

# MoMA

# MoMA PS1

## **WEAVING THE COURTYARD, WINNER OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART AND MoMA PS1'S 2016 YOUNG ARCHITECTS PROGRAM, NOW ON VIEW**

**Timed with the Season's Inaugural Warm Up On Saturday, June 11**

**New York, June 10, 2016**—*Weaving the Courtyard*, Escobedo Soliz Studio's winning design for The Museum of Modern Art and MoMA PS1's 2016 Young Architects Program (YAP), is now on view in the MoMA PS1 courtyard. The architects, Lazbent Pavel Escobedo and Andrés Soliz, 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. Founded in 2011, Escobedo Soliz Studio is based in Mexico City. The structure will remain on view through August 21.

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 Soliz Studio, drawn from among five finalists throughout the United States and Mexico, has designed a temporary urban landscape for the 2016 Warm Up summer music series in MoMA PS1's outdoor courtyard.

Through explorations in materials and construction techniques, demographic research, and integration from the community in the design process, Escobedo Soliz 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. As a result, restrictions become opportunities and preexisting conditions of site, climate, and locality encourage new and practical solutions.

Escobedo Soliz Studio applied this integrated methodology to *Weaving the Courtyard*. Using the modulation of the remaining holes in the concrete left by the formwork ties when the walls were originally poured, the architects wove a textured canopy suspended over the courtyard, or a "cloud" made of contrasting colorful ropes. Variations of density are visible throughout the weaving, inviting visitors to interact and occupy spaces for different periods of time. The woven cloud provides shade to the visitors below while recasting MoMA PS1's courtyard in a vivid web. A reflective wading pool quietly stands at the back of the courtyard, allowing visitors to cool off in fresh water. In addition, a mist room allows visitors a momentary escape in which the boundaries between architecture and

environment are blurred. As most of the building materials will be largely unaltered by the construction process, they will be re-used at the close of summer by a number of local companies.

The other finalists for this year's MoMA PS1 Young Architects Program were Los Angeles-based First Office (Andrew Atwood and Anna Neimark), Ultramoderne from Providence, Rhode Island (Yasmin Vobis and Aaron Forrest), COBALT OFFICE in Houston (Andrew Colopy and Robert Booth), and Frida Escobedo from Mexico City. 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 SOLIZ STUDIO**

Their primary works include a recycled timber chapel and community center in Zoh Laguna (second Place Holcim Awards 2014, Switzerland), Duplex Housing in Mexico City, and a Research Center in Meztitlan that combines technical and intuitive approaches to offer a unique response to existing conditions. Since their early collaborations at Mexico's leading university, UNAM, Escobedo Soliz Studio have focused on urban recycling, constructive innovation, social dialog, and participation strategies as dominant themes that define their ongoing 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.

Learn more about *Weaving the Courtyard* in this short video: <https://youtu.be/w1Uz2qTzeeg>.

---

**Press Contact:** Molly Kurzius, (718)392-6447 or [molly\\_kurzius@moma.org](mailto:molly_kurzius@moma.org),  
press\_momaps1@moma.org

For downloadable high-resolution images, register at [MoMA.org/press](http://MoMA.org/press).

[MoMAPS1.org](http://MoMAPS1.org) • [MoMA.org](http://MoMA.org)

**Hours:** MoMA PS1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. It is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. [artbook@MoMA](mailto:artbook@MoMA) PS1 is open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.

**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.*

**Directions:** MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan and is easily accessible by bus and subway. Traveling by subway, take either the E or M to Court Square-23 Street; the 7 to 45 Road-Courthouse Square; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St-Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

**MoMA PS1 Background:** MoMA PS1 is one of the largest and oldest organizations in the United States devoted to contemporary art. Established in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, MoMA PS1 originated from The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, a not-for-profit organization founded five years prior with the mission of turning abandoned, underutilized buildings in New York City into artist studios and exhibition spaces. P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, as it then was known, became an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art in 2000.

### **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

**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).