AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Zaha Hadid’s MAXXI Museum in Rome won the Royal Institute of British Architects’ 2010 Stirling Prize. The massive structure, which towers over former barracks and industrial warehouses, topped Rick Mather’s addition to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, U.K., and the restored Neues Museum in Berlin, by David Chipperfield. Chipperfield, however, got his due soon thereafter, when he was named RIBA’s 2011 Royal Gold Medalist.

At the 12th edition of the Venice Architecture Biennale, the international jury, which included Japanese architect Arata Isozaki and Italy’s Joseph Grima, awarded five Golden Lions. The prize for best national participation went to the Kingdom of Bahrain (the first Gulf state to enter), whose pavilion of reconstructed fishing huts explores the country’s relationship with its coast. The best project award was handed to Junya Ishigami + Associates, for its Architecture As Air: Study for Château la Coste installation; and the Silver Lion for promising young participant went to the team effort by Office Kersten Geers David Van Severen and photographer Bas Princen, for the seven vaulted rooms they furnished with photos of building relics and their own unbuilt works. Architect Rem Koolhaas of OMA was crowned with the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement.

The Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario has announced its 2010 Awards of Excellence. Project of the year went to One Kids Place in North Bay, by Anne Carlyle of Carlyle Design Associates. Three projects in and around Toronto each won an award of merit and a second merit prize for sustainable design: Leon’s Furniture at the Roundhouse, by Danielle Josette Interior Design; the Air Miles Reward Program customer care centre, by Figure 3; and the Green Grind coffee shop, by HOK. Other double winners included Anna Simone of Cecconi Simone, for a condo model suite and a condo sales centre, both in Toronto; Valerie Gow of Gow Hastings, for the Ryerson School of Interior Design, and the Canadian Centre for Culinary Arts and Science at Humber College; and Don Parker of Cannon Design, for a Durham Region courthouse and the Richmond Olympic Oval in Vancouver. To view the full list, visit arido.ca.

For the 2011 Contract World Award, the judges—who included Kim Herforth Nielsen of 3XN and Anne Lacaton of Lacaton and Vassal Architects—whittled down 525 submissions to 12. Among the winners are Wiel Arets Architects, for the V Tower in Eindhoven, the Netherlands; Jürgen Mayer H., for an exhibition on sustainability in Wolfsburg, Germany; and Neri&Hu Design and Research Office, for the Waterhouse at South Bund, a boutique hotel in a former Japanese garrison. The awards will be presented in January at Domotex, in Hanover, Germany. For the full list, see contractworld.com.

Harvard professor Gerald Frug has won the James Stirling Memorial Lectures on the City competition, sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Architecture and the Cities Programme of the London School of Economics and Political Science. Frug’s study, “The Architecture of Governance,” addresses the challenges inherent in urban organization.

BIG MOVES

In September, Alasdair Willis announced his resignation from Established & Sons, the British furniture manufacturer he co-founded in 2005. Maurizio Mussati has been promoted to CEO in his stead. Willis is focusing on his creative consultancy, Announcement, which boasts Estée Lauder and Adidas as clients.

George Kordaris, formerly of Humanscale International, has been named CEO of Moroso USA. He will manage the Italian furniture company’s business in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and South America.
Design journalist and critic Aric Chen is the new creative director of the inaugural Beijing Design Week in 2011, a six-day festival taking place next September.

Bob Johnston, former director of corporate relations at Herman Miller, has been named executive director of the Tropical Forest Foundation, a non-profit organization that delivers educational programs on sustainable forest management.

Esteemed Santa Monica architecture firm Pugh + Scarpa is no more: partner Gwynne Pugh has resigned to launch Gwynne Pugh Urban Studio, while co-founder Lawrence Scarpa and principal Angela Brooks will continue on as Brooks + Scarpa.

At SCI-Arc in California, director Eric Owen Moss has announced the appointment of three new faculty members: architect HsinMing Fung of Hodgetts + Fung will serve as director of academic affairs; Hernan Díaz Alonso, principal of Xefirotarch, has been named graduate programs chair; and John Enright of Griffin Enright Architects is the new chair of the undergraduate program.

Shortly after the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto became OCAD University this fall, the school announced that local firm Bruce Mau Design will develop its new brand identity.

Inscape, a Canadian manufacturer of workplace systems, announced the purchase of New York’s Acme Architectural Walls, a designer and manufacturer of demountable office partitions.

DESIGN WEB

Adobe Systems launched the Adobe Museum of Digital Media, an online resource that will make works of visual art, design, architecture and social media available 24/7, complete with a forum on how digital media influence culture, society and design. Adobe.com

New York textile manufacturer Designtex has opened an online store, where it’s currently selling WriteUp h2o (a water-based dry-erase paint) and the Common Threads rug collection, as well as discounted upholstery and wall-coverings at its digital “outlet.” store.designtex.com

The New Buildings Institute has just published an updated version of its Advanced Lighting Guidelines – the first since 2003. Intended for professionals and students alike, ALG features expanded chapters on the importance of daylighting, and new technological improvements in lighting controls. Download the new edition at advancedbuildings.net.

GREEN GOODS

President Barack Obama plans to install solar panels atop the White House’s living quarters. In so doing, he follows in the environmentally conscious steps of former U.S. presidents Jimmy Carter and George W. Bush. The former installed solar panels only to have them torn down by Ronald Reagan; and the latter employed photovoltaics to power a maintenance building and heat the pool.

Inspired by the fisherman who work on its coast, the Kingdom of Bahrain’s installation won an award at the Venice Architecture Biennale.