

# MoMA

# MoMA PS1

## **ESCOBEDO SOLÍZ STUDIO SELECTED AS WINNER OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART AND MoMA PS1'S 2016 YOUNG ARCHITECTS PROGRAM**

### **Escobedo Solíz Studio to Provide the Setting for the Warm Up Summer Music Series in the Courtyard of MoMA PS1**

**New York, February 1, 2016**—The Museum of Modern Art and MoMA PS1 announce Escobedo Solíz Studio as the winner of the annual Young Architects Program (YAP) in New York. Now in its 17th edition, the Young Architects Program at MoMA and MoMA PS1 has been committed to offering emerging architectural talent the opportunity to design and present innovative projects, challenging each year's winners to develop creative designs for a temporary outdoor installation at MoMA PS1 that provides shade, seating, and water. The architects must also work within guidelines that address environmental issues, including sustainability and recycling. Escobedo Solíz Studio, drawn from among five finalists, will design a temporary urban landscape for the 2016 Warm Up summer music series in MoMA PS1's outdoor courtyard.

The winning project, *Weaving the Courtyard*, opens at MoMA PS1 in Long Island City in early June. The architects describe this year's construction as "neither an object nor a sculpture standing in the courtyard, but a series of simple, powerful actions that generate new and different atmospheres." *Weaving the Courtyard* is a site-specific architectural intervention using the courtyard's concrete walls to generate both sky and landscape, with embankments in which platforms of soil and water suggest the appearance of a unique topography. A reflective wading pool will stand at the back of the courtyard allowing visitors to cool off in fresh water. Using the modulation of holes existing in the concrete by the formwork ties from when the walls were originally poured, the architects will weave a textured canopy suspended over the courtyard, or a "cloud" made of contrasting yet colorful ropes. Variations of density will be visible throughout the weaving, inviting visitors to interact and occupy spaces for different periods of time. The woven cloud will provide shade to the visitors below while recasting the courtyard in a bright colored web. As the materials will be largely unaltered by the construction process, they can be re-used at the close of summer.

Founded in 2011, Escobedo Solíz Studio is based in Mexico City and is made up Lazbent Pavel Escobedo and Andres Solíz. Through explorations in materials and construction techniques, demographic research, and integration of the community into the design process, Escobedo Solíz Studio designs projects that aim at a deep sense of site-specificity. They describe their theoretical framework as one in which architecture is not only registered as a product but also as a catalyst to improve a given territory where restrictions become opportunities and preexistent conditions of site, climate, and locality should encourage new and practical solutions.

"This year's finalists of the Young Architects Program explored a range of approaches, materials, and scales to effectively question the MoMA PS1 courtyard as an arena for escape. Escobedo Solíz's ingenious proposal speaks to both the ephemerality of architectural imagery today but also to the nature of spatial transactions more broadly. From the evocative woven canopy that will engage visitors overhead to a reflective wading pool, *Weaving the Courtyard* sensitively brings together elements of MoMA PS1's Warm Up Series with an exuberant collection of zones and environments," said Sean Anderson, Associate Curator in MoMA's Department of Architecture and Design.

Klaus Biesenbach, MoMA PS1 Director and MoMA Chief Curator at Large adds, "This year marks the 40th anniversary of MoMA PS1 and the 17th joint annual competition brought together by the Architecture and Design Department at MoMA and MoMA PS1. The Mexico City-based team will work on a colorful, celebratory intervention that takes its point of departure to be the existing geometric concrete forms in the courtyard of MoMA PS1 simultaneously creating an urban beach of sand, water, and vibrant colors."

The other finalists for this year's MoMA PS1 Young Architects Program were First Office (Andrew Atwood and Anna Neimark), Ultramoderne (Yasmin Vorbis and Aaron Forrest), COBALT OFFICE (Andrew Colopy and Robert Booth), and Frida Escobedo. An exhibition of the five finalists' proposed projects will be on view at MoMA over the summer, organized by Sean Anderson, Associate Curator, with Arièle Dionne-Krosnick, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Architecture and Design, MoMA.

Bloomberg Philanthropies has supported the Young Architects Program since 2007. MoMA PS1 and The Museum of Modern Art are thrilled to announce that this lead sponsorship has been extended for three years, enabling YAP to thrive and excite audiences through summer 2018.

## **SPONSORSHIP**

The 2016 Young Architects Program is made possible by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

## **YAP INTERNATIONAL**

MoMA and MoMA PS1 have partnered with the National Museum of XXI Century Arts (MAXXI) in Rome, Italy, with CONSTRUCTO in Santiago, Chile, and with Istanbul Modern in Istanbul, Turkey (on a biennial cycle) and with MMCA in Seoul, Korea to create international editions of the Young Architects Program.

## **ABOUT ESCOBEDO SOLÍZ STUDIO**

Their main works—the recycled timber chapel and community center in Zoh Laguna (second Place Holcim Awards 2014, Switzerland), the Duplex Housing in Mexico City, and the Research Center in Meztitlan—combine technical and intuitive approaches to offer a unique and relevant answer to existing conditions. Since their early collaborations in university, urban recycling, constructive innovation, social dialog, and participation strategies are the main themes and issues that define and encourage their actual and future projects.

## **HISTORY**

This year marks the 19th summer that MoMA PS1 has hosted an architectural installation/music series in its outdoor galleries, though it is only the 17th year of the Young Architects Program, which began in 2000. The inaugural project was an architecturally based 1998 installation by the Austrian

artist collective Gelatin. In 1999, Philip Johnson's DJ Pavilion celebrated the historic affiliation of MoMA PS1 and MoMA. The previous winners of the Young Architects Program are SHoP/Sharples Holden Pasquarelli (2000), ROY (2001), William E. Massie (2002), Tom Wiscombe / EMERGENT (2003), nARCHITECTS (2004), Xefirotarch (2005), OBRA (2006), Ball-Nogues (2007), WORKac (2008), MOS (2009), Solid Objectives – Idenburg Liu (2010), Interboro Partners (2011), HWKN (2012), CODA (2013), The Living (2014), and Andrés Jaque / Office for Political Innovation (2015).

### **YOUNG ARCHITECTS PROGRAM WEBSITE**

A dedicated YAP International website, [MoMA.org/yap](http://MoMA.org/yap), features the selected proposals and designs from the winner of YAP in New York, as well as the winners of YAP Istanbul Modern, YAP MAXXI, YAP Chile, and YAP Korea. The website also includes an archive of past MoMA/MoMA PS1 YAP finalists and winning proposals, interviews with the curators, and installation videos.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

For the Young Architects Program 2015 selection process, MoMA and MoMA PS1 invited outside experts in the field of architecture, including architects, curators, scholars, and magazine editors, to nominate the finalists from a pool of approximately 25 candidates that included both recent graduates and established architects experimenting with new styles or techniques. After reviewing the candidates, five finalists were selected to present proposals to a panel composed of **Glenn D. Lowry**, Director; **Kathy Halbreich**, Associate Director; **Peter Reed**, Senior Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs; **Martino Stierli**, Philip Johnson Chief Curator of Architecture and Design; **Barry Bergdoll**, Curator, Department of Architecture and Design; **Sean Anderson**, Associate Curator, Department of Architecture and Design, all of The Museum of Modern Art; **Klaus Biesenbach**, Director of MoMA PS1 and Chief Curator at Large, The Museum of Modern Art; **Peter Eleey**, Curator, MoMA PS1; **Pippo Ciorra**, Senior Curator, MAXXI Architettura; **Jeannette Plaut**, Director, YAP\_Constructo; and **Marcelo Sarovic**, Director, YAP\_Constructo.

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#### **The Museum of Modern Art Public Information:**

**The Museum of Modern Art**, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019, (212) 708-9400, [MoMA.org](http://MoMA.org)

**Hours:** Wednesday through Monday: 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday: 10:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Closed Tuesday

**Museum Admission:** \$25 adults; \$18 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; \$14 full-time students with current I.D. Free, members and children 16 and under. (Includes admittance to Museum galleries and film programs). Tickets can be purchase online at a reduced rate of: \$22.50 adults; \$16 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; \$12 full-time students with current I.D. Target Free Friday Nights 4:00–8:00 p.m.

**Film Admission:** \$12 adults; \$10 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D. \$8 full-time students with current I.D. (For admittance to film programs only)

#### **MoMA PS1 Public Information:**

**MoMA PS1:** 22-25 Jackson Ave at the intersection of 46th Avenue in Long Island City, Queens

The public may call 718/784-2084 for additional information or visit [MoMAPS1.org](http://MoMAPS1.org)

**Hours:** Noon–6:00 p.m. Thursday through Monday; closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

**Admission:** \$10 suggested donation; \$5 for students and senior citizens; free for New York City residents\*, MoMA members and MoMA admission ticket holders. The MoMA ticket must be presented at MoMA PS1 within thirty days of date on ticket and is not valid during Warm Up or other MoMA PS1 events or benefits.

*\*Free admission as a Gift to New Yorkers in honor of New York artists, made possible by the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation. Through October 15, 2016 all residents of New York's five boroughs receive free entrance to all exhibitions during regular museum hours; excluding concerts, fundraisers, and ticketed events. Upon arrival please present proof of New York City residency such as a driver's license, state-issued identification card, or a New York City utility bill.*