

## Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction

The Holcim Awards recognize and bring to a far wider audience a range of ground-breaking projects that have immediate application, as well as “blue sky” concepts that point the way to the future. The worldwide competition is designed to focus the minds of architects, planners, engineers and project owners on creating innovative construction solutions that truly champion sustainability. The Holcim Awards recognize any contribution to sustainable construction – irrespective of scale – in architecture, landscape and urban design, civil and mechanical engineering and related disciplines.

The Holcim Awards seeks projects and concepts that demonstrate an ability to stretch conventional notions about sustainable building and also balance environmental, social and economic performance – while also exemplifying architectural excellence and a high degree of transferability. The competition celebrates innovative, future-oriented and tangible sustainable construction projects from around the globe and provides prize money of USD 2 million per three-year competition cycle.

There are two categories within the competition. The Holcim Awards (main) category is open to participants of every age for projects at an advanced stage of design with a high probability of execution. A “Next Generation” category is open for project visions at a conceptual level, early stage of design or with a low probability of execution. The “Next Generation” category is open to project author(s) less than 35 years of age at close of entries in the competition.

The Holcim Awards competition is conducted in partnership with some of the world’s leading technical universities. The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) leads the global Technical Competence Center (TCC) of the Holcim Foundation. Other partner universities which host the independent competition juries are: l’École Supérieure d’Architecture de Casablanca (EAC) in Morocco; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, USA; Tongji University in Shanghai, China; and the Universidad Iberoamericana (UIA) in Mexico City, Mexico. The Universidade de São Paulo (USP), Brazil and the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg, South Africa, are associated universities of the Holcim Foundation. The second Holcim Awards competition attracted almost 5,000 submissions. The international nature of sustainable construction is underlined by the geographic spread of entries: projects and concepts for construction in 121 countries were entered by authors from 90 countries. The entries were evaluated by independent regional juries in June/July 2008, leading to regional Awards ceremonies in September/November 2008 in Madrid, Montreal, Mexico City, Marrakech and New Delhi.

In a second phase of the competition, the three Awards winners (Gold, Silver, Bronze) from each region submitted a more comprehensive project overview for evaluation by a global jury in March 2009 – the winners of the Global Holcim Awards Gold, Silver, Bronze, and “Innovation” prizes for projects in Morocco, Vietnam, China and the USA were announced on May 8, 2009.

In the first two cycles of the Holcim Awards competition 2005/06 and 2008/09, a total of 30 main prizes (Gold, Silver, Bronze) have been awarded to projects in 21 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Philippines, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

Details about all Holcim Awards winners 2008/09 are available on the Holcim Awards website. The book *Second Holcim Awards* [ISBN 3-7266-0084-1] published by the Holcim Foundation presents the 52 prize-winning projects of the second competition cycle and represents a global snapshot of contemporary approaches to sustainable construction.

The next (third) cycle of the Holcim Awards competition will open for entries on July 1, 2010.

[www.holcimawards.org](http://www.holcimawards.org)