The fourth cycle of the International Holcim Awards broke a number of records: there were more submissions – over 6,100 projects were entered in the competition, 2,514 of which met all the formal criteria. And there were more winners – the five regional juries selected 62 regional prize winners. 15 of them won an Award and are now qualified for the global competition in 2015; 21 won an Acknowledgement prize, and 25 a “Next Generation” prize. In addition, for the first time a project was distinguished with an Honorable Mention. The winners received their accolades at five memorable ceremonies held in Moscow, Toronto, Medellín, Beirut, and Jakarta. The following pages sum up these events, conducted in close collaboration with the local Holcim Group companies, and introduce the prize winners. Our cover image shows the happy winners of the Holcim Awards Gold for North America.
Behind the scenes

When the winners are handed their prizes on the stage, it all seems unencumbered and exhilarating. But behind each event there is an enormous amount of work – most of which is done by the local Holcim Group companies.

The regional ceremonies of the Holcim Awards are among the most important events of the Holcim Foundation – and the most impressive: Hundreds of guests, competition participants, and representatives of government, business, the construction industry, and NGOs gather to attend festive prize ceremonies held in each of the five global regions. These ceremonies take place at a new location in each cycle – and must be organized from scratch.

The ceremony must be scheduled. All the guests must be transferred from the airport to the hotel and back. And during their stay they must be taken care of around the clock. Organizing a full-day program for the day following the ceremony requires even more effort. Here the many guests visit built examples of sustainable construction as well as other local sites of interest and thereby gain insight into the host city.

An ideal platform
The local employees are dedicated to the Holcim Awards, partially because the events offer an ideal platform for maintaining good relations with their most important stakeholders. The Holcim Awards prominently place sustainable construction and thus Holcim in the local spotlight. How successfully this is done is reflected at the media briefing held on the morning after each ceremony; dozens of journalists attend these briefings. And even greater evidence of the ripple effect of the Holcim Awards is the flood of printed and electronic reports published following the ceremonies – which always portray Holcim in its proactive role.

Plenty of work on the spot
The events are conducted by the Holcim Foundation in close collaboration with the local Holcim Group companies: The event venue, hotels, and restaurants must be secured. Suitable speakers, a good moderator, and exciting show acts for the ceremony must be found. All the guests must be transferred from the airport to the hotel and after the event back to the airport, and during their stay they must be taken care of around the clock. Organizing a full-day program for the day following the ceremony requires even more effort. Here the many guests visit built examples of sustainable construction as well as other local sites of interest and thereby gain insight into the host city.
A unique balance – also of gender
In a way, the Holcim Awards are a preview into the future of sustainable construction: Trends are revealed very early in this competition. The reasons behind this are that the Holcim Awards span the globe and bring together the best of each region, that the innovative capacity of young professionals is specifically tapped in the "Next Generation" category, and that the competition honors projects, not finished works. Thus the competition is always a step ahead of reality; many of the prize-winning projects will become part of the built environment only years later.

In this context, the question of who receives the Holcim Awards is especially interesting – because these professionals are the ones who are shaping the future of sustainable construction today. During the current cycle, it was striking to see how many women took to the stage to receive prizes – at every level, in every category and in all regions. No other competition of this kind honors as many women as the Holcim Awards.

Lights, camera, action!
To introduce the people behind the projects, the Holcim Foundation featured “Winner Video Statements” in this cycle for the first time: A team of journalists with camera was present at each ceremony to record spontaneous statements by the prize winners about their projects and sustainable construction. The clips can be viewed at www.holcimawards.org/videos. They give an authentic impression of the atmosphere at the ceremonies – and of the proponents of sustainable construction.

After the Awards is before the Awards!
The story of the regional ceremonies has ended – but the book of the fourth cycle of the Holcim Awards also contains chapters not yet written. From the 15 regional Awards winners, the laureates of the Global Holcim Awards Gold, Silver, and Bronze will be identified in 2015.

The regional ceremonies were highlights of the fourth cycle of the Holcim Awards – but by no means were they the final curtain call. The three main winners in each region are automatically qualified to compete for the Global Holcim Awards Gold, Silver, and Bronze – arguably the world’s most coveted prizes in the field of sustainable construction. These 15 prize winners are now called upon to present their projects in more detail again and in particular to show the progress that they have made since they were entered in the regional competition. A dedicated jury has been selected to choose the global winners. In March 2015 the members will convene in Zurich to make their decision. The locations of the Global Awards hand-over events are not yet known as these ceremonies are conducted where the respective project is located.

Global Holcim Awards jury members:
Mohsen Mostafavi (Head), Dean, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, USA.
Marc Angélil*, Senior Dean, Chair of Architecture and Design, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich), Switzerland.
Alejandro Aravena*, Executive Director, Elemental, Chile.
Maria Atkinson*, Sustainability Business Advisor; Founding CEO, Green Building Council of Australia, Australia.
Meisa Batayneh Maani, Founder and Principal Architect, maisam architects and engineers, Jordan.
Yolanda Kakabadse, President, WWF International, Ecuador.
Matthias Schuler, Professor of Environmental Technology, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, USA; and Founder, Transsolar Energietechnik, Germany.
Rolf Soiron*, Chairman, Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction, Switzerland.

*Members of the Board of the Holcim Foundation
The series of regional Holcim Awards ceremonies opened in Moscow. Only a few of the foreign guests already knew the Russian capital, so they were especially delighted by the warm reception they received. At the ceremony in the stylish ambience of the Theatre of Dramatic Art and attended by 230 guests, a total of 12 prizes in all categories were awarded. An Honorable Mention was presented for the first time in the history of the Holcim Awards. On the second day of the event the guests became better acquainted with this city of over 12 million people. The event closed with a dinner on the Moskva River.

The winners of the Holcim Awards for Europe (from left): Luis Basabe Montalvo, Luis Palacios Labrador (Bronze), Gilles Delalex (Silver), Francisco Leiva, Lucia Pierro, Marco Scarpinato (Gold), Enrique Arenas Laorga (Bronze).

Acrobats of the Moscow State Circus enthused the guests with their skills during the ceremony.

“Sustainability is part of our DNA at Holcim”: CEO Bernard
Main category Holcim Awards 2014 Europe

Holcim Awards Gold
Freshwater ecological reserve and remediation, Saline Joniche, Italy
Main authors: Francisco Leiva, Grupo aranea, Alicante, Spain; Marco Scarpinato, AutonomeForme, Palermo, Italy

Holcim Awards Silver
Low-cost flexible university building, Paris, France
Authors: Gilles Delalex, Yves Moreau, Thomas Wessel-Cessieux, Muoto, Paris, France

Holcim Awards Bronze
Participatory urban neighborhood, Vienna, Austria
Main authors: Enrique Arenas Laorga, Luis Basabe Montalvo, Luis Palacios Labrador, Arenas Basabe Palacios arquitectos, Madrid, Spain

Holcim Awards Honorable Mention
Energy-efficient office building, Holderbank, Switzerland
Author: Christian Kerez, Christian Kerez AG, Zurich, Switzerland

Acknowledgement prize
Construction materials recycling and logistics hub, Brussels, Belgium
Main authors: Ana Castillo, Lieven De Groote, Jan Terwecoren, Annekatrien Verdickt, TETRA architecten, Brussels, Belgium

Acknowledgement prize
Reusable aggregates requiring no binding agent, Stuttgart, Germany
Authors: Karola Dierichs, Achim Menges, University of Stuttgart, Institute for Computational Design, Stuttgart, Germany

Prizes for the “Next Generation”: Projects and visions by teams from six countries were awarded.

Russian grandeuer: From the ceremony at the Theatre of Dramatic Art...

...to Pashkov Palace for dinner with a view of the Kremlin.

Excursions to places of interest in the city and finally a trip on the Moskva River.

Fontana addressed the audience and the media.
A celebration with friends

Ceremony for North America in Toronto, Canada

Although the Holcim Awards had never been presented in Toronto, the ceremony at Evergreen Brick Works (images above) was almost like a homecoming: The adaptive reuse project for this former factory won an Acknowledgement prize in the second Holcim Awards competition. Within this rustic industrial ambience, the nearly 250 guests enjoyed an event that was perfect in every way. The excursions on the second day took the guests to places like Toronto’s Distillery District, Waterfront Project, and to lunch at a dizzying height atop the CN Tower. For sustainable construction, the sky is the limit – and that applied especially to this ceremony!

The winners of the Holcim Awards for North America (from left): David Benjamin (Bronze), Caitlin Gucker-Kanter Taylor, Amy Mielke, (Gold), Kai-Uwe Bergmann and Matthijs Bouw (Silver).

The Zero Gravity Circus from Toronto inspired the guests with a powerful performance.

Guests of the Holcim Awards ceremony visited the revitalized Waterfront area of Toronto as
The spaces between the old kilns of Evergreen Brick Works were ideal for poster exhibitions.

Guests enjoyed lunch with 360 degrees of view from atop the Toronto CN Tower.

Sustainable construction: Getting to know the Distillery District.

Six "Next Generation" winning teams from Canada, the USA and Singapore.

Main category Holcim Awards 2014 North America

Holcim Awards Gold
Water absorptive surface and subterranean basin, Las Vegas, USA
Main authors: Amy Mielke, Caitlin Gucker-Kanter Taylor, Water Pore Partnership, New York, USA

Holcim Awards Silver
Urban flood protection infrastructure, New York, USA
Authors: A consortium led by BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group, New York, USA

Holcim Awards Bronze
Zero carbon emissions compostable structure, New York, USA
Main Author: David Benjamin, The Living, New York, USA

Acknowledgement prize
Affordable residential urban infill development, Boston, USA
Main authors: Sheila Kennedy, Frano Violich, Kennedy & Violich Architecture, Boston, USA

Acknowledgement prize
University building renovation and extension, Toronto, Canada
Main Authors: Nader Tehrani, Katherine Faulkner, NADAAA, Boston, USA

Acknowledgement prize
Digital tool for urban design and water-use planning, Los Angeles, USA
Authors: Peter Arnold, Hadley Arnold, Woodbury University, Arid Lands Institute, Burbank, USA

Acknowledgement prize
Public park and interactive wall for urban revival, Seattle, USA
Authors: Etienne Feher, Paul Azzopardi, Noé Basch, ABF-lab architects-engineers, Paris, France

well as other points of interest in the context of sustainable construction.
Evident impact

Ceremony for Latin America in Medellín, Colombia

Latin American zest for life energized this regional Holcim Awards ceremony: In Medellin the 230 invited guests were inspired by the excellent winning projects and by the overall program, brimming with color and passion. The significance of sustainable construction is particularly evident in the Colombian metropolis – not only for architects and the construction industry, but also for the lives of the citizens. The excursions on the second day made this all the more tangible. They led also to Comuna 13, one of the most densely-populated barrios in the city. “Urban integration of an informal area” was the topic of the successful upgrade of this district.

The winners of the Holcim Awards for Latin America (from left): Julio Amezcua and Francisco Pardo (Bronze); Luis Tombé, Juan Calle and Mario Camargo (Gold), Izbeth Mendoza and Román Cordero (Silver).

Guests of the Holcim Awards ceremony arriving at Parque Explora, an educational center for inhabitants of all ages in downtown Medellín.

Outdoor dinner with Latin American shows at Orquideorama, the botanical garden of Medellín.
“Next Generation” prizes for projects in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica and Mexico.

“Silent painter” Byron González delighted the guests with his action painting.

Cheerful return to the hotel following the Awards ceremony.

Colorful Colombia: Lunch break during the excursions to various places of interest in Medellin.

Aníbal Gaviria (right), Mayor of Medellín, with Rolf Soiron, Chairman of the Holcim Foundation.

Main category Holcim Awards 2014 Latin America

Holcim Awards Gold
Water reservoirs as public park, Medellín, Colombia
Authors: Mario Fernando Camargo Gómez, Luis Orlando Tombé Hurtado, Colectivo720, Cali, Colombia

Holcim Awards Silver
Low-impact timber rainforest center, Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, Costa Rica
Main author: Román Jesús Cordero Tovar, PLUG architecture, Mérida, Mexico

Holcim Awards Bronze
Pedagogically-aligned school, San Andrés Payuca, Mexico
Author: Román Jesús Cordero Tovar, PLUG architecture, Mérida, Mexico

Acknowledgement prize
Vertically-stacked convention center and public spaces, Bogotá, Colombia
Authors: Daniel Bermúdez Samper, Daniel Bermúdez Arquitecto, Bogotá, Colombia; Juan Herreros, Estudio Herreros, Madrid, Spain

Acknowledgement prize
Site-responsive school, Jacmel, Haiti
Authors: Maciej Siuda, Maciej Siuda architect; Łukasz Piasta; Marta Niedbalec; Katarzyna Dąbkowska; Kamil Rusinek; Jerzy Mazurkiewicz, all Wroclaw and Warsaw, Poland

Acknowledgement prize
University campus for community regeneration, Acatitlán, Mexico
Main author: Oscar Hagerman, Universidad del Medio Ambiente, Mexico City, Mexico

Acknowledgement prize
Restoring an urban historical center, Quito, Ecuador
Authors: David Barragán, Pascual Gangotena, Esteban Benavides, Al Borde Arquitectos, Quito, Ecuador

Acknowledgement prize
Community center for water harvesting and agriculture, Matacos, Argentina
Main authors: Joaquin Trillo, Red Comunidades Rurales, Tílcar, Argentina; Damian Ariel Fernandez, Red Comunidades Rurales, Tílcar, Argentina

Acknowledgement prize
Pedagogically-aligned school, San Andrés Payuca, Mexico
Author: Román Jesús Cordero Tovar, PLUG architecture, Mérida, Mexico
Ceremony for Africa Middle East in Beirut, Lebanon

The regional Holcim Awards ceremony for the region of Africa Middle East was held in a city that is being recreated in many ways – in the melting pot of Beirut, a place predestined for sustainable construction projects. The prizes were presented before an audience of some 200 guests in the West Hall of the American University of Beirut (pictured above); the famous campus is part of the green lung of this thriving city of over two million people. The following day took the guests to Byblos, arguably the world’s oldest continuously inhabited city, and thus through 7,000 years of history. On a second tour, the impressed participants saw that downtown Beirut is truly a vital and constantly evolving organism (below right).
Four "Next Generation" prizes for teams from Lebanon, Morocco and South Africa.

Holcim Awards Gold
Green building showcase and enterprise hub, Ankara, Turkey
Authors: Onat Oktem, Zeynep Oktem, ONZ Architects, Ankara, Turkey

Holcim Awards Silver
Urban pine forest rehabilitation, Beirut, Lebanon
Main author: Raëd Abillama, Raëd Abillama Architects, Lebanon

Holcim Awards Bronze
Low-cost modular housing scheme, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Main author: Dirk Donath, Bauhaus University, Weimar, Germany

Acknowledgement prize
Community building designed for urban flooding, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
Main author: Kunlé Adeyemi, NLÉ, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Acknowledgement prize
Community farming and market hub, Kigali, Rwanda
Main author: Pamela Larocca, Urban Future organization / kaodesign studio, Milan, Italy

Acknowledgement prize
Health center and school in refugee camp, Bassikounou, Mauretania
Main author: Attila Szabadics, ArchSus Group, Pécs, Hungary

Acknowledgement prize
Socially-integrated office building with sustainable façade, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Authors: Ken De Cooman and Wes Degreef, BC architects, Brussels, Belgium; Adeyabeba Hallemariam, ABBA architects, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Acknowledgement prize
Women’s center and playground, Beit Iksa, Palestine. Main authors: Shatha Safi, Riwaq – center for architectural conservation, Ramallah, Palestine; Yara Shariff, NG Architects and Palestine Regeneration Team (PART), London, UK

Holcim Awards media conferences enable the winners to explain their projects to a broad audience.

Ceremony atmosphere at the West Hall of the American University of Beirut.

Byblos: 7,000 years of history in theory... and to see and feel it.
Celebration of smiles

Ceremony for Asia Pacific in Jakarta, Indonesia

The Holcim Awards ceremony for the Asia Pacific region in Jakarta formed the conclusion of the 2014 event series, and was one of its highlights. Nowhere else were so many guests gathered – namely 400 – and nowhere else were so many prizes awarded – a total of 13. Indonesian hospitality made for a very warmhearted ambience on the stage and during the dinner, at Djakarta Theatre (pictured above), and throughout the remainder of the program. From the very beginning a friendly smile was the most pertinent symbol of this special event which included a selection of tours to sustainable buildings in the city and to educational and manufacturing sites on its outskirts.

The winners of the Holcim Awards for Asia Pacific (from left): Ganga Ratnayake and Milinda Pathiraja (Bronze), Chak Cherdtsatirkul, Singh Intrachooto (Gold), Christopher Gish (Silver), Jariyawadee Lekawatana, Felix Baroux (Gold).

Smiles, dances and music: The guests were taught to play the “Anklung” (left) and ushered into the ceremony location by traditional Indonesian dancers.
Welcome to Jakarta!

Excursions to examples of sustainable construction as well as to ATMI vocational training center...

...the Conwood production plant and other sites of interest in the vicinity of Jakarta.

Music and karaoke by Holcim Indonesia: a team of employees entertained at the farewell dinner.

Main category Holcim Awards 2014 Asia Pacific

Holcim Awards Gold
Bird sanctuary, Chiang Mai, Thailand
Main authors: Jariyawadee Lekawatana, Architecktidd, Bangkok, Thailand; Singh Intrachootoo, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand; Chak Cherdtsartikul, Kaomai Lanna Resort, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Holcim Awards Silver
Locally-adapted orphanage and library, Kathmandu, Nepal
Authors: Hilary Sample, Michael Meredith, MOS Architects, New York, USA

Holcim Awards Bronze
Community library and social recuperation, Ambepussa, Sri Lanka
Main author: Milinda Pathiraja, Robust Architecture Workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Acknowledgement prize
Community medical center and school, Tatiba Barabura, Jharkhand, India
Main author: Madhusudhan Rao Chalasani, MADE, Hyderabad, India

Acknowledgement prize
Palm tree branches for coastal protection, Tarawa Atoll, Kiribati
Main author: Maj Plemenitas, LINK-scale, London, United Kingdom

Acknowledgement prize
Stakeholder participation for urban up-grading, Jakarta, Indonesia
Main author: Tomohiko Amemiya, UNITYDESIGN, Tokyo, Japan

Acknowledgement prize
Sustainable research center featuring traditional woodworking methods, Kyoto, Japan
Main authors: Benoit Jacquet, EFEO, Kyoto, Japan; Manuel Tardits, Mikan, Yokohama, Japan

Acknowledgement prize
Urban water transport system, Bangkok, Thailand
Main author: Santi Sombatwichatorn, D I Designs, Bangkok, Thailand
Creative genius

In whatever city on whatever continent they take place: The Holcim Awards ceremonies all have the same image. This image carries the stamp of Ernst Schadegg. He created nearly everything that makes up the physical identity of the Holcim Foundation including of course the coveted prizes that are presented at the ceremonies.

Holcim Awards crisscross the world. The prizes that sparkle in the spotlight at the regional ceremonies are ultimately taken by the winners back to their home countries. But the valued trophies begin their journey well in advance of the ceremonies: in a design studio near Zurich in Switzerland: in the realm of graphic designer Ernst Schadegg.

Almost a Holcim museum
His friends know him as Rüebli. Ernst Schadegg received this nickname when he was a boy scout – “rüebli” means “carrot” in Swiss-German and refers to his (formerly) red hair. He goes by an original name and he is creative by nature, and one senses this immediately in his graphic studio: Sketches and design books are stacked high, logos and symbols are displayed everywhere, pencils are always within reach, the essence of art and ideas is unmistakable. And something else is obvious: the strong presence of Holcim.

Here is a coffee cup bearing the Holcim logo, there a toy truck, likewise branded. Presentation boards with drafts of printed matter for Holcim are propped against the wall. In the back room is even a veritable display of Holcim promotional products. Some of them probably have collectors value by now – because Ernst Schadegg has been working with Holcim for a long time.

Graphic designer for the Group
It all began when “Holderbank,” as Holcim was formerly called, sought a new logo and announced a design competition for it in 1987. Schadegg and his studio took part – and won. The inventive Zurich talent soon became the preeminent graphic designer for the Group. He designed all annual reports until 2013. The collaboration climaxed after the millennium change, when “Holderbank” decided to globally rebrand the company under the new name Holcim. Ernst Schadegg: “An office in the USA was commissioned to design the new logo. My function was merely advisory – until Thomas Schmidheiny, then Chairman of the Board of Directors, asked me to design a logo myself.”

Work printed by the millions
Thomas Schmidheiny’s intervention was a stroke of good fortune – because Rüebli’s proposal outshone the others. The world-famous logo with outline of the globe and cut-out next to the name Holcim is Ernst Schadegg’s work.

And it’s almost like his calling card. “Colleagues are always saying to me: ‘Yesterday I was here or there and I had to think of you – because I saw your logo!’” tells the graphic designer. “I always answer: ‘This logo shouldn’t remind you of me, but of cement and concrete!’”

Leafing through Rüebli’s work
The Holcim Foundation was established in 2003 and it was natural to involve Rüebli from the very start. All books, brochures, posters – even the magazine you are now holding in your hands – have been designed and laid out by him. The coveted prizes of the Holcim Awards also come from him. “We needed a symbol for the Foundation,” tells Rüebli, recounting the history of the creation of the Holcim Awards. “I made various proposals, none of which were completely satisfactory – until I had the idea of using the golden section.”

Embodiment of the golden section
The golden section has been considered the “ideal proportion” since antiquity. It perfectly symbolizes the purpose of the Foundation, because sustainability essentially requires a balanced proportion of ecological, social, and economic measures.

But equally important as this symbolic meaning for the graphic designer was that “the golden section is fun to apply – and one can play with it very well.” The icosahedron, today the actual symbol of the Holcim Awards, is for example a three-dimensional embodiment of the golden section: The three rectangles that form the skeleton of the polyhedron are arrayed in the renowned ratio.

From one to the next
The other prizes that Rüebli designed for the Holcim Foundation also relate to the golden section: The “golden mean gauges” given as Acknowledgement prizes are an instrument to easily transfer dimensions in the ideal proportion, which defies neat calculation. For the “Next Generation” prize Rüebli drew on the Modulor: the result of Swiss architect Le Corbusier’s efforts to combine the human scale
with the golden ratio and apply this measurement system to the realm of architecture.

**Years of stock**

To have an ingenious idea for visually-attractive prizes is one thing – but it’s another to actually produce these prizes in three dimensions. Behind every trophy handed over during a Holcim Awards ceremony is the competence of a team of professionals supporting Rüebli. “Somebody has to cut out the metal plates of the icosahedron or the Plexiglas for the certificates, make the decorative boxes for the prizes – or cast the three differently sized concrete plinths upon which the trophies sit,” tells Schadegg. Because even the smallest production series exceeds the number of prizes required per cycle, the components are stored in Rüebli’s studio to be later assembled into complete trophies. The stock of concrete bases alone is enough to last for at least the next competition cycle.

**Tons of prizes**

“I would like to know how many tons of prizes we’ve already produced,” says Rüebli. Because the graphic designer naturally likes to make things and to work with his hands, he has had every prize awarded in the first four cycles of the Holcim Awards in his hands several times. He personally builds customized boxes optimized to meet size and weight allowances for taking the prizes from Zurich to the ceremonies. So far, every prize has arrived at the right place at the right time – ready to be received by elated winners on stage at the next Awards ceremony. 

“Foundations” is the Holcim Group internal magazine of the Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction and may also be distributed to external stakeholders.

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6,105 submissions were entered in the 4th International Holcim Awards competition for projects and visions in sustainable construction. 2,514 of them were formally correct and evaluated by independent juries. 62 projects were recognized with prizes and a total of USD 1.65 million at hand-over events in five regions of the world. Which prize-winning entries were selected by L’Architecture d’Aujourd’hui to be presented in a special issue? Find out at: www.holcimfoundation.org/aa