

MAXXI and MoMA
for 2011 Young Architects Program

Interboro Partners selected as winner
of the 2011 Young Architects Program at MoMA PS1

stARTT selected as winner
of the inaugural Young Architects Program
at MAXXI, the National Museum of XXI Century Arts, Rome

Interboro Partners' HOLDING PATTERN and stARTT's WHATAMI
to open in the Courtyards of MoMA PS1 and the MAXXI in June 2011

Rome, 17 February 2011. The jury for the YAP MAXXI program met in the MAXXI museum. The members were **Pio Baldi** (President of the Fondazione MAXXI), **Margherita Guccione** (Director of MAXXI Architettura), **Anna Mattiolo** (Director of MAXXI Arte), **Barry Bergdoll** (Chief Curator for Architecture and Design, MoMA), **Pippo Ciorra** (Senior Curator, MAXXI Architettura), **Maristella Casciato** (University of Bologna), **Mario Nanni** (Viabizzuno).

The jury was happy to acknowledge the high quality of all the five entries, and also noted how the projects tend to address similar issues and similar technologies compared to the MoMA-PS1 winner selection: **quality of public space, economy of materials and resources, innovative formal solutions, attention to recycling materials and interaction with the local community.**

After the five presentations and a thorough discussion the jury unanimously chose the project named **WHATAMI** (design group: **stARTT**, Rome). The main motivations individuated by the jurors include: a very effective interaction with the architecture of the museum, the urban context and with the programmed summer activities; the presence of high quality public/garden space for the museumgoers, a clear attitude towards simple and recyclable materials and components.

As in the case of the winner of the MoMA PS1 selection the designers foresee the possibility of donating to the community part of the installation at the end of its lifecycle.

The jury means also to express high appraisal and give an honourable mention to another entry, namely the **MAXXI Cloud** by the British designer **Asif Khan**, for its aim to conceptual innovation, cross investigation of architecture, art and science, essentiality of process.

Description of the winner project for MAXXI_YAP
WHATAMI by **stARTT**

The proposal is based on the manufacturing of an artificial archipelago-hill, generating smaller green areas in the garden and potentially outside the museum. The hill works as a garden injecting green in the "concrete plateau" of the museum outer space, as a stage and/or parterre for concerts and other events, as a space to rest and look at the museum itself. The artificial landscape will be punctuated by hi scale "flowers" providing light, shadow, water, sound etc. The materials proposed for the installation involve two-fold re-cycling process, first in the supplying of the materials for the construction (straw, geotextile, plastic) and then after the dismantling of the "hill" (turf, lighting, etc.).

Description of the winner project for MoMA_YAP
HOLDING PATTERN by **Interboro Partners**

Conceived as a community building project, the project brings an eclectic collection of objects including benches, mirrors, ping-pong tables, floodlights, all disposed under a very elegant and taut rope canopy created by stringing rope from MoMA PS1's wall to the parapet across the courtyard to create an unobstructed space and to incorporate for the first time the entire space of MoMA PS1's courtyard under

a single grand structure. The design creates an environment focusing on the audience as much as the Warm Up performance. A key component of the theme is recycling; objects in the space will be donated to the community at the conclusion of the summer. Incorporating objects that can subsequently be used by these organizations is a means of strengthening MoMA PS1's ties to the local Long Island City community.

Pippo Ciorra: "We're very happy with the results of this program for three main reasons. First: the collaboration with MoMA proved as effective and productive as we hoped, finally allowing us a surprising insight into the most recent research in terms of architecture, public space, landscape. Second: we were able to discover an unexpected positive quality of answers by the Italian and European young (under 35) architects involved in the project, all proposing fascinating, innovative and well developed proposals. Third: we're delighted that we were able to choose a winning proposal which incorporates a maxxi_specific approach to the issues of ecology, recycle, public space"

Barry Bergdoll: "It is exciting both to observe cross currents between emerging designers in North America and in Europe and to choose a very specific response engendered by the particular issues raised by the architecture and outdoor piazza of the new MAXXI To confront the strong architectural presence of Zaha Hadid's museum poses a very different challenge than that presented to American contestants in the courtyard of MoMA PS1. Most of the contestants in Rome, including the winner, set out to introduce an element of fancy, of the provisional and of summertime fun into the heroic courtyard space of the Maxxi museum. stARTT's winning proposal brings elements of artistically produced nature into the concrete landscape, with flower umbrellas, moveable lawns, and an artificial basin, a summer garden for Rome's new contemporary cultural district. Yet like Interboro's project selected in New York stARTT's scheme embodies a new consciousness of community needs".

Margherita Guccione: "We're very happy that the uneven confrontation between the maxxi solid and monumental outer space and the creativity of a young generation of designers generated responses based on irony, lightness, openness, friendliness and a real aim to innovation in architecture. It is also to be emphasized how with projects like YAP MAXXI, in collaboration with MoMA, the museum fulfills his role of a cultural agent committed to create new and productive relations between talent and innovation in our young generations and a worldly stage where our best designers will have access to a open and even confrontations with their international colleagues".

THE OTHER FINALISTS

For MAXXI YAP: **Raffaella De Simone/Valentina Mandalari** (Palermo, Italy); **Ghigos Ideas** (Lissone/Milan, Italy, Davide Crippa, Barbara Di Prete and Francesco Tosi); **Asif Khan** (London, UK); **Langarita Navarro Arquitectos** (Madrid, Spain, María Langarita and Víctor Navarro);

For MoMA PS1 YAP: **FormlessFinder** (New Haven, CT/Brooklyn, NY, Julian Rose and Garrett Ricciardi), **MASS Design Group** (Boston, MA, Michael Murphy), **Matter Architecture Practice** (Brooklyn, NY, Sandra Wheeler and Alfred Zollinger), and **IJP** (London/Cambridge, MA, George L. Legendre).

stARTT – Rome, Italy

stARTT is the brainchild of Simone Capra and Claudio Castaldo and was founded in 2008 to investigate the processes of transformation involving architecture and the territory in general, tackling the reality of the Italian productive fabric. The stARTT projects aim to articulate the relationship between landscape, city, infrastructure and context.

MAXXI – National Museum of XXI Century Arts

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opening hours: 11.00 – 19.00 Thursday and Saturday: 11.00 – 22.00

closed: Mondays, 1 May and 25 December

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