The Versailles Prize opens up to international candidates

By Lucile Deprez - May 3, 2016

The Versailles Prize was created in 2015 and it is about to reveal its second edition's nine winning projects. This year they will not be exclusively French, since applications have been opened up to international candidates. The projects were submitted from Europe, Asia, North and South America.

Another novelty is that, unlike in the previous edition, the prizes will be awarded by category: restaurants, stores and hotels. A general prize will recognise a designer in the category, and two special mentions will be awarded, one for the venue's interiors and one for the exteriors.

The 2016 jury will be presided by François de Mazières, the mayor of Versailles and the first President of the Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine (the city of architecture and heritage), officiating alongside architects Paul Andreu, Toyô Itō and Rudy Ricciotti, Chinese fashion designer Guo Pei, philosopher Gilles Lipovetsky, Michelin-starred chef Anne-Sophie Pic and the former Joint Director of the World Heritage Centre, Minja Yang, representing UNESCO.

Before the prize-giving ceremony, to be held on 27th May at UNESCO's Paris headquarters, a series of architecture and commerce workshops will be organised in order for the participating professionals to exchange views on the 'venues and experiences' theme.

On its first edition in 2015, the Versailles Prize was awarded to the Citynove property company, for the Galeries Lafayette Bourse department store in Marseilles.

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