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Zaha Hadid may have nabbed the ultimate prize – World Building of the Year – for her MAXXI museum in Rome, but the WAF awards in Barcelona celebrated a multitude of projects around the world.

More than 1,000 architects gathered last week at the Centro de Convenciones Internacionales de Barcelona to compete in more than 20 categories and take home the ultimate prize: WAF's prestigious World Building of the Year award.

Over three days, a shortlist of over 200 architectural projects from countries including Kuwait, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Singapore were presented to a star-studded panel of 66 judges featuring the likes of Will Alsop, Hanif Kara, Arata Isozaki, Barry Bergdoll and Enrique Norten.

Here are the highlights:

Besides being crowned World Building of the Year, **Zaha Hadid's** MAXXI museum in Rome also captured the top honour in the completed cultural building category.

AZURE

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Future Project of the Year was awarded to California firm **Suisman Urban Design**'s The Arc, a design for a rail and infrastructure line linking the West Bank and Gaza. The proposal also won the top prize in the Masterplanning in the Future Projects category.

The Interiors and Fit Out of the Year award went to Australian firm **Hassell** for its ANZ Centre in Melbourne, one of the biggest environmentally friendly financial institutions.

From over 200 entries, judges awarded Harvard's **Robin Bankert, Michael Murphy, Caroline Shannon** and **Joseph Wilfong** with the AECOM \$16,000 student prize for their proposal to create community learning hubs, equipped to teach carpentry, basic construction and agronomy, to those affected by the earthquake in Haiti.

Structural Design of the Year was awarded to London's **MUMA** for its V&A Medieval Renaissance Galleries. The renovation project also received an Art and Work Award. The AWA program celebrated its 25th year at WAF by honouring four projects for art-related contributions. These included fellow London firm **Canary Wharf Group** for its corporate art collections and programs; **Barbara Neijna**'s commissioned work the Miami International Airport; and **Frankfurt's Deutsche Bank** for outstanding art in the workplace – the financial institution had developed its coveted collection over the last 40 years.

The full list of winners from the World Architecture Festival can be found at



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OLYMPIC DESIGNER, ARCHITECT RECEIVES ACCOLADES AND AWARDS

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A few months ago, his design for the medals won a prestigious award from I.D. Magazine, a magazine of industrial design.

On Tuesday, Arbel, 34, was notified that one of his house designs was shortlisted by the World Architecture Festival, scheduled for Barcelona, Spain in November.

And on Wednesday, Arbel was named the winner of the \$10,000 Ronald J. Thom award for early design achievement, which recognizes "exceptional talent and achievement in the field of architectural design."



Arbel said he was stunned and pleased to win the Thom Award, which involved a peer review of selected works.

"It is just a great honour, but I am even more touched by the comments of the jury which reviewed the works," he said. "I had not expected to win."

The jury applauded Arbel's dedication to the tenets of architectural and industrial design.

"Omer Arbel creates an extensive range of objects, from practical to symbolic, with wonderful playfulness. He roots his designs in concept, engages the properties of a broad palette of materials and clearly values engineering," the jury wrote. "A deep interest in both serial production and custom fabrication allows him to expand beyond the normal bounds of professional architectural practice."

The award is presented by the Canada Arts Council every two years to an emerging architect and designer.

Arbel opened Omer Arbel Office five years ago. A number of his designs border or even embrace art; a futuristic chair he designed at age 28 called Chair 2.4 has already become a collectors' item. Arbel said he made 20 of them and the last one sold a few years ago for \$12,000.

Arbel worked with Musqueam First Nation artist Corinne Hunt to design the Olympic and Paralympic medals.

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5th August 2010

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BY JEFF LEE, VANCOUVER SUN AUGUST 5, 2010

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Industrial designer Omer Arbel (left) and artist Corrine Hunt designed medals for the winners of Winter Olympic and Paralympic events in Vancouver. Photograph by: Ian Smith, Vancouver Sun, Vancouver Sun

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Olympic designer, architect receives accolades and awards

By Jeff Lee, Vancouver Sun August 5, 2010



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Photograph by: Ian Smith, Vancouver Sun, Vancouver Sun

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