



DIVIA PRESS RELEASE

At yesterday's launch event of **Diversity in Architecture**, a non-profit organization founded in June 2021, at the **DAZ Berlin**, the Chairs **Dr. Ursula Schwitalla** and **Christiane Fath** announced the **jury** and other protagonists for the new **international architecture award for women architects**.

The goal of the **DIVIA Award** is to promote the visibility of women in the industry. The biennial prize will be awarded for the first time in Germany. The ceremony will take place in May 2023 in Berlin and in Venice, coinciding with the 18th Architecture Biennale in Venice. The winner will be given **€20.000**, while the five architects from the shortlist are expected to be honored in a publication in cooperation with Hatje Cantz Publishing and in a touring exhibition in Vienna, São Paulo, and Berlin.

The **jury** for the first two awards 2023 and 2025 consists of distinguished members:

Martha Thorne is Dean of IE School of Architecture and Design in Madrid and the former director of the Pritzker Architecture Prize. For three years, the American architect, curator and author was part of the International Archive of Women in Architecture.

Sol Camacho is a Mexican born architect. In 2011 she founded her studio RADDAR, where exclusively women are employed. As the cultural director of Instituto Bardi / Casa de Vidro in São Paulo, she is responsible for cultural events and exhibitions.

Odile Decq is a French architect and city planner. Since the 1980s she has been running her award-winning studio in Paris. 2014 she founded the Architecture school Confluence Institute for Innovation and Creative Strategies in Architecture.

Hashim Sarkis (tba) was born in Lebanon. The architect is Dean of the MIT School of Architecture and Planning in Massachusetts. Since 1998 he has been running Hashim Sarkis Studios in the US and in Lebanon.

Sir David Adjaye, OBE (tba) is a Ghanaian-British architect and Founder of Adjaye Associates, which operates globally with studios in Accra, London, and New York. In 2021 Adjaye was announced the winner of Royal Gold Medal, which recognizes an individual's or a group's substantial contribution to international architecture.

Further contributors include **Ambassadors Annabelle Selldorf, Regine Leibinger, Angelika Fitz** and **Dirk Boll** as well as **Donators COPRO, Zaha Hadid Architects**, the media partner **World-Architects** and the **Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building**.

„It's a pleasure to be part of the first jury for the Diversity in Architecture Award. I am passionate about architecture, I am also passionate about opening up the field to new talent,

to talent especially from women and other minorities. They have so much to contribute to the field, and [they] have been neglected in the past. The best way forward is [to] bring diversity into everything we do to create the most rich, interesting and positive ways forward,” said Martha Thorne at yesterday’s event.

Why do women architects not receive the recognition their work deserves?

The current global imbalance between award winning men and women in architecture amounts to 20 to 80 per cent. If you add up the increasing number of awarded women architects since the 1980s, it becomes clear that an equal number can only be achieved by 2080.

“We must change that. The prize should acknowledge and recognize the work of women,” said Dr. Ursula Schwitalla, the Chair of the NPO that awards the prize. She is the curator of the lecture series ‘Architecture Today’ at Tuebingen University and the editor of the book *Women in Architecture*, which was published in German and in English with Hatje Cantz Publishing in 2021.

“60% of architecture students in Germany are women, but only 34% are practicing architects and a mere 10% have their own studio. We want to inspire young, emerging female architects by honoring their role models.”

To achieve this goal, the art historian has partnered with her colleague, Diversity in Architecture’s Deputy Chair Christiane Fath. The qualified architect and curator has studied in Italy, Germany, and Syria, and has been scouting for talented newcomers for the last 20 years. In 2021 she co-curated the exhibition and the book *Architektinnen · BDA* published with Jovis, which introduces 50 female BDA architects.

“The potential of young, creative women in architecture is valuable and essential for our society,” said Fath, who runs her interdisciplinary studio C.FATH Architecture Communication, with the focus on architecture concepts.

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