Inner strength
Toyo Ito in Sendai, plus more of the best in Japan

wa awards shortlist: all is revealed
Sitting pretty: Cappellini interviewed
Ellerbe Becket profiled
The $30,000 question...

Which building, of the 38 shortlisted here, is going to earn its architect the US$30,000 Arup World Architecture Award? On Friday 22 June in Hong Kong all will be revealed. The jury, which included Dominique Boudet, John Denton, Ken Yeang, RIBA president Marco Goldschmied and wa's editor, Nicola Jackson, debated anonymous entries. Welcome to the first year of the only international award for building design, run in association with the Royal Institute of British Architects.
Central and South America

Bancrec Tlatpan Computer Center
Mexico City, Mexico
Migdal Arquitectos
Office/retail

The Bancrec Computer Center, designed to serve 1,200 bank branches and 10,000 employees, is part of a trend in Mexico City of recycling buildings for new uses. The concrete shell of the existing building was re-used, after appropriate structural reinforcement, with new construction enlarging areas as required.

A series of glass- and aluminium-panelled volumes was added to the interior and exterior. A 4m-wide, 195m-long principal connecting corridor terminates at both ends in the building's two lobbies, and is punctuated by staircases along its length. The ground floor houses the computer centre, systems production, service areas, machine room and storage areas. On the first floor are offices for the development, control and services departments.

The building is completely automated and includes a series of systems to monitor and control each area, with sub-floor cabling and automated functions to accord with international standards for installations and security.

It breaks with the 'bunker' tradition of other computer centres by maintaining a relationship with the interior areas around it, accessible to visits by employees and outsiders alike. It was designed with future flexibility in mind, and is capable of encompassing future projects and changes in personnel and internal spaces.

Belgrano housing
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Caram Robinsohn Architects
Residential

This housing scheme of 11 flats, across two six-storey buildings, is on a narrow, deep plot in front of the railway line, with a wide and open view. A central landscaped courtyard provides stair access and circulation, and gives each block a dual aspect.

The front building contains structurally atypical flats, and a column-free ground-floor garage. All the duplexes have ample space and light, and although they have minimal accommodation - a bedroom and a studio - individual external 'expansions', or balconies accessible via bridges expand their areas.

The scheme is laid out on a grid of 3.6m, to allow the most economical system of columns and girders and reinforced concrete. A structural concrete grid divides the flats, with large metal grids on the front and back facades, and smaller ones on the courtyard facades.

The aesthetic emphasis was for low-maintenance materials, and the natural concrete open structure, wood outdoor floors and anodised aluminium metalwork complement the green of the birch trees in the courtyard and poplars of the sidewalk.
Categories

World Architecture welcomes Arup as the main sponsor of the 2001 awards. The US$30,000 Arup World Architecture Award will be presented to the architect of the best building overall.

Shortlisted projects from the eight regions were entered against category groups. Two categories were adjusted after submissions, but before the jury process: recall schemes were judged with offices (including embassies since the majority of the floor space accommodates offices), and sport and leisure buildings were judged together. There was an additional category for the best green building, taken from entries in the other seven categories.

Shigeru Ban Architects
Melbourne Museum, Melbourne, Australia: Denton Corker Marshall
Museum of Hiroshima Ande: Kengo Kuma & Associates
Museum of Tropical Queensland, Australia: Cox Rayner Architects
Rose Center for Earth & Space: Polshek Partnership Architects

Residential

216 Alabama, Lawrence, Kansas, US: Studio 804
Berman House, Southern Highlands, NSW, Australia: Harry Seidler & Associates
Carter/Tucker House, Victoria, Australia: Sean Godsell
Housing block, Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina: Caam Robbins Architects
House of Courten, France: Lacaton y Vassal
House at Mt Fuji, Yamanashi, Japan: Satoshi Okada Architects
TreeHouse, Cape Town, South Africa: Van der Meulen Architects
Wohnen am Lohbruch, Innsbruck, Austria: Baumschlager & Eberle

Sport/Leisure

Horse stables, Atacama, Chile: German del Sol
NetWett Media Centre, Lord's Cricket Ground, London, UK: Future Systems
Puruma Nat Stadions, Atacama, Chile: German del Sol
Saitama Super Arena, Saitama, Japan: Nikken Sekkei, in association with Eliel Beckett and Black Kutz
Stadium Australia, Sydney, Australia: Bligh Webb (HOK Sport and Eliel Beckett)
British Airways London Eye, London, UK: Marks Barfield Architects

Transport/Infrastructure

Canary Wharf Station, Jubilee Line Extension, London, UK: Foster and Partners
Putrajaya bus and taxi terminal, Putrajaya, Malaysia: Veritas Architects
Stratford Regional Station, Jubilee Line Extension, London, UK: Wilkinson Eyre Architects
Subway station Midabayashi, Dento Line, Tokyo, Japan: Makoto Soi Watanabe/Architect's Office

Green

Wohnen am Lohbruch, Innsbruck, Austria: Baumschlager & Eberle
Japan Pavilion, Expo 2000, Hannover, Germany: Shigeru Ban Architects
Gwy headquarters, Berlin, Germany: Sauerebruch
Church in Urubu, Bolivia: JAE-CHA Architect
Saitama Super Arena, Saitama, Japan: Nikken Sekkei, in association with Eliel Beckett and Black Kutz
Stadium Australia, Sydney, Australia: Bligh Webb (HOK Sport and Eliel Beckett)
Conde Nast building, New York: Fox & Fowle
Doppeltelo Community & Cultural Centre, Peter Rich

The Jury

Guy Battle: Battle McCarthy, Consulting: Engineers
Dominique Bover: Editor-in-chief, AMC magazine
John Denton: Denton Corker Marshall
Marcus Goldschmidt: President, Royal Institute of British Architects
Nicola Jackson: Editor, World Architecture
David Jenkins: Architectural critic and editor
Roger Hoffman: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
Martin Pawley: Critic and former editor of World Architecture
Ken Yeang: TR Hamzah & Yeang

Barbour Index

Public/Cultural

Doppeltelo Community & Cultural Centre: Peter Rich
Church in Urubu, Bolivia: JAE-CHA Architect
Japan Pavilion, Expo 2000, Hannover, Germany: Shigeru Ban Architects