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Participants talk about the Schindler Award



"Working on this competition, issues such as accessibility were completely new to us in the beginning, we didn't always take those into account. During the process of participating in the competition, this thinking gets into you, you start using the principles of Universal Design as if they were your own. Now I use them in every design. Knowing how to use Universal Design in your architecture could indeed be the cutting edge in the future." *Cliff Reed, student at the University of Sint-Lucas, Brussels-Ghent, Belgium*



"As an architect engaged in sustainability, I think that we should build things for all the next generations. At the moment in our society where architects have more and more an aesthetic point of view, I think it's very important to emphasize our social responsibility and really build for the people and not for our own egos. What we produce is, for 100 years or more, the space that people will live in. If it doesn't work, it is not the responsibility of the client but ours. If the client is not interested in creating qualities for all people and their abilities, it is our responsibility to say, "No, I don't collaborate." When I visit a building made without any thought for disabled people, I become very angry. The architect has not taken into consideration that the users might be different from him. I usually see that this is not the only problem and that even a museum could be not a museum but merely an expression of the ego of the architect – and I hate that." *Françoise-Hélène Jourda, architect and jury member, France*



"We know we are all getting older and that only cities and quarters where accessibility is self-evident are competitive. There is no other possibility. My wish is that more private companies engage themselves much stronger in the sense of the Schindler Award. Students enter the private sector after five or six years of study and will work on projects. In this sense, the Schindler Award is an exercise for the students to enter in a dialogue with reality. At the same time I am convinced that the value for the economy is equal or even greater, because the students are young and they hold the biggest potential for the future." *Prof. Dipl. Eng. Wolfgang Christ, Director of the Institute of Urban Studies, Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany*



"Since we have implemented the Schindler Award in our program, we have seen that students coming to us from all over the world from schools where the topic of accessibility has not been implemented at all. With the introduction of the Schindler Award among architectural schools, Schindler has given a great boost to any school wishing to introduce the concept of Universal Design into their curricula, which is what the EU resolution on Universal Design plans to achieve. It is the task of the designers to make accessibility a social responsibility. In our institute we approach the subject not with the stick but the carrot. We try to change the mental perception of accessibility right from the beginning. I think the Schindler Award is definitely a carrot because among many other competitions it is the most inspiring and the most comprehensive one." *Prof. Marc Dujardin, Sint-Lucas Department of Architecture, Institution of Higher Education in Science and the Arts, W&K, Brussels-Ghent, Belgium*

Jury

- > Alexis Salmon-Legagneur **1**, Director of Schindler France
- > Gilbert Huyberechts **2**, architect and ex-Vice-President European Disability Forum, Luxembourg
- > Prof. Françoise-Hélène Jourda **3**, architect, France
- > Prof. Thomas Sieverts **4**, President of the jury, architect and urban planner, Germany
- > Richard Maiocchi **5**, President Schindler France and Schindler Belgium, President European Lift Association
- > Prof. Andrzej Wzykowski **6**, architect, Poland
- > Nicola Kiwall **7**, architect, France
- > Joe A. Manser **8**, Director of the Swiss Center of Accessible Building for Disabled People, Switzerland
- > Prof. Louis-Pierre Grosbois **9**, architect and urbanist, France
- > Prof. Bernard Le Roy (not shown), architect, France

