

# TERRA AWARD

First international prize for earthen contemporary architectures  
Exhibition and related catalogue – Free access data base

Earth architecture, using a construction material with low embodied energy widely available across the globe, has become increasingly popular. More and more contemporary projects of high technical and aesthetic quality emerge over the five continents offering, among others, a solution to the needs for ecological and affordable housing. Promoting a rapid recognition of these buildings by the profession and general public requires a communication that value all the stakeholders.

The Research unit **LABEX AE&CC-Lab CRAterre-ENSAG**, the **amàco** project, the **Grands Ateliers**, the **CRAterre association** and **EcologiK/EK** magazine took the initiative under the auspices of the **UNESCO Chair** « Earthen architecture, construction cultures and sustainable development » and as part of the **TERRA 2016 World Congress**, to launch the **TERRA Award**, first international prize for earthen contemporary architectures.

## CONTEXT

Since its creation in 1979, the CRAterre-ENSAG laboratory is internationally considered as the reference centre for research and training on earthen construction.

In July 2016, under the auspices of the UNESCO Chair for Earthen architecture, it will organize the **TERRA 2016 World Congress**, which takes place every four years on a different continent and will be held for the second time in Europe. This event is expected to draw in Lyon a thousand of professionals, teachers and researchers.

It is within this framework that the **TERRA Award** was initiated. It is the **first international prize for earthen contemporary architectures** and the logical continuation of the national award launched in 2013 by CRAterre-ENSAG, AsTerre and *EcologiK/EK* magazine.

## OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the TERRA Award is **to identify and distinguish outstanding projects**, but also to highlight both the courage of the project owners who have chosen earth, the creativity of the designers and the skills of the craftsmen and the entrepreneurs.

**A travelling exhibition** will feature 40 buildings from all continents, made with different techniques (adobe, cob, CEB, rammed earth, plasters, etc.) for all types of programs : housing, public facilities, activities, exterior and interior designs. This exhibition will be accompanied by lectures and workshops by CRAterre-ENSAG and the amàco project.

The search for exemplary achievements to nourish this prize and the associated exhibition will create the first **database** on earthen contemporary architecture. This virtual library will be available to general public and professionals through the website:

[www.terra-award.org](http://www.terra-award.org)

All documents will be published in three languages :  
French, Spanish and English.

## STAKEHOLDERS: ATELIER TERRA

The stakeholders of the TERRA Award, the exhibition and the database, are grouped within the Atelier TERRA. This organization brings together members of the CRAterre-ENSAG laboratory and the amàco project, students and alumni of the DSA-Terre (Advanced Diploma for Earthen Architecture) and the Master's programme "Architecture and construction cultures" from the ENSA (School of Architecture) in Grenoble, students from other architecture schools, international architects and engineers experts on the subject, etc.

The common goal, under the coordination of Dominique Gauzin-Müller, is to create a new dynamic for the dissemination of knowledge about earthen contemporary architecture.

## INVOLVED PROJECTS

Achievements proposed in this list must have been implemented **after January 2000**.

The **eight categories** cover all types of programs, both new and renovated :

- Individual housing
- Collective housing
- Scholar and sporting public infrastructures
- Cultural public facilities
- Activity building
- Interior layout and design
- Exterior design, art and landscape
- Architecture and local development

## SELECTION

Two juries will group **great international witnesses** along with representatives of institutions and all stakeholders within the earth sector :

- Phase 1, nomination of **40 buildings**, which will be presented within a travelling exhibition;
- Phase 2, a jury of honour will choose from the preselected buildings **one winner in each of the eight categories**.

The selection criteria go from the **quality of the architecture** to the **enhancement of skills**, going through social and environmental requirements :

- Architectural quality and landscape integration
- Environmental approach and energy performance
- Creativity and innovation
- Technical performance
- Local economy and social intensity
- Enhancement of skills

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

In order for the TERRA Award to become a reality, it needs many godfathers and godmothers. Institutions, companies, professionals, students ... you can participate in several ways:

- by **reporting** interesting **earthen contemporary** projects ;
- by **relaying information** about the call for applications, the results of the prize and the exhibition dates (media, web sites, social networks, word-of-mouth, etc.) ;
- by **writing**, for the inventory of earthen contemporary architecture, **one or more files** describing a project upon the model developed by the Atelier TERRA (see the attached file) ;
- by **providing a space** for the exhibition and organizing its presentation ;
- by **participating to the funding** of the prize, exhibition, catalogue, videos and database, according to the ways and means that will be specified at a later date.

If you want to become a **TERRA Award** partner, the members of the Atelier TERRA will be glad to receive your messages at : [atelier@terra-award.org](mailto:atelier@terra-award.org)

Thank you in advance !

## CALENDAR

	May 29 2015	Launch of TERRA Award during the closing ceremony of the 14 <sup>th</sup> Grains d'Isère festival, organized by CRAterre-ENSAG and the Grands Ateliers in Villefontaine.
	October 26 2015	Closing date for applications
	January 15 2016	Jury in Grenoble to choose 5 to 12 projects per continent among all the participants, 40 all in all, which will be exhibited
	May 2016	Inauguration of the exhibition in Grenoble
	July 10 2016	Jury composed of international professionals representing all the continents in order to determine, among the 40 preselected projects, a laureate for each one of the eight categories
	July 11 2016	Inauguration of the exhibition as a part of TERRA 2016 in Lyon
	July 14 2016	Awards ceremony to the laureate present in Lyon, as part of the closing of TERRA 2016, in order to offer to this prize a symbolic framework and a high visibility among the many professionals and visitors from around the world
	October 6-8 2016	Exhibition presentation at the UNSFA Congress at Biarritz
	2016/2017	Exhibition presentation at the "Maisons de l'architecture", at the "24 heures d'architecture", at the architecture schools, at the French Instituts abroad, etc.