The Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction have been celebrated for the first time ever: at ceremonies in Geneva, Boston, Beijing, Johannesburg, and Rio de Janeiro the authors and 46 teams behind the best submitted projects were recognized with regional Holcim Awards as well as Acknowledgement and Encouragement prizes. The many guests at the ceremonies – all in all 1,500 people from 60 countries! – were enthusiastic about the festive events and the accompanying program. No wonder: the hosting Holcim Group companies in Switzerland, the US, China, South Africa and Brazil did a first-class job of organizing and conducting the events.

In this edition of "Foundations": All about the regional Holcim Awards ceremonies, the winners and their projects!
And the Holcim Awards Gold, Silver, and Bronze go to ...

Holcim Awards Gold, Silver, and Bronze were awarded in 5 regions – making a total 15 Awards winners. The winners are once again lined up at the starting line, because all entries for the global Awards will be assessed by a new independent jury (details on page 17).

A conceptual project for a public policy to promote roof gardens (green roofs) on existing houses in the city of Buenos Aires on a large scale. Gold in the region Latin America went to Hugo E. Gilardi, architect, Gilardi y Asociados, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Juan Cristóbal Rautenstrauch, industrial engineer, Sociedad Bracht, S.A., Buenos Aires, Argentina; Raul Halac, architect, Instituto del Ambiente, University of Córdoba, Argentina.

An implementation of minimal energy design in a school building including natural ventilation, natural lighting with protection of direct sun radiation and a roof garden. Silver in the region Latin America went to Dr. Michael Laar, architect and engineer; Cello Diniz, Eduardo Canellas, Eduardo Dezouart, Tiago Gualda, DDGarqitetura, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The project provides a model for the adaptation and revitalization of an existing urban sector without large-scale demolition or replacement. Gold in the region Asia Pacific went to Prof. Chang Qing, head of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University, Shanghai, China.

Germany: “Main Station”, Stuttgart.
The project places the railway station underground to recover land and to create a new urban area, combining structural and landscape aspects. Silver in the region Europe went to Christoph Ingenhoven, architect from Dusseldorf, Germany.

The project uses water as the central theme with the historic preservation of a number of heritage buildings and maintaining aesthetic balance between existing and new structures. Gold in the region Europe went to Prof. Luigi Centola, Professor of Design at “La Sapienza” (University of Rome), Italy, and Prof. Mariagiovanna Rittano, Full Professor of Economic-Political Geography, University of Salerno, Italy.

Urban housing renovation through the creation of an “air suit”, which acts as a new façade skin improving economic and ecological performance. Bronze in the region Asia Pacific went to Kazuhide Doi, architect, Kazuhide Doi Architects, Hiroshima, Japan.
Canada: “Greening the Infrastructure at Benny Farm”, Montréal.
Urban, landscape and architectural project for the sustainable construction and renovation of 187 housing units on four adjacent properties in Montréal. Gold in the region North America went to Daniel S. Pearl, of L’OEUF (L’Office de l’Eclectisme Urbain et Fonctionnel)/Pearl Poddubiuk et Associés, architects, Montréal, Canada.

Canada: “Material Reduction: Efficient Fabric-Formed Concrete”.
Project presents a technique using flexible fabrics instead of conventional rigid molds for the production of concrete elements. Bronze in the region North America went to Mark West, Associate Professor of Architecture, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada.

A community empowerment facility located in a mountain village in Morocco using local materials and construction technology. Gold in the region Africa Middle East went to Abdelrhni Fenjiro, architect, Agence d’architecture et d’urbanisme Fenjiro Abdelrhni, Rabat, Morocco.

Philippines: “Concrete Substrates for Accelerated Coral Restoration”.
Pre-cast concrete elements are used to assist the regeneration of the marine environment using incremental infrastructure. Silver in the region Asia Pacific went to Ronald Roland Cesar Rodríguez, manager Diamond Marketing, Philippines.

Spain: “Metropol Parasol”, Seville.
Revitalization of a historic town square by combining cultural and commercial requirements in an integrated public space. Bronze in the region Europe went to Jürgen Mayer H., architect from Berlin, Germany, Carlos Merino, and José de la Peña, engineers from Madrid, Spain.

South Africa: “Caravan Site Upgrade”, Nieuwoudtville.
Eco-systemic driven design for upgrading an existing caravan site within an ecologically sensitive zone. Silver in the region Africa Middle East went to Andrew Raymond Horn, Flavio Tedeschi, and Anne Marie Moore, architects, ECO Design – Architects & Consultants, Cape Town, South Africa.

South Africa: “Tsoga Environmental Center and Local Sustainability Catalyst”, Cape Town.
The project aims to catalyze sustainable livelihoods by serving as a demonstration of environmentally-sound construction practices. Bronze in the region Africa Middle East went to Alastair Francis Rendall, architect and urban designer, and Cita Goven, architect, ARG Design, and Anna Cowen, architect, Anna Cowen Architect, Cape Town, South Africa.

The project integrates concerns about sustainability and architectural design in the construction of a major public building. Silver in the region North America went to John Patrick Kociolek, executive director at California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA; Renzo Piano (with Chong Partners Architecture), Renzo Piano Building Workshop, Genoa, Italy; Jean Rogers, Ove Arup and Partners, San Francisco, USA.

Venezuela: “Proyecto Integral Habilitación Física San Rafael-Unido”, Caracas.
Urban improvement project including social aspects of a large settlement in Caracas, Venezuela. Bronze in the region Latin America went to Silvia Sooetes, Isabel Cecilia Pocaterra, Maria Ines Pocaterra and Victor Gastier, architects, Proyectos Arqui 5, Caracas, Venezuela.
In a process designed to accommodate the broad range of entries, the 5 regional juries judged over 1,500 projects from 118 countries. The judging criteria were the “target issues” that the Holcim Foundation uses to define sustainable construction.

Sustainability is a broad term. So when one holds a competition on the theme of sustainable construction one must precisely define and communicate what is meant. Criteria must be established by which sustainability can be compared among greatly differing projects – from technical mechanisms to large-scale developments.

To this end the Technical Competence Center (TCC) of the Holcim Foundation worked together with the Foundation’s partner universities to decide on 5 target issues. Of course there is no such thing as an “ideal” project that achieves top scores in all the areas of sustainability, but a project must perform well at several target issues to compete successfully in the Holcim Awards.

What do the target issues actually mean? This can best be illustrated by looking at submitted projects that performed especially well regarding 1 target issue. None of these projects were awarded a prize, however, because they were less convincing in other areas.

1. Quantum change and transferability: “The project must demonstrate innovation at the forefront of sustainable construction and must be a quantum leap in comparison to conventional procedures. Breakthroughs and trend setting approaches must be transferable.” A project from Morocco introduces an ingenious and easily reproducible passive cooling system. Ceramic panels mounted on the facade are filled with rainwater that is collected on the roof. The evaporating water cools and humidifies the air flowing into the building.

2. Ethical standards and social equity: “The project must meet the highest ethical standards and support social equity in all phases of the project’s life cycle.” A project called “RHIZMO-Home” was submitted in the region North America. It is a concept for a portable habitat for homeless and poor people. Exterior walls are made of soy-based resin reinforced with fibrous materials such as chicken feathers or straw. The soy resin is laminated over polypropylene foam, a recyclable material with virtually no by-products.

3. Ecological quality and energy conservation: “The project must exhibit sensitivity to the responsible use and management of natural resources throughout the construction’s life cycle.” Parque de las Palmeras in Almería, Spain is a water treatment system combined with a park: Rainwater is rendered usable by this beautifully designed park, which is situated in an undeveloped area – an interesting project that combats the shortage of water in Spain.

4. Economic performance and compatibility: “The project must prove to be economically feasible and innovative as to the deployment of financial resources. It must prove flexibility and robustness with regard to future changes to economic conditions.” The “Super-Low Energy Demand Building” at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, consumes only a third of the energy of traditional buildings in Beijing – by using renewable energy sources such as sun and wind, and by special use of the facade. The building materials are up to 80% recyclable.
5. Contextual response and aesthetic impact: “With space and form of utmost relevance, the construction must have a positive, long-term aesthetic impact on its physical environment.” The mixed-use program for a self-sustaining hostel in Chalma, Mexico, is proposed as a means to improve economic development in the region by encouraging tourism. The project uses energy-saving mechanisms such as wind turbines for generating electricity. The building uses local materials, is sensitively integrated into its site, and forms a refined local landmark.

Many teams. The number of participants exceeded the number of projects, because most entries were submitted by teams, not individuals. And because sustainability is interdisciplinary, by no means did all projects come from the field of architecture; the juries had many interesting projects to evaluate in the fields of planning, urban design, and civil engineering.

Close collaboration with universities. The juries comprised renowned architects, urban planners, engineers, and university professors. They were appointed in collaboration with the 5 technical universities that the Holcim Foundation has been working closely with since its inception 2 years ago: the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) in Switzerland; Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston, USA; Tongji University (TJU) in Shanghai, China; the University of São Paulo (USP) in Brazil; and the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Global Awards: 3 participants from each region. For the 15 winners of the regional Holcim Awards (presented on pages 2 and 3) the competition did not end with the regional Awards ceremonies: the entrants automatically qualified for the global competition. The global Awards will be held at a ceremony next April in Bangkok (see page 17). The top winner will receive USD 500,000.

Three categories
The juries evaluated the projects in a meticulous process and identified winners in each of 3 categories:
- Holcim Awards Encouragement Prizes – the prize money sum of USD 15,000 per region was distributed among 2 to 4 projects in each region.
- Holcim Awards Acknowledgement Prizes – these projects are worthy of winning an Award, but are placed just behind the winners. The prize money sum of USD 30,000 per region was distributed among 2 to 4 projects in each region.
- Holcim Awards Gold, Silver, and Bronze – for the top 3 winners in each region. The Gold Award carries USD 100,000 in prize money, Silver USD 50,000, and Bronze USD 25,000.

www.holcimawards.org
The Holcim Awards competition was run entirely over the Internet. Even the results were distributed worldwide electronically – practically in real time. Immediately after the Awards ceremonies pictures of the events were available for downloading at www.holcimawards.org. The website, which present in detail all winning projects, has generated great interest: over 30,000 people visited the site in October alone.
Holcim Awards ceremony for the region Europe held September 15 and 16 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The first Awards ceremony in the history of the Holcim Awards ran with the precision of a Swiss watch: In the impressive Bâtiment des Forces Motrices 300 guests experienced a dynamic ceremony led by Markus Akermann, Chairman of the Board of the Holcim Foundation. 16 Holcim Group companies invited guests. A special attraction was the cultural program the day following the ceremony. Held in the beautiful countryside of the region it was attended by most of the guests from 18 countries.

A crowded stage: The winners of the Holcim Awards 2005 for the region Europe – along with Holcim representatives and guests of honor.

Journalists from 14 countries at the media breakfast: Markus Akermann and Mohsen Mostafavi, head of the Holcim Awards jury for the region Europe.


Acknowledgement prize for “Alternative Economy City in the Ex Slaughterhouse”, Rome, Italy: Luciano Cupelloni, architect and professor at La Sapienza (University of Rome).

Acknowledgement and Encouragement prizes for the region Europe
Festive dinner following the presentation of Awards. On the stage: Pepe Lienhard’s Big Band, Sandra Studer, and Kaspar Wenger, Country Manager of Holcim Switzerland.

On a mild summer evening over 300 guests enjoyed the excitement in and around the Bâtiment des Forces Motrices, once a hydroelectric plant now reworked into an impressive theater.

Cultural program the day following the ceremony: On a boat ride the guests enjoyed the magnificent panorama around Lake Geneva.

The smile of the second-place winner: Architect Christoph Ingenhoven with Swiss TV-star and Master of ceremonies Sandra Studer.

Prominent guest speaker: Swiss Federal Councilor Joseph Deiss.

A Swiss music legend: The Trio Adler and support band got the guests in the mood for the evening.

Acknowledgement prize for “La Misteriosa Historia del Jardín que produce Agua”, Cehegín, Spain: Mónica García Fernández and Javier Rubio Montero, architects from Madrid.

Encouragement prize for “Instituto Europeo de Investigaciones Artísticas”, Lisbon, Portugal: Ignacio Peydro and Isabel Collado de Alarcón, architects from Madrid.

Encouragement prize for “Environmental Education Center in the Woods”, Venice, Italy: Vincenzo De Luce and Marina Orlando, architects from Naples.

Encouragement prize for “Center of Sustainable Development”, Zurich, Switzerland: Designer Michael Gehret from Zurich.
Holcim Awards ceremony for the region Asia Pacific held September 22 and 23 in Beijing, China.

The Asia Pacific region is vast and contains many cultures. This was reflected in the intercultural exchange of the ceremony in Beijing. The program was conducted bilingually in Mandarin and English. Chair of the event was Rolf Soiron, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Holcim Foundation. 270 guests from 12 countries experienced a professionally organized and highly emotional Awards ceremony – and on the day after a cultural program filled with highlights.

Acknowledgement prize for “Five Scattered Houses”, Ning Bo, China: Wang Shu and Lu Wenyu, architects, City Tectonic Institute of China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, China.

Acknowledgement prize for “Chaupal – Eco House”, New Delhi, India: Satya Sheel, industrialist, and Ms. Anamika, green building design consultant at Environmental Design Solutions, New Delhi, India.

Generating enthusiasm: Performance involving the 5 elements according to Chinese tradition – metal, wood, water, fire, and earth.

Donald Bates, head of the Holcim Awards jury for the region Asia Pacific and keynote speaker at the ceremony, talks with Rolf Soiron.

Acknowledgement and Encouragement prizes for the region Asia Pacific
Banquet in the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse: State guests who have been welcomed here include Queen Elizabeth II and US presidents Carter, Reagan, and Clinton.

Enjoying the cultural program (from right): Gérard Letellier, Holcim Area Manager of the region, Philippe Lavech, CEO Holcim Trading Singapore, and Leo Mittelholzer, CEO Siam City Cement Thailand, with his wife, Gabriela.

Of course open to guests: The Forbidden City.

Smiles of the winners from the largest competition region.

Wu Zhiqiang, professor at Tongji University and member of the Technical Competence Center of the Holcim Foundation.

Ceremony in Beijing: Very Chinese, yet very international.

Acknowledgement prize for “SRIBS Minimal-Energy Link House”, Shanghai, China: Zhang Hongru, architect, Shanghai Jianke Architect Design Institute, Shanghai, China.

Encouragement prize for “2+2+1 House”, Chengdu, China: Li Zhigang, urban planner, Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning + Design Institute, Shanghai, China.

Encouragement prize for “Ivatan Agricultural Campus”, Itbayat, Philippines: Artessa Niccola D. Saldivar-Sali, civil engineer at Geotecnica Corp., and Aaron Julius Morado Lecciones, student at the University of the Philippines.

Encouragement prize for “BARN-ing Community Concept Plan of Dongzhou”, Fuyang, China: Shen Yongde and Wang Yanyu, students, Southwest Jiaotong University, China.
Holcim Awards ceremony for the region North America held September 29 and 30 in Boston, USA.

The ceremony in Boston was smaller but just as sophisticated: The North American Holcim Group companies invited 170 guests from 7 countries. The guests enjoyed a two-day program that offered stimulating cultural and architectural highlights. Particularly impressive was the keynote speech by Simon Upton. The former longtime environment minister of New Zealand is today Chair of the OECD Round Table for Sustainable Development – and member of the Advisory Board of the Holcim Foundation. Rolf Soiron, Chair of the event, and Patrick Dolberg, Master of ceremonies, ensured a relaxed atmosphere.


Acknowledgement prize for “Urban Greenway: Riparian Meadows, Mounds and Rooms”, Warren, Arkansas, USA: Stephen Luoni, professor, University of Arkansas Community Design Center, Fayetteville, USA.

Acknowledgement prize for “Library and Classroom Building, Langara College”, Vancouver, Canada: Stephen Teeple, architect, Teeple Architects Inc, Toronto, Canada.

Enjoying the cultural and architectural program: Paul Harrington, Senior Vice President, Mountain Region, Holcim US (right), and Randy Carlson, Senior Vice President, River Region, Holcim US.

A keynote speaker who reached his audience: Simon Upton, former politician, and Chairman of the OECD Round Table on Sustainable Development.

A focus on architecture
Pure pleasure for designers: Visits to architectural gems.

Head of the jury for North America at the media breakfast: Adele Naudé Santos, who will also lead the jury for the forthcoming global Holcim Awards competition (see page 17).

High time for sustainable development: Rolf Soiron delivers his welcome message.

The projects in detail: The posters exhibitions of winning projects were well attended at all ceremonies.

Top competitors: Winners of the Acknowledgement and Encouragement Prizes and the Holcim Awards for the region North America.

Practically a symbol of sustainability: The surroundings of the Boston Harbor Hotel, in which the ceremony was held, was in shambles just decades ago – today the neighborhood is again thriving.

Acknowledgement prize for “Millennium Biologix Headquarters”, Kingston, Ontario, Canada: Stefan Behnisch, architect, Behnisch, Behnisch & Partner, Stuttgart, Germany.

Encouragement prize for “Magic Box”, Washington, USA: Javier Neila and Estefania Caamaño, architects at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain, representing the 40 students involved in the project.

Encouragement prize for “Beacon River Pool”, New York, USA: Thomas Nagy, student, Princeton University School of Architecture, Princeton, USA.

Encouragement prize for “Big Dig Building”, Boston, USA: John Hong and Jinhee Park, architects, Single Speed Design, Cambridge, USA.
The dynamic program elegantly wove together the various cultures of the region. 290 guests from 17 countries – invited by 14 Group companies – did not only enjoy the cultural sensations but also listened with captivated interest to the keynote speech by Lindiwe Sisulu. The ceremony, chaired by Urs Bieri, Deputy Chairman of the Management Board of the Holcim Foundation, was held at Sandton Convention Centre, where in 2002 the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development was attended by nearly 200 heads of state.

The attraction:
The leading figure of “African Footprint,” an internationally highly successful musical from South Africa, transformed parts of the ceremony into a show extravaganza.

Lindiwe Sisulu, South African minister of housing: An engaging keynote speaker.


Acknowledgement and Encouragement prizes for the region Africa Middle East
Pure joy of life: “African Footprint”.

A great delight: The banquet played a central role at all the ceremonies.

Gold, Silver, Bronze: Winners of the Holcim Awards for the region of Africa Middle East.

At the media breakfast: Daniel K. Irurah, head of the Holcim Awards jury for Africa Middle East, flanked by Edward Schwarz, Manager of the Holcim Foundation (left), and Urs Bieri, Deputy Chair of the Management Board of the Holcim Foundation.

Masters of ceremonies: TV-star Gerry Rantseli, who moderated the evening in English, and renowned rugby coach Nick Mallet, known for his work for Stade Français co-presenting in French.

Present with full engagement: Kati Kerenge, Communications Manager from Tanga Cement.

Acknowledgement prize for “Breathing House – Modern Saudi House”, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: Luca Donner and Francesca Sorcinelli, architects, Donner & Sorcinelli Architetti, Silea, Italy.


Encouragement prize for “Rehabilitation, Preserving and Development”, El Quseir, Egypt: Antonia Schlegel, graduating architect TU Berlin, Germany.

Encouragement prize for “Renewal of Kibera Settlement”, Nairobi, Kenya: Maranga Njoroge, student, University of Nairobi, Kenya.


Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction
Holcim Awards ceremony for the region Latin America held October 21 and 22 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The final regional ceremony was the largest of all: 10 Holcim Group companies invited 440 guests from 12 countries. The guests enjoyed an authentic Latin American program bursting with vibrant life and placed in an attractive setting. The evening brought a touch of carnival to the first cycle of the Holcim Awards. The event – chaired by Markus Akermann – was carried out simultaneously in Spanish and Portuguese. But translation was no issue as the guests savored the party atmosphere into the next morning.

Acknowledgement prize for “Edifício Semente da Construção Sustentável no Brasil”, São Paulo, Brazil: Renato Mauro, civil engineer, REM Construtora Ltda, São Paulo, Brazil.

Acknowledgement prize for “Reforma Sustentável do Instituto Goethe”, São Paulo, Brazil: Cesar Batista Silva, Joerg Spangenberg, Martin Haussmann, independent architects, São Paulo, Brazil.


Acknowledgement and Encouragement prizes for the region Latin America
Encouragement prize for “Organismo”, Mendoza, Argentina: Tom Hughes, Eugenia Mora, architects, YMGH Arquitectos; Diego Nahman, architect, Fiorentini-Nahman Arquitectos, Mendoza, Argentina.

Encouragement prize for “Projeto Unidades Sanitárias para o Semi-árido Brasileiro”, Brazil: Luciana de Resenda Alt, architect and urban planner, Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

Encouragement prize for “A Library – Accordance to Sustainable Guidelines”, Medellín, Colombia: Daniel Londoño, independent architect, Sydney, Australia.

Encouragement prize for “De Refugios Transitorios a Viviendas Permanentes”, Medellín, Colombia: Alejandro Restrepo Montoya, professor of architecture, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Medellín, Colombia.

Music, entertainment, and speeches: Banquet in the Museo Histórico National in Rio de Janeiro, the most important museum in Brazil.


Highlight of the cultural program: Performance by Beth Carvalho, one of the most famous Samba singers in Brazil.

The spirit of celebration: Carlos Bühler, CEO of Holcim Brazil and host of the evening (with red tie).

Carnival on stage: Vibrant Brazil at its best.

Program on the second day: A tour of architectural masterpieces.
The Holcim Award: Icosahedron on a CEMROC base

Reports on the Awards ceremonies have mentioned the unusual sculptures that decorate the scene of the events. These were giant versions of the actual Holcim Awards that the winners took home.

“The number is the essence of all things” found Pythagoras of Samos over 2,500 years ago. Embracing this conviction, mathematicians developed theories of proportion – including the golden section, considered by many as the ideal proportion: a:b = (a+b):a. The short segment is to the longer as the longer is to the sum of both segments. Although that might sound complicated, the golden ratio is an everyday occurrence – we encounter it everywhere, in biology, architecture, and art.

Symbol of harmonic proportion
Many geometric figures derive from the golden section. A particularly striking one is the 12-cornered icosahedron, which has been adopted as the symbol of the Holcim Awards. It consists of 3 equally sized rectangles arranged at right angles to each other, sharing a common center, with the aspect ratio of the golden section. The icosahedron has been chosen to stand for the objectives of the Holcim Awards because sustainable construction always strives for harmony – between today and tomorrow, between resources and consumption, between needs and opportunities.

Concrete base developed by Holcim
The Holcim Award consists of an icosahedron made of steel mounted on a concrete base. The base was designed in Holderbank by Holcim Product Innovation and Development using CEMROC® cement. This self-compacting cement made by Holcim France Benelux combines blast-furnace slag with cement and boasts excellent flowability and very low heat of hydration. It is highly resistant to acid and sulfate ingress and is light in color. The mix design per base requires 1,354 grams of CEMROC® cement, 1,350 grams of EN standard sand, 270 grams of ASTM sand, 14.5 grams of Glenium ACE 30 chemical additive, and 287 grams of water. Each base has a lightweight center to make the award lighter, yet the base alone still weighs over 3 kilograms. To win a Holcim Award is a great honor – to carry the weighty sculpture is also a bit of a feat!
Next up: the global Holcim Awards

The 5 regional ceremonies were highlights in the short history of the Holcim Foundation. But the first cycle of Holcim Awards is not yet finished. On the contrary – the climax will be in April 2006 in Bangkok, where the winners of the global Awards will be announced.

While the competition is over for Acknowledgement and Encouragement prize winners and those not selected for a prize – it is only just heating up for the winners of regional Holcim Awards Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Since their projects – a total of 15 – are automatically qualified in the competition for the global Holcim Awards, their preparations are now in high gear! And the stakes are high: global recognition and a total of USD 900,000 in prize money is up for grabs. The project authors can’t just sit back and wait to see whether they will be among the winners. Rather, they must once again work hard on their entries, and prepare an array of supplementary information – mostly on how their projects fulfill the 5 target issues.

First-class jury
One of the most important tasks to prepare for the global Awards is to select the jury. Responsible for the selection are the Boards of the Holcim Foundation, but chiefly the Foundation’s Technical Competence Center (TCC) and 5 partner universities. Together they have appointed a jury that is balanced regarding the origins and disciplines of the members. The jury list reads a bit like a “Who is Who” of the international architecture and engineering community. These 15 experts will have the difficult task of conferring the global Holcim Awards Gold, Silver, and Bronze to 3 of the 15 projects presented on pages 2 and 3 of this issue of “Foundations”.

Members of the Jury for the global Holcim Awards

Adèle Naudé Santos
Head of Jury, Dean, School of Architecture and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) (USA)

Markus Akermann
Chairman of the Management Board, Holcim Foundation (Switzerland)

Mekvichai Banasopit
Director, Urban Design Program, Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)

Rachid Benmokhtar Benabdellah
President, Al-Akhawayn University (AUI) (Morocco)

Olivia L. Castillo
Chair and President, Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (Philippines)

Claude Fussler
Advisor on Business Innovation and Sustainability, Member of the Management Board, Holcim Foundation (France)

Ashok B. Lall
Professor and Architect, TVB School of Habitat Studies (India)

Hansjürg Leibundgut
Professor for Building Technology, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich); Member of the Technical Competence Center of the Holcim Foundation (Switzerland)

Amory B. Lovins
CEO, Rocky Mountain Institute; Member of the Advisory Board of the Holcim Foundation (USA)

Tim Macfarlane
Materials Engineer, Dewhurst Macfarlane & Partners (United Kingdom)

Thom Mayne
Architect, Morphosis (USA)

Mohsen Mostafavi
Dean, College of Architecture, Art & Planning, Cornell University (USA)

Enrique Norten
Principal, TEN Arquitectos; Member of the Advisory Board of the Holcim Foundation (Mexico)

Hans-Rudolf Schalcher
Chair of Planning and Management in Construction, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich); Head of the Technical Competence Center and Member of the Management Board, Holcim Foundation (Switzerland)

Kaarin Taipale
Architect and Visiting Researcher, CKIR Helsinki School of Economics (Finland)
First joint meeting of the Management and Advisory Board of the Holcim Foundation

On August 29, 2005, the Management Board (MB) and Advisory Board (AB), the two principal bodies of the Holcim Foundation, met for the first time in Zurich in their entirety. They discussed the progress as well as the future direction of the Foundation.

The Management Board of the Holcim Foundation decides on the strategy, programs, and activities of the Foundation. The Advisory Board monitors whether the activities of the Foundation concur with the current understanding of sustainable construction. The Advisory Board comprises renowned personalities from the political, scientific and business field, all sharing a devotion for sustainable development. Many members of both Boards had already met at the Holcim Forum of September 2004. The meeting on August 29, 2005 was the first full joint meeting of the Management and Advisory Board of the Holcim Foundation.

The people in the background

Famous architects, business leaders, diplomats, and TV stars gave the presentation of the Holcim Awards a face. But without dedicated people in the background to ensure smooth operation the extremely demanding regional events could never have taken place. Local teams were responsible for the entire frameworks for the ceremonies and for the additional programs on the day after. These teams were coached in the preparation and supported to conduct the actual ceremonies by staff of the Holcim Foundation, which temporarily doubled in number to manage the volume of tasks.

Edward Schwarz
In charge of the overall concept of the ceremonies. Handling 500 e-mails a week was normal, working across the time zones too: “The continuous exchange of experience was very important, because it enabled to learn from one event to the next!”

Karin Kiss
Responsible for handling media representatives from 38 countries and releases in 7 languages: “Did everything to find special solutions – to graciously overlook when one or the other media rep missed the actual press briefing.”

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meeting. The purpose was to bring all the members up to date on the activities of the Foundation and to discuss potential for improvements and new ideas. The discussions proved that the Holcim Foundation is heading in the right direction: “We must constantly recognize the newest development and challenges in sustainable construction and shape the Holcim Awards competition accordingly,” says Klaus Töpfer, Member of the Advisory Board.

Next Forum in Shanghai
The members of the Advisory Board were asked to suggest potential participants and speakers for the next Holcim Forum, which will take place in March 2007 in Shanghai, China. The theme being “Urban Trans Formation challenging the 21st century.” After the Forum, the second Awards competition cycle will commence, requiring strong engagement and presence of both Boards.

“We must translate the idea of sustainable development into concrete applications in specific fields. Sustainable development is linked to millions of fields – energy use is but one. Sustainable construction gives us a focus relating to the built environment, a focus which is very valuable and practical,” says Simon Upton, Member of the Advisory Board of the Holcim Foundation.
Global interest in Holcim Awards

Even before the presentation of the global Holcim Awards – the main awards of the first competition cycle – countless articles have appeared around the world covering the regional ceremonies and winners. 118 journalists from 38 countries attended the media briefing of the Holcim Foundation following the 5 ceremonies. The articles particularly recognize the commitment to sustainable construction that the construction materials company Holcim has shown with its Foundation and Awards competition.