Encouraging Public Recognition:
Lessons from
Architecture Prizes

Martha Thorne
Pritzker Architecture Prize
Zurich, April 2008
The Pritzker Architecture Prize
Founded 1979

To honor a living architect whose built work demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision and commitment, which produced significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture.

Laureates 1979-2008

Philip Johnson 79
Luis Barragan 80
James Stirling 81
Kevin Roche 82
I.M.Pei 83
Richard Meier 84
Hans Hollein 85
Gottfried Böhm 86
Kenzo Tange 87
Gordon Bunshaft
& Oscar Niemeyer 88
Frank O. Gehry 89
Aldo Rossi 90
Robert Venturi 91
Alvaro Siza 92
Fumihiko Maki 93

Christian de Portzamparc 94
Tadao Ando 95
Rafael Moneo 96
Sverre Fehn 97
Renzo Piano 98
Norman Foster 99
Rem Koolhaas 00
Herzog- De Meuron 01
Glenn Murcutt 02
Jørn Utzon 03
Zaha Hadid 04
Thom Mayne 05
Paulo Mendes da Rocha 06
Richard Rogers 07
Jean Nouvel 08
Strengths of the Pritzker Architecture Prize

• Ambitious goals
• Recognized and renowned jury and its process
• Substantial purse
• Pomp and circumstance
• First laureate – Philip Johnson
• Timing

Jury members over the years

J. Carter Brown 1979 – 2002 (Chair)  
Lord Clark of Saltwood 1979 -82  
Cesar Pelli  1979 -82  
Arata Isozaki  1979 -84  
J. Irwin Miller  1979 -84  
Philip Johnson 1981-85  
Thomas J. Watson Jr 1982-86  
Kevin Roche  1983 -91  
Giovanni Agnelli 1984 -2003  
Fumihiko Maki 1985-88  
Ricardo Legorreta  1985-93  
Ada Louise Huxtable 1987-2005  
Lord Rothschild 1987-2004  
(2003-04 Chair)  
Toshio Nakamura 1991-99  
Charles Correa  1993-98  
Jorge Silvetti  1996-2004  
Balkrishna Doshi 2005 - 2007  
Carlos Jimenez  2001-present  
Karen Stein 2004 - present  
Rolf Fehlbaum  2004 - present  
Victoria Newhouse 2005 – present  
Shigeru Ban  2007- present  
Renzo Piano 2007- present  
Lord Peter Palumbo  2005- present  
(Chair)
Award Ceremonies at sites throughout the world
Other Prizes and their goals
Traditional building techniques

Restoration
Appropriate Technology

Contemporary Expressions

Salk Institute, by Louis I. Kahn, at La Jolla, California, 1959 to 1966
Johnson Wax Building, by Frank Lloyd Wright, at Racine, Wisconsin, 1936 to 1939 and 1944

Rockefeller Center, by Raymond Hood, at New York, New York, 1932 to 1940
East Wing, National Gallery, by I. M. Pei, at Washington, D.C., 1974 to 1978

Gateway Arch, by Eero Saarinen, at St. Louis, Missouri, 1947 competition, construction 1961 to 1966