

Press Release

Cologne, Germany 26th October 2021

Prize-winning projects from all over the world

IOC, IPC AND IAKS AWARD INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE PRIZES

At the festive gala on 26 October 2021, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS) present the much-coveted medals for exemplary sports and leisure architecture.

Experts from the architectural world gathered to recognize facilities that push the envelope of sporting and leisure facilities. Four Gold, seven Silver and seven Bronze winning facilities are awarded the prestigious accolade. Seven additional facilities received the IPC IAKS Distinction for accessible sports facilities. Showcasing the future of sports architecture, five student projects have been awarded for their originality and inventiveness.

The jury had their work cut out, with 86 projects in contention from all corners of the globe. Countries included Canada, Japan, Montenegro, Peru, Syria and the USA, showcasing extraordinary design and functionality. Among the winners this year were interesting and eye-catching projects such as community parks, ice rinks, and an acclaimed ski resort on top of a waste-to-energy plant.

Special praise

Certain architectural firms have been commended multiple times for their extraordinary work. Both HCMA Architecture + Design and Opsi Architecture are recognized in two categories with projects in Canada and USA respectively, while Australia-based COX Architecture is represented three times.

Five exemplary projects have been selected in Canada, ranging from golf courses to community centres. Australia is also strongly represented with tennis courts, clubs and stadiums. Focusing on tomorrow, the jury has selected a significant number of sustainable projects that are in sync with the environment, an important theme in the sporting world, which also is the theme of the IAKS Congress "Developing healthy and sustainable communities".

International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities
Internationale Vereinigung Sport- und Freizeiteinrichtungen e.V.
Eupener Straße 70 | 50933 Köln | Germany

Phone +49(0)221-1680-23-0 | Fax +49(0)221-1680-23-23
Email info@iaks.sport | Internet www.iaks.sport

Non-Profit Organisation | President: Dr Stefan Kannevischer
Register of Associations VR 5754 | District court Cologne
Eingetragen im Vereinsregister des Amtsgerichts Köln, VR 5754

IBAN DE60 3705 0198 0008 6723 96 | BIC COLSDE33XXX
Tax ID DE123489710

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IAKS in partnership with the IPC strongly emphasizes inclusion, and hence several projects have been given a distinction for accessibility. These projects are based in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Montenegro, Sweden and the UK. The projects focus on diverse aspects of well-being and active living, working towards inclusion in every sphere.

Mission of competition

The IOC IAKS Awards and the IPC IAKS Distinction are the most sought-after prizes for sports, leisure and recreational facilities. Since 1987, the architecture prizes have been presented every two years in recognition of firms and facilities for their exemplary design, function and innovation. The IOC IAKS Award brings to public attention exemplary buildings and complexes that integrate sensible sustainability and innovation, strong functional planning and exceptional architectural design.

The IPC IAKS Distinction aims at increasing the accessibility of all sports and leisure facilities and architectural structures to offer all people opportunities to practise and view sport freely and without barriers.

Eligibility

Newly built facilities were entitled to enter the competition. The eligibility also extended to facilities with extensions, modernizations, rehabilitation or conversions of existing buildings. The facilities had to be erected between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2020 and had to have their doors open to the public for at least a year in order to be in the running for the award. Temporary venue infrastructures (e.g. demountable or relocatable infrastructure for major sports events) were also eligible to enter the competition.

Competition categories

Submissions were classified into the following six categories:

- Major outdoor stadiums
- Community outdoor grounds and public areas
- Multipurpose halls and major arenas
- Indoor facilities for sports, leisure and recreation
- Pools, spas and wellness facilities
- Specialised facilities for sports, leisure and recreation

International interest in the Architecture Award for Students and Young Professionals

For the sixth time running, the IOC, IPC and IAKS are presenting the Architecture and Design Award for Students and Young Professionals for innovative designs and strategies for sports and leisure facilities. This competition is a great platform and targets young architects, landscape architects and designers who are still studying, or fresh professionals who are in the first years of their careers.

Submissions with interesting designs and concepts came from all around the world, including Burkina Faso, Japan, Malaysia, Peru, Poland, South Korea, and Switzerland among others. The 2021 IOC IPC IAKS Architecture and Design Award for Students and Young Professionals highlights concepts by architects and designers who will be spearheading architectural spaces for active lifestyles.

The jury awards the Gold medal to a project in China, the Silver medal goes to Peru, and three projects from Canada, Japan and Poland receive the Bronze medal.

Winners in 2021 are:

IOC IAKS Award Gold and IPC IAKS Distinction

- Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London, United Kingdom
Architect: Populous

IOC IAKS Award Gold

- CopenHill, Copenhagen, Denmark
Architect: BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group
- Aquaticum Waterpark, Debrecen, Hungary
Architect: BORD Architectural Studio
- Ariake Gymnastics Centre, Tokyo, Japan
Architect: Nikken Sekkei + Shimizu Corporation

IOC IAKS Award Silver and IPC IAKS Distinction

- Queensland Country Bank Stadium, Townsville, Australia
Architects: COX Architecture and Counterpoint Architecture

IOC IAKS Award Silver

- Ruit Multifunctional Shooting Hall, Ostfildern-Ruit, Germany
Architect: Kauffmann Theilig & Partner
- Hidden Creek Community Centre, Hillsboro, United States
Architect: Opsi Architecture
- Helsinki Olympic Stadium, Helsinki, Finland
Architects: K2S Architecture and Architects NTT
- Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne, Australia
Architect: COX Architecture
- Parc des Saphirs Ice Rink, Boischatel, Canada
Architect: ABCP Architecture
- Concord Community Pop-Up Park, Vancouver, Canada
Architect: PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc.

IOC IAKS Award Bronze and IPC IAKS Distinction

- Pep Park 100 M PEP, Solna, Sweden
Architect: Outer Space arkitekter

IOC IAKS Award Bronze

- Game Streetmekka Aalborg, Aalborg, Denmark
Architect: JAJA Architects
- Camp del Ferro Sports Center, Barcelona, Spain
Architects: AIA Activitats Arquitectòniques and Barceló-Balanzó Arquitectes and Gustau Gili Galfetti
- The Pavilion, Bend, United States
Architect: Opsi Architecture
- Clayton Community Centre, Surrey, Canada
Architect: HCMA Architecture + Design
- Paracelsus Pool and Spa Facility, Salzburg, Austria
Architect: Berger+Parkkinen Architekten
- Montréal Golf Exécutif Clubhouse, Montréal, Canada
Architect: Architecture49

IPC IAKS Distinction

- Ken Rosewall Arena, Sydney, Australia
Architect: Cox Architecture
- Freiham Sports Park, Munich, Germany
Architects: Georg Scheel Wetzels Architekten and Lützwitz 7 Müller Wehberg Landschaftsarchitekten
- Minoru Centre for Active Living, Richmond, Canada
Architect: HCMA Architecture + Design
- Coogee Surf Life Saving Club, Coogee, Australia
Architect: Allen Jack+Cottier Architects
- Almeaun Flowpark, Büren, Germany
Architect: Maier Landschaftsarchitektur / Betonlandschaften
- Bemax Arena, Podgorica, Montenegro
Architect: DBA Architects Ltd.
- UFRJ Rugby, Hockey and Swimming Centre, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Architect: Effect Architectura

The winners of the “2021 IOC IPC IAKS Architecture and Design Award for Students and Young Professionals” are:

Gold:

Low Line Sports Park, Jianyang, China.
Designed by Zeng Wujingting.

Silver:

Moyobamba Sports and Recreation Center, Moyobamba, Peru.
Designed by Enrique M. Galvez Gonzales.

Bronze:

Sport Science & Digital Art Arena, Osaka, Japan.
Designed by Ryo Kobayashi, Tsuyoshi Utagawa and Yuki Saito.

The Granville Gateway, Vancouver, Canada.
Designed by Narita Reyes Ico.

VARSO SPORT, Warsaw, Poland.
Designed by Marlena Michalska, Anna Czaplá and Filip Gawin.

Videos of the awarded projects:

www.youtube.com/user/IAKSeV1965/videos

Photos of the awarded projects and the prize-giving ceremony:

<https://iaksev.box.com/s/ejam9mtdm0v0a0rnm3ytruzf7rmiizco>

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Your contact:

IAKS International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities
Mrs Silke Bardenheuer
Eupener Str. 70
50933 Cologne / Germany
Tel: +49 221 / 168023-11
Fax : +49 221 / 168023-23
bardenheuer@iaks.sport
www.iaks.sport

The International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS) was founded in Cologne/Germany in 1965. It is the only non-profit organization concerned globally with the subject of sports and leisure facility development and has been awarded the status of a Recognized Organization by the IOC. The IAKS makes up a global network of first-hand expertise for design, construction and management of sports and leisure facilities. The IAKS regularly holds specialized conferences and educational seminars. Since 1967, IAKS has been publishing “sb”, the world’s foremost specialist magazine for sports architecture and the construction, modernization and management of sports and leisure facilities.