



Iran



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● Vali-Asr Commercial Office Building, Iran wins World's Best Office Building at World Architecture Festival Awards 2010

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- 'It is a jewel of a building within an intense urban environment' -

Vali-Asr Commercial Office Building, Iran, designed by Kelvan, Iran has won the 'World's Best Office Building' award at the prestigious World Architecture Festival Awards (WAF Awards) 2010.

The two-storey commercial office building, located in a busy retail district in Tehran, is finished with a contrast of black and white longitudinally cut stones of Brazilian marble.

The presentation of the WAF Awards is taking place during the biggest global celebration of architecture - the World Architecture Festival, which is being held at the Centre Convencions International Barcelona (CCIB) this week.

It was chosen by some of the world's most distinguished architects and renowned industry experts, beating off competition from a shortlist of 16 entries.

The jury said: "This small, highly refined project provides a sophisticated response to its urban context, and a surprising and intelligently crafted treatment of its principal material - marble - on both external and internal facades. This is jewel of a building within an intense urban environment."

Speaking at the WAF Awards 2010 Paul Finch, WAF Programme Director, said: "World Architecture Festival brings international architecture to the forefront, against the backdrop of Barcelona's breathtaking architecture. Yet again we received a huge response to the fiercely contested WAF Awards, with over 500 entries from 61 different countries. The geographical range and quality of this year's designs were exceptionally high, with a great deal of entries from "new" economies, both by local architects and international practices. Our congratulations go to the winners for a project that is truly exceptional."

The WAF Awards see unsung local buildings take on internationally acclaimed projects in what is the world's biggest architecture contest. Unlike other architectural competitions, architects present their work in front of leading industry judges and a live public audience as they compete for the accolade of 'World Building of the Year'.

This is the 3rd year the World Architecture Festival Awards have been presented. Previous winners include 'World Building of the Year 2008' - Luigi Bocconi University, Milan, designed by Irish practice Grafton Architects and 'World Building of the Year 2009' - Mapungubwe Interpretation Centre in South Africa, designed by Peter Rich Architects of Johannesburg.