



The Daylight Award ceremony rewards Japanese architect Hiroshi Sambuichi and American researcher Greg Ward for their dedication to daylight

Two hundred professionals within the field of architecture and research gathered at the iconic Rolex Learning Centre in Lausanne, Switzerland on 27 September to honour Japanese architect Hiroshi Sambuichi and American researcher Greg Ward. The two international profiles both received The Daylight Award 2018 and €100,000 for their groundbreaking work and dedication to daylight.

The three philanthropic foundations, VILLUM FONDEN, VELUX FONDEN and VELUX STIFTUNG, present the award, which was given for the first time in 1980 to recognise prominent practitioners in the fields of daylight in architecture and daylight research for the benefit of human health, well-being and the environment. Alongside SANAA, the 2018 laureates follow in the footsteps of e.g. Jørn Utzon (DK), Lacaton & Vassal (FR), James Carpenter (US), Peter Zumthor (CH), Marilyne Andersen (CH), and Steven Holl (US).

In the beautifully sculptured building designed by former Daylight Award laureates Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa (SANAA), the Japanese architect Hiroshi Sambuichi and the American researcher Greg Ward received the honour in front of an enthusiastic international community of architects, researchers, students, representatives from the building sector and invited press.

“The 2018 laureates, Sambuichi and Ward, both brilliantly illustrate the versatility of working with daylight. And, as different as they may seem, they both share a deep commitment to daylight,” says the international jury.

Sambuichi’s buildings serve as a continuous inspiration to the architectural discourse with its extraordinary simplicity and allowing daylight to always be present in its variable life. The breadth of computer scientist Greg Ward’s work has transformed the field of daylight modelling and has empowered thousands of engineers and

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architects to work with daylight in their projects via his computer software. As such, contemplation meets computation and architecture powered by the forces of nature meets powerful software.

Hiroshi Sambuichi: Architecture powered by nature

Hiroshi Sambuichi has been awarded for his ability to balance the relationship between nature and architecture. The movement of earth, wind, air, water, and sun are integral parts in his buildings including the Shizuki Castle House and Naoshima Hall in Japan. As such, his buildings exist in harmony with their surroundings.

As expressed by the jury:

“It is not objectifying light as a singular event, but rather opening our awareness and experience of light to be timeless, fluid and rich.”

Hiroshi Sambuichi comments:

“A close examination of changing wind directions and intensities in daylight influences the site and enables me to understand what kind of architecture is really needed on each location. I am honoured, but also thankful for this recognition of the nature of daylight.”

Sambuichi’s approach to a site is one of great particularity, entailing long-term study and reflection upon the qualities and forces of nature, which are embedded within, and active upon, the site. In pursuit of balance before developing the design, Sambuichi investigates the landscape’s seasonal climate and experiments with physical models on site over one to two years. The architecture thus emerges through these considerations. His works are rooted in the local environment and are manifestations of the skilful use of the moving powers of nature.

The American architect James Carpenter, former laureate of The Daylight Award and member of The Daylight Award jury, describes Sambuichi’s approach:

“All architects speak of the site being important for the work. However, for Sambuichi, there is a much deeper and finer grain to his understanding of the site. It is an understanding that resonates with the forces of the wind, rain, sun and earthen elements, speaking to a more metaphysically sublime.”

Greg Ward: Creator of Revolutionary Software

Greg Ward is the creator of the revolutionary software simulation program, Radiance, which has enabled three

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decades of researchers to imagine the possibilities of daylight. Ward's passion for iterating and improving the software, has led to a strong community of Radiance users who further impact the fields of daylight research and daylight in architecture.

Ward is known as a generous initiator of numerous daylight seminars and engages in personal dialogue with young researchers and PhD students as well as professionals.

Stephen Selkowitz, member of The Daylight Award jury, says:

"The program, which has been in use now for over 30 years, captures all of the subtle interactions that light has with the environment – from how it transfers through glass to how it bounces off surfaces inside a room, to how people actually experience it in an indoor or outdoor space."

Greg Ward says:

"My emphasis has always been on working, practical systems, as opposed to purely academic pursuits. To me this award is an important recognition of much more than my work. It recognises an entire community's contribution to daylight prediction and inclusion in the built environment".

Ward has investigated the interaction of light and matter across a wide range of physical scales, from unique building materials with specialised optical properties, to the spatial definition of complex building interiors and facades, and to our urban and natural environments.

Radiance has been applied variously to architecture, product design, horticulture, thermal simulation, photovoltaics, and health effects. It has also been utilised in unique situations such as assisting astronauts in training to work under the harsh lighting conditions in space.

Swiss researcher Marilyne Andersen, former laureate and chair of The Daylight Award jury elaborates: "Greg Ward has developed the engine that thousands of people – researchers and architects – now use to make decisions and develop further work."

The Daylight Award 2018 was celebrated at a ceremony at The Rolex Learning Centre in Lausanne Switzerland on 27 September 2018.

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About The Daylight Award

The Daylight Award is presented by the philanthropic foundations, VILLUM FONDEN, VELUX FONDEN and VELUX STIFTUNG. The award puts specific emphasis on the interrelation between theory and practice and was originally established by Villum Kann Rasmussen, the inventor of the VELUX roof window.

The foundations support a wide range of non-profit purposes in scientific, social, cultural and environmental projects.

Since 1980, the three foundations have awarded daylight prizes to, among others, Jørn Utzon (DK) (1980), Henning Larsen (DK) (1987), Bob Gysin (CH) (2007), Richard Perez (USA) (2008), Peter Zumthor (CH) (2010), James Carpenter (USA) (2010), Lacaton & Vassal (F) (2011), Gigon & Guyer (CH) (2012), SANAA (JP) (2014), Marilyne Andersen (CH) (2016) and Steven Holl (US) (2016).

Read more: www.thedaylightaward.com

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