Musa
from Ahmadu Bello University,
Nigeria for the project
“The Gidajen Laka” in Nigeria.

Competition Winner Sauerbruch Hutton (Germany)

Thessaloniki ConfEx Park, Greece (2021)
Restricted one-stage project competition



How did you find out about this UIA endorsed competition and what motivated you to participate?

One of our former architects – born in Greece – heard about the upcoming competition, so we followed the tip and got in touch with our contact, a local studio in Thessaloniki. A key concern when taking part in such an international multidisciplinary design competition is understanding that the competition is well-formulated and well-organised. We studied the brief and competition materials for the Thessaloniki Confex Park and found that all was in order. The motivation to participate was the site and programme: a redevelopment of the entire area, including construction of an energy efficient convention centre and a new urban park surrounded by two important university campuses in downtown Thessaloniki.

Did you know about the UIA before? Have you participated in other UIA competitions?

We know about the UIA Commissions and UIA Congress, a key event for professional and cultural exchange between architects from around the globe. This was nonetheless the first time that we had participated in a UIA competition.

What does it mean for you and your career to have won an international UIA competition?

We are pleased – as an international practice, we associate our work with the dual technical cultural mission of improving the quality of life of prospective users and future generations in general, contributing to public life and the well-being of the city.



1st prize: Sauerbruch Hutton (Germany), Gustafson Porter + Bowman (United Kingdom) and Elena Stavropoulou (Greece).

Competition Winner

Armando dal Fabro (Italy)

Ancient Theatre A' Larissa, Greece (2022)
One-stage open ideas and project competition



How did you find out about this UIA-endorsed competition and what motivated you to participate?

I found out about the UIA competition for the Surrounding Area of the Ancient Theatre A' of Larissa (Greece) via the UIA website. I was immediately inspired to participate by the focus of the competition, which links architecture and archaeology, an approach that features in my work and research as an important challenge of contemporary architecture and urban design.

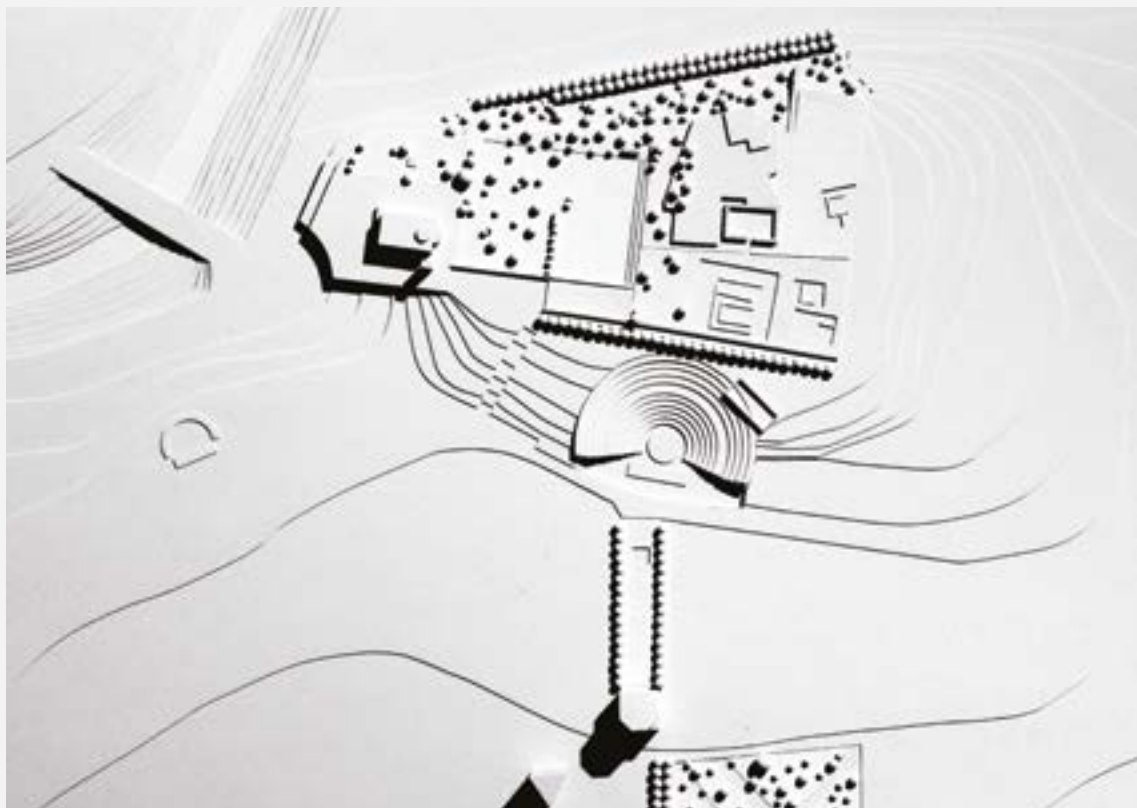
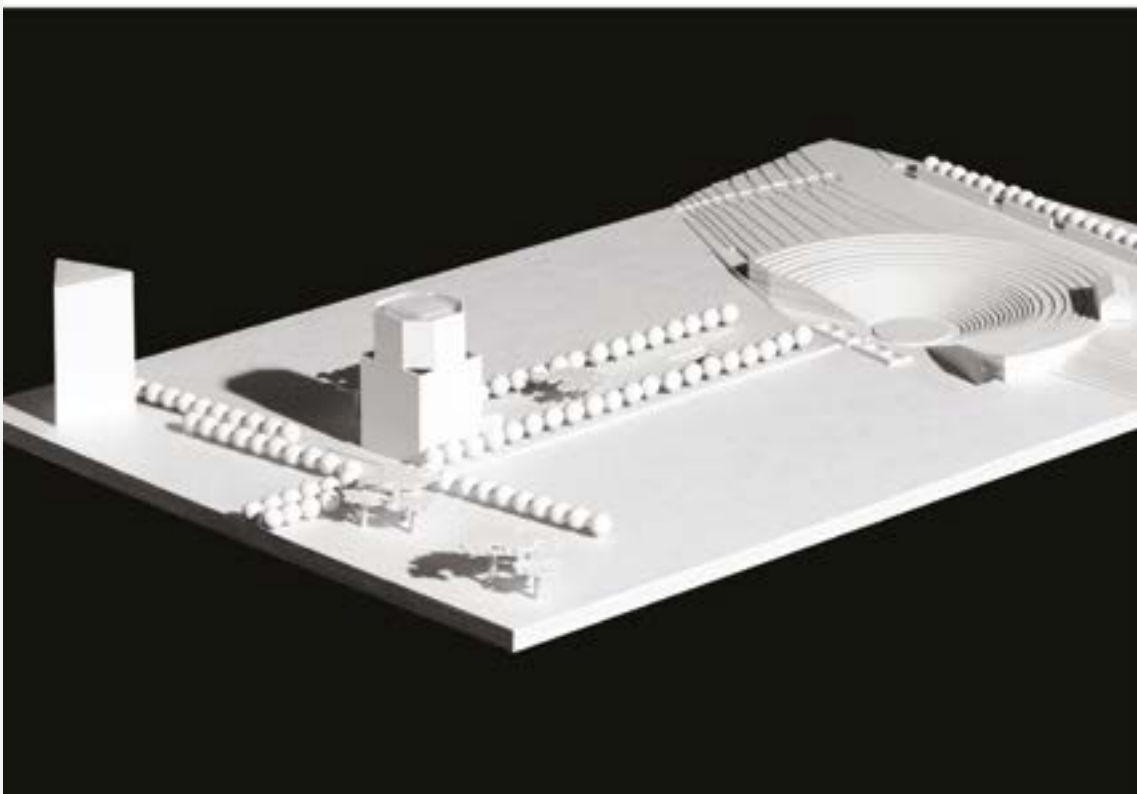
Did you know about the UIA before? Have you participated in other UIA competitions?

I have known about the UIA for many years. In 2008 I participated in the «SCHOOL + ADDIS ABABA» competition for the XXIII UIA Congress in Turin, Italy. It has been a meaningful experience working on architectural topics that I'm interested in, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with professor Herbert Büller of MSA – Münster School of Architecture – and professor Dariusz Kozłowski of the University of Cracow.

What does it mean for you and your career to have won an international UIA competition?

It is important for me to have participated and won this international competition because it has been an opportunity to think about the relationship between the architectural project and ancient heritage, and to be faced with other points of view and other visions of architecture.

The theme of the competition was the urban design of the surrounding area of the ancient theatre of Larissa. The final project encourages the enhancement of the modern-day city of Larissa, as well as reflection upon the meaning of heritage in urban design and in the contemporary development of the city.



1st prize: Armando dal Fabro (Italy) with architects Vincenzo d'Abramo, Claretta Mazzonetto, Mattia Cocozza, with architecture students Valeria Defilippis and Vittoria Pizzol.

Competition Winner

Altynai Isaeva (Kyrgyzstan)

Great Green Wall (2022)
Student open ideas competition



📌 How did you find out about this UIA student competition and what motivated you to participate?

I found out about the competition in an architectural magazine. I was looking for interesting contests to participate in and found, in my opinion, the most interesting. I have always been inspired by the idea of saving our planet from environmental disaster. I really liked the essence of the competition; it had what was lacking in other competitions – a goal.

📌 Did you know about the UIA before? Have you participated in other UIA student competitions?

Of course, as an architecture student, I knew about the UIA, but I had never taken part in their competitions before. I just read articles and was inspired by architects who contribute to world architecture.

📌 What is the value of participating in a student ideas competition?

They encourage students to enter the world stage and make themselves known, showing the whole world that we, young architects, are ready to create something unique and unusual. Also, such competitions awaken the competitive spirit in students, which is very important in the formation of our generation of future specialists.



“Sustainable housing for Africa” in Burkina Faso.

1st prize: Altnai Isaeva from the Kyrgyz State University of Construction and Architecture (KSUCTA), Kyrgyzstan for the project “Sustainable housing for Africa” in Burkina Faso.

UIA-ENDORSED PROFESSIONAL COMPETITIONS 2021-2023

Requalification of Byrsa Acropolis and Rehabilitation of the Carthage National Museum,
Tunisia, 2023

European Parliament – Paul-Henri SPAAK Building, Belgium, 2022

European Commission Joint Research Centre Headquarters in Seville, Spain, 2022

Design of the Surrounding Area of the Ancient Theatre A' of Larissa, Greece, 2022

Thessaloniki Confex Park, Greece, 2021

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