THE FINALISTS ARE.

...unique, ingenious, sustainable, beautiful and more. Here are the 38 standouts – many of them winners of the People's Choice Awards – of over 600 submissions from 25 countries.











FURNITURE

1 COLLECTION: PROSTHESES AND GRAFTS DESIGNER: STUDIO MK27, SÃO PAULO TEAM LEADER: MARCIO KOGAN

Studio MK27 is known for its award-winning architecture, which led to its new 16-piece furniture suite. Local construction workers on the firm's job sites crafted items out of building refuse, and then the studio added its own exuberant interventions, for example embedding an iPod dock into a side table and attaching a lamp to a bench/table. Presented at Interieur Kortrijk in 2010, the project shines a light on authentic Brazilian design, enlivened by uniquely inventive bricolage. marciokogan.com.br

2 COLLECTION: SUITA DESIGNER: ANTONIO CITTERIO, MILAN MANUFACTURER: VITRA

Antonio Citterio and Vitra enjoy a long and inspired history as collaborators, with Citterio's sober Italian style making a natural fit for the Swiss manufacturer's revered craftsmanship. Launched last year, Suita is a comfortable yet compact couch in such variations as two- and three-seaters and chaises longues. Among its defining features: lean steel legs that give it that light-asair look, and an optional back shelf providing a writing surface, or a safe place to set a glass of chardonnay. vitra.com

3 COLLECTION: SOFTSEATING DESIGNERS: STEPHANIE FORSYTHE AND TODD MacALLEN, VANCOUVER MANUFACTURER: MOLO DESIGN

An ingenious honeycomb structure allows Softseating to be stretched. accordion style, into durable benches, earning the paper product a spot in MoMA's permanent collection. Molo founders Stephanie Forsythe and Todd MacAllen recently added a stool and a lounger to the family. Magnetic fasteners connect the end of one piece to the next, or link entire sections into long, winding benches. The collection's real beauty, however, shines over time and with use, when the paper begins to flatten at the edges, resulting in a natural patina. molodesign.com

LIGHTING

4 COLLECTION: SERIES 28 DESIGNER:
OMER ARBEL, VANCOUVER
MANUFACTURER: BOCCI

No two Bocci globes are exactly alike, which is what gives these exquisite fixtures their ethereal presence. Each piece houses a 20-watt halogen, a xenon lamp, or a 25-watt LED, and is handcrafted with a glass-blowing technique where air is intermittently blown in and sucked out, creating internal bubbles, and then the globes are cooled. The Series 28 can be nestled together in hexagon al clusters or arranged in smaller groups, according to one's whim. bocci.ca

5 PROJECT: CANOPY LOCATION: TORONTO FIRM: UNITED VISUAL ARTISTS; LONDON, U.K.

When it's not designing live performance sets for such musical acts as Jay-Z, U2 and Massive Attack, the multidisciplinary studio UVA employs its cutting-edge expertise in digital technology and lighting to devise permanent installations. Canopy, an overhead structure spanning the facade of a condo tower in Toronto's Maple Leaf Square, is composed of 8,000 abstract, leaf-shaped lenses that filter natural light during the day, creating the impression of walking beneath light-dappled treetops. After sunset, the LED-equipped modules are programmed to dance into the night. uva.co.uk

FURNITURE SYSTEMS

6 SYSTEM: SOFTWALL + SOFTBLOCK MODULAR SYSTEM DESIGNERS: STEPHANIE FORSYTHE AND TODD MACALLEN, VANCOUVER MANUFACTURER: MOLO DESIGN

Another accolade for Molo and the











studio's clever paper furniture constructions. Within seconds, Softwall can be fanned across a room to create a beautiful, sculptural barrier some 4.5 metres wide. And units of Softblock, its narrower cousin, can be stacked to create lower barriers that define areas of a room without blocking sightlines. Tyvek, a durable polyethylene material more commonly used for parachutes, is used for white and black versions, and lightweight kraft paper for a natural brown. molodesign.com

INTERIOR PRODUCTS

7 PRODUCT: IMAGE-IN DESIGNER: JEAN LACROIX, MONTREAL MANUFACTURER: WETSTYLE

With such surface patterns as Earth, Water, Floral, and Calligraphy (shown), Wetstyle's Image-In tub infuses the bathroom with an expressive aesthetic. Clients can also devise their own patterns, made even glossier when the manufacturer applies its proprietary True High Gloss finish to the tub. Made of Wetmar, a non-porous, stain-resistant and easy-to-clean natural stone composite that insulates better than porcelain, the collection pushes the company's craftsmanship and customization capabilities. wetstyle.ca

8 PRODUCT: DANSK CLASSIC FJORD TEA SERVICE DESIGNER: PAUL THONIS. BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA **MANUFACTURER: DANSK**

This boat-shaped trio marries sleek Scandinavian style with ergonomic precision. The porcelain teapot, sugar bowl and creamer are carefully calibrated: the teapot's handle is curved for a balanced pour; pinched spouts deliver even flow; and the teapot's belly holds an ample 1.2 litres. Paul Thonis, who designed the service last year, is the concept and design director for Dansk, which is owned by tableware maker Lenox. dansk.com

RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE

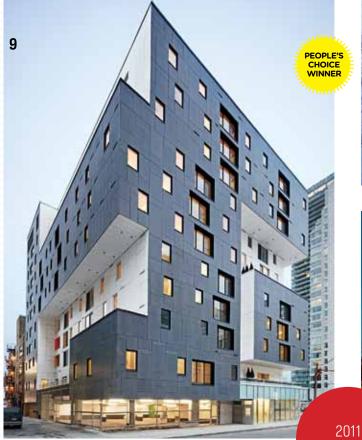
9 PROJECT: 60 RICHMOND EAST HOUSING CO-OP LOCATION: TORONTO FIRM: TEEPLE ARCHITECTS, TORONTO **TEAM: STEPHEN TEEPLE WITH WILLIAM** ELSWORTHY, RICHARD LAI AND CHRIS RADIGAN

This dramatic co-op was designed for hospitality workers relocated

from nearby Regent Park, a lowincome neighbourhood undergoing a top-to-bottom renewal. The architects took as their cue a simple idea that came to define the project: if you grow and prepare food, how would that inform where you live? The result is a self-sustaining building that's all about community. Rated LEED Gold, the 11-storey, 85-unit complex features openings, catwalks and terraces that act as social hubs, and a rooftop vegetable garden that services a restaurant and training kitchen on the ground level. The project comes full circle with the restaurant's organic waste providing compost for the garden beds above. teeplearch.com

10 PROJECT: PUNTA HOUSE LOCATION: PUNTA DEL ESTE, URUGUAY FIRM: STUDIO MK27, SÃO PAULO TEAM: MARCIO KOGAN WITH SUZANA GLOGOWSKI

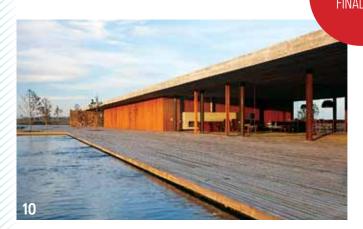
Located in an open lot alongside a reservoir, Punta House represents a gentle insertion into the landscape. Its low-slung single-storey layout is defined by shockingly simple gestures and natural materials. A single rooftop slab, supported by flagstone walls, covers four bedrooms bookended with living and dining spaces. Floor-to-ceiling glass walls blur the boundaries between indoors and out, and a deck running the entire length of the 56-metrelong house overlooks an infinity pool. marciokogan.com.br













11 PROJECT: WEEKEND HOUSE LOCATION: NORTH SHORE, LAKE SUPERIOR, U.S. FIRM: JULIE SNOW ARCHITECTS, MINNEAPOLIS TEAM: JULIE SNOW WITH JENNIFER CHARZEWSKI, MATTHEW KREILICH AND LINDA MORRISSEY

For this 120-square-metre residence and studio, architect Julie Snow clad all four sides in full-length glazing to take advantage of the tree-filled site's privacy. In summer, the sliding doors open to the cool winds blowing off the lake. The generous use of glass constitutes one of the project's most striking moves, making the two-volume space almost disappear from view. The retreat's long, narrow wooden piers enable it to tread lightly on the ground, barely disturbing the natural environment. juliesnowarchitects.com

12 PROJECT: PORCHDOG LOCATION:
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI FIRM: MARLON
BLACKWELL ARCHITECT; FAYETTEVILLE,
ARKANSAS TEAM: MARLON BLACKWELL
AND JONATHAN BOELKINS WITH
CHRIS BARIBEAU, MERYATI BLACKWELL,
MATT GRIFFITH, MICHAEL POPE AND
DAVID TANNER

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, many organizations launched rebuilding initiatives, among them Architecture for Humanity's Biloxi Model Homes Project, which sponsored the innovative Porchdog. The three-bedroom prototype sits three metres above ground, ensuring it can withstand Category 4 storm surges. Architect Marlon Blackwell stayed true to the shotgun-style houses of America's southern states, making the front porch an extension of the living room. The

front windows' operable perforated metal shutters diffuse natural light and add extreme-weather protection. marlonblackwell.com

13 PROJECT: REFUGIUM OF A FORESTER LOCATION: VARBERG, SWEDEN FIRM: PETRA GIPP ARKITEKTUR, STOCKHOLM

A stellar example of how architecture can imbue a utilitarian structure with soul, Petra Gipp's 108-squaremetre forest ranger cabin is located in the idyllic beech forests of Grimeton Nature Reserve. The three-bedroom double volume is perched on an open foundation, to minimize its impact on the old-growth forest site. Striking floor-to-ceiling windows overlook the woods and the lake, providing essential vantage points as well as offering a sense

of calm amid an otherwise extreme environment. *gipparkitektur.se*

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

14 PROJECT: TRINITY COLLEGE
QUADRANGLE LOCATION: TORONTO FIRM:
GH3, TORONTO TEAM: DIANA GERRARD
AND PAT HANSON WITH RAYMOND CHOW

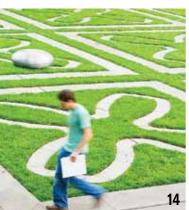
In keeping with the University of Toronto's Gothic architecture, gh3 restored Trinity College's courtyard with a medieval-inspired greensward that uses the symbol for ch'i as its defining motif. But what's exceptional about this project is invisible to the eye. Existing trees, starved of water and space, were dying from root compaction. Gh3's landscape design integrates a vertical fertilization system that aerates the trees' roots, and structural

geotextile was installed under the quadrangle to prevent further compaction. *gh3.ca*

15 PROJECT: OLD POST OFFICE PLAZA LOCATION: ST. LOUIS FIRM: BAIRD SAMPSON NEUERT ARCHITECTS, TORONTO TEAM: BARRY SAMPSON WITH YVES BONARDEAUX, MAURO CARRENO, WINDA LAU AND ADRIAN PHIFFER

Like many North American cities, St. Louis is revitalizing its downtown to attract business. Central to this goal is creating civic spaces for pedestrians to enjoy. Old Post Office Plaza provides a much-needed micro-geography, including an event space, a tree canopy, and a water basin for toe dipping during heat waves. The architects also added a perforated screen that casts dappled shadows over the

















square and blocks an unsightly wall facing the plaza. bsnarchitects.com

TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

16 PROJECT: FLOCKR LOCATION: BEIJING FIRM: SO-IL, NEW YORK TEAM: FLORIAN IDENBURG, JAZZY LI, JING LIU AND IANNIS KANDYLIARIS

Built in just six days, the Flockr pavilion provided a central meeting point for the 2010 edition of Get It Louder. The biannual media and arts festival takes over Beijing and then moves to Shanghai; the easily dismantled dome was designed to tag along. Its mushroom top structure, made up of 56 flexible steel rods connected to two internal steel rings, is covered in thousands of mauve-tinted mirror panels. Only the top of each panel is attached,

allowing it to move with the wind and capture the surroundings in a flickering reflection. so-il.org

17 PROJECT: DENIS GAGNON SHOWS ALL EXHIBITION LOCATION: MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS FIRM: SAUCIER + PERROTTE ARCHITECTES, MONTREAL TEAM: GILLES SAUCIER WITH LIA RUCCOLO

With 15 dresses displayed on white mannequins suspended from the ceiling and orchestral music filling the space, this exhibit took on a hyper-reality befitting Quebec couturier Denis Gagnon's extraordinary garments. A visual exploration of the designer's career, the dramatic, shadowy show matched high fashion with bold architectural gestures. In addition to the mannequins, lead designer Gilles Saucier mounted enlarged photographs of

lace, leather and zippers to highlight Gagnon's signature materials, and projected videos of the collection onto an inverted black pyramid suspended from the ceiling. saucierperrotte.com

18 PROJECT: 2010 VANCOUVER WINTER OLYMPICS' ONTARIO PAVILION LOCATION: VANCOUVER FIRM: HARIRI PONTARINI ARCHITECTS, TORONTO **TEAM: SIAMAK HARIRI WITH DOMINIQUE** CHENG. DORON MEINHARD AND GEORGE SIMIONOPOULOS

Niagara Falls (the Canadian side, naturally) inspired the facade of Ontario House, a 409-squaremetre pavilion that proved to be a popular hub for events and concerts during the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. Intended to suggest the Falls' stupendous flow and pluming mist, the exterior featured a curtain

made from 40 kilometres of natural fibre rope. Digitized LEDs embedded in the vertical strands animated the building with large-scale panoramic videos. hariripontarini.com

19 PROJECT: FDA LOCATION: TOKYO FIRM: EMMANUELLE MOUREAUX ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN, TOKYO **DESIGNER: EMMANUELLE MOUREAUX**

In Japanese, eda means "branch," and French designer Emmanuelle Moureaux, who lives in Tokyo. created the Eda system of fine lines made of lightweight carbon to easily assemble into giant hanging clouds and forests of sticks. For Designtide Tokyo last year, she suspended 900 vibrantly coloured "branches" and built a free-standing structure of over 1,000 white lines. The massive yet delicate exhibit showed off

her love of colour and nature. emmanuelle.jp

COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE

20 PROJECT: SPIRALAB LOCATION: CHIBA CITY, JAPAN FIRM: KINO ARCHITECTS, TOKYO TEAM: MASAHIRO KINOSHITA WITH TAKASHI MANDA, YASUSHI MORIBE, SHINOBU WATANABE AND SYUJI YAMAMOTO

Scientific enterprise thrives inside environments that are flexible and efficient. Spiralab, a new chemical research laboratory outside Tokyo, is designed to maximize both these ideals while maintaining tight security. Two large experimental rooms contained within the L-shaped three-storey building can be reconfigured as needed, and numerous













breakout areas invite employees to interact. The all-white interior is matched by a white exterior of vertical pillars featuring dramatic, irregular glass ribbons that create a play of light and shadow inside the facility. masahirokinoshita.com

21 PROJECT: GAROA STORE LOCATION: SÃO PAULO FIRM: UNA ARQUITETOS, SÃO PAULO TEAM: FERNANDA BARBARA, CRISTIANE MUNIZ, FÁBIO VALENTIM AND FERNANDO VIÉGAS WITH ANA PAULA DE CASTRO, ROBERTO GALVÃO, GABRIELA GURGEL, CAROLINA KLOCKER, EDUARDO MARTORELLI AND MIGUEL MURALHA

What gives this fashion store such presence on a corner of São Paulo's posh Oscar Freire Street is the indentation at the centre of its otherwise boxy form. The gesture, made all the more dramatic by the juxtaposition of glazing with

textured concrete supporting walls, opens the storefront to pedestrians while offering shoppers within oblique views of the street. The recovered wood flooring throughout the interior extends to a patio out back, a jewel-like space that's elegantly defined by a solitary pau ferro tree. unaarquitetos.com.br

RESIDENTIAL INTERIORS

22 PROJECT: CANADIAN OLYMPIAN-INSPIRED SUITE LOCATION: VANCOUVER FIRM: KODU DESIGN; VANCOUVER TEAM! MERIKE LAINEVOOL WITH DEBBIE DOUEZ OF VIDEO 4 WEB PRODUCTIONS, JANE GRIFFIN OF GRIFFIN DESIGN AND STACY HALL OF PROMOSAPIEN

As part of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, nine one-bedroom condo suites were handed over to designers to capture the spirit of the Games, and Kodu Design delivered a space brimming with Canadian iconography. One bedroom wall was covered in whitepainted trophies, while a round red and white rug in the living space alluded to a curling rink. But the most inspired gestures derived from the nation's favourite game: hockey. The dining table sported a base assembled from hockey sticks, and an ice-like acrylic top with a loonie embedded at the centre - in tribute to the tradition of placing the coin at the centre of the rink for good luck before an international competition. kodudesign.ca

23 PROJECT: CROSSTOWN LOFT LOCATION: VANCOUVER FIRM: CAMPOS LECKIE STUDIO, VANCOUVER TEAM: JAVIER CAMPOS AND MICHAEL LECKIE Crosstown Loft exemplifies savvy architecture that responds to the challenge of creating rooms within open concept lofts. In this low-budget residential project for a young couple starting a family, a voluptuous spiral staircase connects the two floors: 93 square metres of living and entertaining space upstairs, and an equal area downstairs that's convertible. Sliding partitions transform the lower floor from an open layout during the day into two bedrooms and a nursery at night. camposleckie.ca

24 PROJECT: RECORD HOUSE REVISITED LOCATION: OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND FIRM: DAVID JAMESON ARCHITECT, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA TEAM: DAVID JAMESON WITH CHRISTOPHER CABACAR

In this house originally designed by mid-century modernist Charles H.

Richter and featured in Architectural Record's 1969 Record Houses issue, David Jameson Architect created a resolutely contemporary interior. First, the firm took down all the walls (a bold move enabled by the truss roof), creating a layout bathed in light from the floor-toceiling windows. New cabinets in walnut now link the separate zones and double as partitions. Along with walnut flooring, the tall casework contrasts against the white-painted brick walls and the original fireplace chimney, which soars imposingly through a skylight. davidiamesonarchitect.com

COMMERCIAL INTERIORS

25 PROJECT: DRU CULTURAL FACTORY LOCATION: ULFT, THE NETHERLANDS











FIRM: M+R INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE, EINDHOVEN TEAM: HANS MARÉCHAL WITH BART DIEDEREN, PIM RONGEN AND MARCEL VISSER

To revamp a 6,500-square-metre industrial building into a cultural destination with a lively cafe, a theatre, a library and a music school, M+R dug into the site's century-long history. The massive interior unites old and new, with walls covered in halftone blow-ups of archival photos, and I-beams left raw and exposed to accentuate the pitched skylights. In a stroke of brilliance, the designers inserted playfully coloured furnishings throughout - a nod to DRU, the iron foundry that originally owned the factory and produced a line of brightly enamelled cookware. mplusr.nl

26 PROJECT: BAR AGRICOLE LOCATION:
SAN FRANCISCO FIRM: AIDLIN DARLING
DESIGN, SAN FRANCISCO TEAM: JOSHUA
AIDLIN, ROSLYN COLE AND DAVID
DARLING WITH SHANE CURNYN, ADAM
ROUSE AND ADRIENNE SWIATOCHA

Taking its cue from Bar Agricole's owner, who serves up a sustainable seasonal menu complemented by artisanal spirits, Aidlin Darling Design only used materials sourced within a 24-kilometre radius to cook up this interior. One wall is clad with horizontal strips of reclaimed whisky barrel oak that run the length of the room; and a row of banquettes cast in concrete contains tabletops and seats of recycled wood, with wormholes attesting to their age. The light sculptures surrounding three skylights are fabricated from Pyrex cylinders warped into

dramatic forms, lending the space an elegant, glowing warmth. aidlindarlingdesign.com

27 PROJECT: AVENUE ROAD SHOWROOM LOCATION: TORONTO FIRM: YABU PUSHELBERG, NEW YORK/TORONTO TEAM: GLENN PUSHELBERG AND GEORGE YABU WITH ALEX EDWARD, BORIS MATTHIAS, SHANE PARKS AND KEVIN STOREY

Transforming a 149-year-old building into a contemporary furniture showroom unprecedented in scale is one thing, but doing so while adhering to Toronto's historical preservation codes added a whole other challenge to this project. Yabu Pushelberg masterfully opened the interior by excavating the lower level and installing an additional metal truss in the ceiling. But the pièce de résistance is the vertical glass atrium that links all three levels, beautifully unifying the 1,390-square-metre space and distributing light throughout. yabupushelberg.com

28 PROJECT: KIRK ORIGINALS STORE LOCATION: LONDON, U.K. FIRM: CAMPAIGN DESIGN STUDIO; LONDON, U.K. TEAM: PHILIP HANDFORD WITH BEN AYRES, TATJANA JAKOVICKA AND AARON RICHARDSON

With its giant lenticular eyes suspended in the front windows, returning the gaze of customers as they enter the store, Kirk Originals' flagship eyewear store in London is a whole lot of fun. Design studio Campaign mounted 187 white powder-coated sculptural faces, each sporting a unique pair of frames, on the walls of the monochromatic interior. The mask-like

display pieces can be repositioned to create various animated effects. Turning all the eyes upward, for instance, makes them look like a crowd of people craning their necks for a better view of the customer trying on a new pair of specs. campaigndesign.co.uk

29 PROJECT: MICHEL BRISSON
MENSWEAR BOUTIQUE LOCATION:
MONTREAL FIRM: SAUCIER + PERROTTE
ARCHITECTES, MONTREAL TEAM:
CHARLES ALEXANDRE DUBOIS AND
GILLES SAUCIER

Even the architects were surprised that a former National Bank, housed in a '70s-era building, would contain so many workable features for Montreal designer Michel Brisson's new menswear store. Saucier + Perrotte let the brutalist details stand out, including











an original curving staircase, exposed bricks and a concrete-clad mezzanine. The firm added a luminous ceiling on the ground level to complement the mirrored display cases of smoked glass; and steel rods, which hang like stalactites from the double-height ceiling, to support racks of bespoke suits. saucierperrotte.com

COMPETITION SCHEMES

30 PROJECT: OPENAIR FIRMS: JET ARCHITECTURE WITH ARCHASIA DESIGN GROUP AND CXT ARCHITECTS

For Kaohsiung, Taiwan's largest port city, JET, Archasia and CXT envisioned a steel and glass ferry and cruise terminal that frames views of the water's edge rather than blocking sightlines. The flat-topped structure's upper levels house a conference hall, offices and integrated port authority services, while the lower ones contain the arrival and departure checkpoints. A massive void in between takes advantage of sea breezes and natural light to keep the tropical heat at bay, while welcoming visitors through an impressive gateway to the city. jetarchitecture.com

CONCEPTS

31 PROJECT: URBANEERING BROOKLYN, NY 2110 FIRM: TERREFORM ONE, NEW YORK TEAM: MARIA AIOLOVA AND MITCHELL JOACHIM WITH NATALLE DELUCA, MELANIE FESSEL, NURHAN GOCTURK, ALPNA GUPTA, AARON LIM, GREG MULHOLLAND, JOHN NELSON,

DAN O'CONNOR, THILANI RAJARATHNA, SISHIR VARGHESE, CELINA YEE AND DEREK ZIEMER

At once smart, funny, profound and poetic, Urbaneering Brooklyn provides a glimpse into what the New York borough might look like 100 years from now. The scheme, conceptualized by the non-profit design group Terreform One, aims for a comprehensive model of tomorrow to initiate a discourse about what could happen if urban design and technological innovation intersected. The plan is full of "ideations" that range from repurposing dilapidated buildings as vertical farms to merging dwellings into the infrastructure and travelling by air with jet packs. terreform.org

32 PROJECT: WATER PROVING GROUND: RISING CURRENTS FIRM: LTL ARCHITECTS, NEW YORK TEAM: DAVID LEWIS, PAUL LEWIS AND MARC TSURUMAKI WITH AARON FORREST, MEGAN GRISCOM, PERLA DIS KRISTINSDOTTIR AND YASMIN VOBIS

In response to the threat of rising sea levels due to climate change, New York's MoMA invited five firms to explore proactive solutions. LTL Architects' ingenious concept focused on the northwestern corner of New York Harbor, proposing a vibrant amphibious playground. The plan would mitigate the changing tides and turn the watery landscape into usable space, incorporating marinas, urban parks and experimental terrains like wetlands and tidal pools, and adding plots for urban farming. If implemented, the

project would expand the shoreline tenfold. *ItIwork.net*

JURY AWARD FOR INNOVATION

33 PROJECT: SPIRITREE FIRM: URBANA ARQUITECTURA, SAN JUAN DESIGNER: JOSÉ FERNANDO VÁZQUEZ-PÉREZ

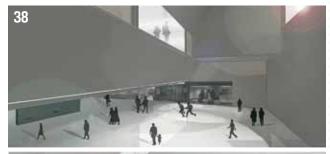
As the whole world goes green, so does the burial industry. Spiritree, a two-piece urn made of cast ceramic and biodegradable moss, sawdust and paper, offers a new kind of living memorial. Cremated human remains are interred within the basin, then covered with a semi-porous top shell embedded with seeds. As nature takes over, the basin disintegrates, leaving room for a tree to grow through its centre. Nourishing the earth in the afterlife is one way of













saying goodbye, without adding to one's carbon footprint. thespiritree.com

34 PROJECT: COMPOSTING SHED **LOCATION: EDINBURGH FIRM: GROVES-**RAINES ARCHITECTS, EDINBURGH/ GLASGOW TEAM: NICHOLAS GROVES-RAINES WITH LUCY ANDERSON

Rebar is known for its strength rather than its beauty, but given the talents of an architect like Nicholas Groves-Raines even rusted steel can ascend to poetic heights. To create a composting shed in the corner of a residential garden in Edinburgh, he wove the industrial staple as if it were willow boughs, constructing a meandering wall that wraps around a five-tonne boulder. He eschewed a traditional foundation and instead lodged the vertical reinforcing bars right in the ground. The shed is

topped with a rubber-lined EPDM roof planted with swaying grasses. grovesrainesarchitects.com

35 PROJECT: OMS STAGE LOCATION: WINNIPEG FIRM: 5468796 ARCHITECTURE, WINNIPEG TEAM: SHARON ACKERMAN, MANDY ALCORN, KEN BORTON, MICHELLE HEATH, AYNSLEE HURDAL, JOHANNA HURME, CRISTINA IONESCU, GRANT LABOSSIERE, JAYNE MILES, COLIN NEUFELD, ZACH PAULS, SASA RADULOVIC AND SHANNON WIEBE

Every city should have one of these: an open-air performance venue with walls that fold back to reveal a stage for moonlit concerts. This was achieved by 5468796 Architecture with a 73-square-metre pavilion made of poured concrete and draped with a dynamic membrane of diamond-shaped aluminum extrusions that form a flexible curtain. When the cube is open, it takes on a whole new form, with the curtain acting as an acoustic backdrop. When it's closed, the geometric surface refracts light, providing an ideal visual playground for lighting programmers and DJs to create moody effects. 5468796.ca

A+ AWARD FOR BEST STUDENT PROJECT

36 PROJECT: VISIONS OF SETTLEMENT FOR PORT-AU-PRINCE DESIGNER: KATHERINE KOVALCIK SCHOOL: UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO, ONTARIO

After last year's earthquake in Haiti that left some 1.5 million people without shelter or water, Katherine Kovalcik put forth a vision for a

flexible housing structure that can be erected quickly, using materials such as bamboo, soil and rubble. Her proposal would provide immediate shelters that could evolve into permanent two-storey homes with self-sustaining rooftop water collection systems - the basic necessities to help displaced Haitians rebuild their lives. uwaterloo.ca

37 PROJECT: SUBTERRANEAN **APERTURES DESIGNER: STEPHEN KAYE** SCHOOL: PARSONS THE NEW SCHOOL FOR DESIGN, NEW YORK

Big cities are filled with underground walkways that connect buildings to subway lines but are starved of natural light. Stephen Kaye's project proposes a way to bring daylight to these subterranean worlds. particularly those surrounding Penn Station in New York. The plan

calls for strategically placed glass openings at street level that would funnel light downward and connect commuters with the city above. newschool.edu/parsons

38 PROJECT: THE CAVE DESIGNER: GONZALO VAÍLLO MARTÍNEZ SCHOOL: ETS AROUITECTURA Y GEODÉSIA. UNIVERSIDAD DE ALCALÁ. MADRID

The ominously named Cave explores the valuable yet untapped real estate surrounding London's Tate Modern. At the heart of this ambitious plan lies a buried auditorium with various entryways that lead theatregoers through a labyrinth of pathways. Above ground, the only sign of what's happening below are the geometric skylights that break through to the park. uah.es