



Left:  
 • Working prototypes were used to great visual effect.

Bottom:  
 • The projects offered a diverse nature of solutions to the revitalization of a derelict area of Vienna.

demonstrated on the stage. These included a pair of giant ears that enhanced sound, a device to be used by the elderly to pick up dropped items, a set of steel antenna that acted as sensory hairs, a smell sensor and a vision mask. These were all achieved on a very small budget but were of immense educational value.

The final presentation of the awards was hosted by Mireille Janton. She was joined on the stage by Jourda and Jurgen Tinggren, Schindler's president of the management committee Elevators and Escalators. The 10 selected schemes (Vienna Carpet, Border Line, Urban Punctuation, All Together, New Urban Landscape, Triangle, Access of All, *Sin a Banane*, Vienna Versatile and Rough Sketch) were all praised again, but the top five were All Together by Lydia Anukka Lehmann, Border Line by Anna-Laure Touchais and Anne Emmanuelle Metivier, Rough Sketch by Krisztian Csemy, Vienna Carpet by Martina Sotkovska and Jakub Krcmar, and the winner of the premier position, Triangle by Nils Krieger and Thorsten Stelter. The major awards for the architec-

## Schindler Awards for Architecture 2008

Continued

experience. It was clear from this discussion that a real understanding of the potential hazards and difficulties encountered by people in urban spaces had been explored by the tutors and their students. The panel stated that the 10 selected schemes were all realizable and could be built with today's technology. Then, as a surprise, working prototypes designed and made by the students were



The "1st Schools" Prize for Outstanding Engagement" went to the University of Applied Sciences Koblenz: (l-r) Jourda, Professor Eva von Mackensen, Dipl. Ing. Sabine Hopp and Jürgen Tinggren

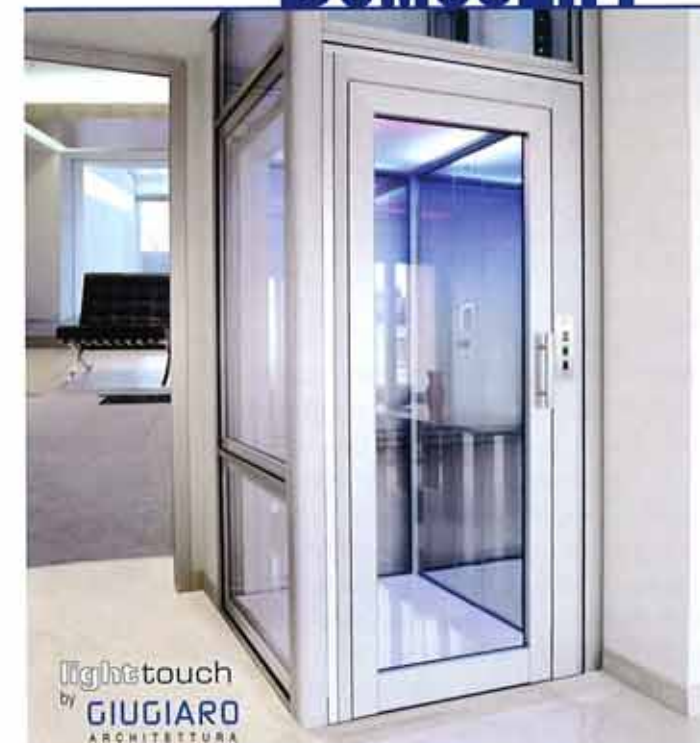
tural schools that had truly engaged the topic were the Middle East Technical University (Turkey), the Tampere University of Technology (Finland) and top-prize winner FH Koblenz (Germany).

The Schindler architectural awards were again a great success, and much praise should be given to Catherine Voltz, project leader. The students', tutors' and professors' faces as they received their awards will not soon be forgotten. Mireille Janton wound down the award ceremony, and Schindler again hosted a celebratory party in a cocktail bar overlooking the city. Here, the discussion about the benefits of these young architects from all over Europe debating the state of design and what will be required to achieve a barrier-free environment in the future continued.

The winners (students): (l-r) Krisztian Csemy (third rank), Nils Krieger and Thorsten Stelter (first rank), Jakub Krcmar and Martina Sotkovska (second rank), Anne Emmanuelle Métiévier and Anne-Laure Touchais (fourth rank), and Lydia Anukka Lehmann (fifth rank)



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# Schindler Awards for Architecture 2008

by John Gale, EW Correspondent

ELEVATOR WORLD was very pleased to be invited to the lakeside KKL building in Lucerne, Switzerland on November 14, 2008, to witness the presentation of the Schindler Awards for Barrier Free Architecture. Vienna was chosen for the competition, and the project site consisted of neglected land enclosed by a mass of city infrastructure, railway lines, metro, canal and roads. It also encompassed the famous Otto Wagner-designed, steel-trussed Ferdinandsbrücke bridge over the Vienna canal. The objective of the project was "To reclaim the Public Space," to which should be added "For All."

More than 125 entries from many schools of architecture entered the competition. This number is a further increase from the last competition, showing that the initiative is gaining reputation among design and planning educationalists. This growth is important not only for the competition, but also for the development and wider practice of the design philosophy that the competition promotes – to "design and build for all," ensuring that our living spaces in the 21st century are universally accessible.



Above:  
• The winning presentation

Above (top to bottom):  
• A member of the competition's jury gave guided tours of the projects before the ceremony began.  
• (l-r) Paralympic Games gold medalist Thomas Geierspichler listens to award jury member Oswald Schmid

On our arrival, we were welcomed by Schindler's Ricardo Biffi and his team. He introduced us to some of the jury members and explained the initiative that Schindler started in 2002. The press group was divided into two parties and given a guided tour led by a member of the jury. We were fortunate enough to have Sociology Professor Dieter Hassenpflug give us an insight into the judging and merits of the selected schemes.

"What is good architecture and design?" was a question raised many times during the event by the press, guests and architectural professors, with the answer varying each time the question was posed. This typifies the problem with being a judge in an architectural competition of this sort, for a scheme one person thinks is all encompassing is a non-starter for another. This observation was paralleled by many in the audience who, while recognizing that a particular design would answer the needs of one disability group, had to admit that it would not work for another. With this in mind, the jury had been carefully assembled with representatives from the key professions, along with champions for disability groups.

For the award ceremony, Thomas Geierspichler, a charismatic gold-medal winner in the Paralympic Games in Beijing, had been invited to add a special touch to the proceedings. He expressed the hope that these schemes be built as soon as possible so that he can experience them.

He also stressed that in solving one group's set of needs, designers should be careful not to penalize another's.

The president of the jury was Professor Françoise-Hélène Jourda, a respected architect with a particular passion for sustainable architecture. During an interview session, she enthusiastically informed the audience about the project site, the diverse nature of the contestants and their 125 schemes. Through all this, the audience, students and educators had been kept in suspense, with no one from the jury having let on about the results. If we had known the winning scheme, all the attention might have been directed toward that one entry. It was indeed stressed by many of the organizers that all 10 schemes presented should be considered as winners.

The jury panel was invited onto the stage and gave an overview of the event, explaining some of the individual elements that had gone together to make up the educational



Jourda