

Zeitschrift: Hochparterre : Zeitschrift für Architektur und Design
Herausgeber: Hochparterre
Band: 17 (2004)
Heft: [18]: Schindler Award for Architecture 2004 "Access for All" [english]

Vorwort: A milestone on a long journey
Autor: Huber, Werner

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 14.04.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Imprint
Text and editing: Werner Huber
Design / layout: Barbara Schrag
Production: Sue Lüthi
Publisher: Christine Langhans
Design concept: Susanne Kreuzer
Lithographs and print: Mattenbach AG, Winterthur
Photography cover inside and outside: Niklaus Spoerri

© Hochparterre, Ausstellungsstrasse 25, 8005 Zürich
Published by Verlag Hochparterre for Schindler Management Ltd

For additional copies contact Schindler Management Ltd, Corporate Communications, +41 41 445 30 60

Content

- 4 The Task: «Access for all» in Saint-Gilles
 - 6 First Prize: A public park as a new heart
 - 8 Second Prize: Inside out
 - 10 Third Prize: Eight steps to urban well-being
 - 12 Seven honorable mentions
 - 19 Five Points of the Jury
 - 20 Interview: Accessible for all
-

A milestone on a long journey

“A good solution for people with disabilities is always also the best solution for people without,” quoted jury member Luc Bonnard, Vice President of the Board of Directors of Schindler Holding Ltd, from the booklet “European Concept for Accessibility” (ECA 2003). For Luc Bonnard, this was the central principle of the “Access for all” Schindler Award. But although there are European guidelines to ensure that this principle is respected, its implementation needs time and commitment. The European Committee designated 2003 as the European Year of People with Disabilities in order to draw attention to the problems relating to accessibility and the need for really accessible buildings. As a partner of the European Year of People with Disabilities, Schindler took this opportunity of launching a competition for students of architecture in the academic year 2003/2004.

Students in the final two years were eligible for the competition. They had the option of registering as a class or as a single candidate, and the support of a professor was required in either case. The echo was impressive: 497 students, supported by 110 professors of 78 schools applied, roughly 280 of them completed their designs as single persons or groups. Finally, projects of 192 students fulfilled the conditions and were admitted for adjudication in Brussels. The jury of ten under the chairmanship of Prof. Thomas Sieverts selected ten designs from these projects. These were divided up into prizes 1 to 3 and seven honorable mentions.

The spectrum of the designs reflects the different cultures of Europe, from Georgia to Sweden, Poland to France. The awareness of the special – although basically self-evident – requirement of people with disabilities is not equally pronounced everywhere. The competition has also shown that too little attention is paid to this aspect by the school of architecture. Often, ramps and lifts are only added to a design at a later stage, and the result is a solution that is neither functionally nor architecturally satisfying. Good solutions for people with and without disabilities, solutions that are also satisfactory to architects, can only ensue when the aspect of accessibility is integrated in the project from the very beginning. The projects submitted for the Schindler Award also included designs that paid too little attention to the aspect of accessibility. This may be partly due to the difficulty inherent in the task, but this cannot be the only reason, for the best of the ten selected designs clearly show that it was thoroughly possible to ensure accessibility for everyone within the framework of the competition project.

There is still a long way to go before the requirement of accessibility becomes firmly established in the minds of architects and their clients. The Schindler Award is an important milestone because it tackles the problem at the point where it is most effective: in Europe’s schools of architecture where future architects are trained.

Werner Huber