The ARCHIZINC Trophy

As the 14th edition of our Focus on Zinc magazine goes to press in the form of this special issue dedicated to the third Archizinc Trophy, we are delighted but also somewhat surprised to witness the success of an initiative which originally looked like a gamble. VM ZINC’s ambition was to make its products known by inviting architects who have installed it on their creations to give their frank assessment. It must be said that, in the space of a few years, this prize has taken its place among the significant events on the architectural and building industry calendars.

For VM ZINC, it is a true privilege to organise the Trophy contest, for the discussions and debates among the architects on the jury give us, as industrialists, an opportunity to learn. These meetings take place in a superb atmosphere and are complemented by the very rewarding connections that we make with the winners at the awards ceremony. While many remarks concern “the sophistication of our offer”, “the colour in the zinc” or “collaboration with the VM ZINC teams”, we were certainly most touched by the winner who referred to “a material at the service of architecture”.

The chairman of the jury, Dominique Boudet, commented during the awards ceremony that “it is rare for an industrialist to go so far in helping architects”. This comment is a credit to VM ZINC, as we made this choice with pride 15 years ago and we will continue to honour it in the future.

Christopher Smith
Editor of the publication
The Jury

- Dominique Boudet
  Editor of the architecture journal AMC Le Moniteur Architecture,
  Chairman of the “Trophée ARCHIZINC” Jury - Paris

- Frédéric Borel
  Architect - Paris.

- Jean-Pol Borremans
  Architect, ex-chairman of the Belgian National Institute of Architects, Belgium.

- Luís Dilmé
  Deputy Director of the Dilmé & Fabré Architecture Office, SCP; Architect, Spain.

- Lionel Dunet
  Architect DESA, Chairman of the French National Institute of Architects, France.

- Jacques Fazilleau
  Engineer, graduate of the Ecole Centrale de Paris, Chairman and Managing Director
  of Y Ingénierie, member of the board of SYNTEC Ingénierie, Treasurer of the OPQIBI.

- Nikos Kalogeras
  Architect, professor Emeritus of the polytechnical school of Athens, Chairman of the
  Greek Institute of Architecture, Greece.

- Simone Kosremelli
  B. Arch AUB, MSUP Columbia University, Lebanon.

- Tomasz Markowski
  Architect (ECT), Poland.

- André Mercure
  Architect OQA, DMA - Les Architectes Desnoyers Mercure & Associés, Canada.

- Gilles de Mont-Marin
  Architect, Deputy Director SEMAPA (Paris Construction Authority), France.

- Dominique Queffelec
  Chairperson of ARDORA, Engineering Company specialising in cladding for building
  structures, Paris, France.

- Dirk Jan Postel
  Architect, Senior Partner, Kraaijvanger Urbis, Holland.

- Roger Baltus
  Architect and engineer, Head of Business Expansion – Umicore France.

- Tugay Dindar
  Architect, Design Assistance Office - Umicore France.

- Christopher Smith
  Head of the Sales Support Department and Editor in Chief of FOCUS ON ZINC
  – Umicore France.
In many ways, the third Archizinc Trophy competition was completely in keeping with the previous ones: in the number of submissions, with over 150 projects entered in the competition this year; in its international nature, with 17 countries represented; and by the complete freedom and independence given to the jury by the organiser, VM ZINC, giving free rein to rich and interesting discussions and contributing to the increasing prestige of the prize. From our privileged position as judges at this event, we have studied the diversity and inventiveness of architectural applications in zinc. Over four years, through discussions always carried out in a convivial atmosphere, the jury has honed its skills in evaluating the aesthetics of the creations, the appropriateness of the choice of zinc, the suitability of the technique chosen, the quality of the installation, the contribution of the material to the integration of the projects into the environment, etc. As we have come increasingly to share this expert “eye”, our discussions have taken on a new dimension and our point of view has expanded. From concentrating on the zinc, we have reached the stage today where we see the architecture. Far from being a sign of deviation from our mission, I see this development as confirming the maturity of the prize and the vocation of zinc as an “architectural material” which, in the most successful applications, can subordinate itself to the needs of the building as a whole in order to reveal its meaning.

Dominique Boudet
Chairman of the Jury
Individual Housing
- Winners
  - Bunker House in Hamm (Germany)

- Special awards
  - House in Vriezenveen (The Netherlands)
  - House in Sydney (Australia)

Collective Housing
- Winners
  - University residence in Barcelona (Spain)

- Special awards
  - Social housing in Roosendaal (The Netherlands)
  - Kaairicht residence in Nieuwpoort (Belgium)

Public Buildings
- Winner
  - Geo Center on the island of Møn (Denmark)

- Special awards
  - Vallée de l’Hérault Regional District Council Centre in Gignac (France)
  - Sewage treatment plant in Liège-Oupeye (Belgium)

Commercial Buildings
- Winner
  - Head offices in Oderzo (Italy)

- Special award
  - Cité du Multimédia in Montréal (Canada)

Contents
Special Trophy for Innovation
- House in Viladecans, Barcelona (Spain)

Special Trophy for the Environment
- Student residence in the Vigny-Musset mixed development zone in Grenoble (France)

Special Trophy for Technical Performance
- Brest Airport (France)

Special Trophy for the Jury’s Award
- Public library in Palafolls (Spain)
Individual Housing

- Winner
- Special awards
Individual housing

Bunker House in Hamm (Germany)

Architect(s): Mick Amort

Technique(s): Locally manufactured Cassettes

Aspect(s): ANTHRA-ZINC®

Surface in zinc: 180 sq. m (1,800 sq. ft.)

Net floor area: 150 sq. m (1,500 sq. ft.)

Photos: Paul Kozlowski, France.

Drawings: Mick Amort, Germany.
Living with the past

Buildings from the past are not all equal to the passage of time. Some – pyramids, palaces and monuments – are timeless. Others age gracefully over time or disappear: the stone from old ramparts is used in new buildings. Sometimes however, the past and present manage to unite. Such is the case of this bunker, built in Hamm during the Second World War. The 150 sq. m wood and metal superstructure is entirely devoted to living space, while the thick concrete walls, which enclose the access staircase, provide a natural shelter for the technical installations. The challenge of building a home in such a building was approached by the designer in the same way as constraints thrown up by nature. Age and a covering of ivy had given the concrete structure, designed for defence, a natural, rock-like appearance where the house has settled happily. Its modular design contrasts with the bunker’s monolithic shape, lightness contrasting with bulk, transparency and openness contrasting with opacity. However, the building is not only about contrast. The strong lines of the concrete blocks are reflected in the flowing lines of the ANTHRA-ZINC® cladding, the balustrade rails and the firm outlines of the window surrounds.

The jury’s verdict...

Building on this bunker was a daring and risky idea. The project works thanks to a complex combination of geometry and materials. The colour and smooth surface of ANTHRA-ZINC® offset the rough grey concrete. The flexibility of the preweathered zinc subtly allowed the lines to be extended with wide recessed joints. Thanks to this cladding, the house fits into the exceptional environment of the bunker and gives it a new lease of life.
Winner Individual Housing
Focus on Zinc

Special award

Individual Housing
House in Vriezenveen
(The Netherlands)
Architect(s): Marnix Van Der Meer & Rolf Bruggink, Zecc Architecten
Technique(s): Horizontal standing seam
Aspect(s): ANTHRA-ZINC®
Surface in zinc: 159 sq. m (1,590 sq. ft.)
Net floor area: 500 sq. m (5,000 sq. ft.)

On the same latitude as Amsterdam but close to the German border, Vriezenveen is in the heart of a farming region. Entering the region, one cannot avoid the wheeling and deepening of the landscape. This area is known for its wind, its openness, its sense of space. The homeowner and the architect wanted to keep a share of tradition - a long, low house. And the house is simple: a wooden frame supported by metal posts. The living space is designed functionally: the lower level for adults, the upper level for children. The kitchen is the hub of the house, a meeting space opening to all the other rooms. The bedrooms look out onto the landscape, each one facing a different prevailing wind, hence the marked separation of the upper level volumes towards the front and back. ANTHRA-ZINC® contributes to the harmony of the building particularly at the time of day when the standing seam captures the oblique play of light and shadow, highlighting its linearity.

Four strong winds

The jury’s verdict...
The house stretches out as if to enclose the empty space, in a flat environment devoid of any nearby buildings. The ANTHRA-ZINC®, installed horizontally using the standing seam technique, suggests this expanse rather than stating it ostentatiously.
On the same latitude as Amsterdam but close to the German border, Vriezenveen is in the heart of a farming region which extends north as far as Groningen. In this region of traditional farmhouses, where all kinds of buildings are built today, the owner and the architect wanted to keep a share of tradition - a long, low house – while departing from it by abandoning “the big orange roofs which blot the landscape”.

The house does not attempt any grand gesture and is simply built: a wooden frame supported by metal posts. The living space is designed functionally: the lower level for adults, the upper level for children. The kitchen is the hub of the house, a meeting space opening to all the other rooms. The bedrooms look out onto the landscape, each one facing a different prevailing wind- hence the marked separation of the upper level volumes towards the front and back. ANTHRA-ZINC® contributes to the harmony of the building particularly at the time of day when the standing seam captures the oblique play of light and shadow, highlighting its linearity.
**Special award**

**Individual housing**

House in Sydney (Australia)

*Architect(s):* Fox Johnston

*Technique(s):* Standing seam and Interlocking panel

*Aspect(s):* ANTHRA-ZINC®

*Surface in zinc:* 275 sq. m (2,750 sq. ft.)

*Net floor area:* 350 sq. m (3,500 sq. ft.)

With a view across the ocean to the horizon, and set in a perfectly landscaped garden, this house (which is permanently occupied) has everything the heart could desire. It is designed to please the senses, but is also practical, built with solid, durable materials which require minimum maintenance and take on the patina of time. Bluestone, glass and wood are combined with ANTHRA-ZINC® on the building envelope and in the structure of the interior spaces. The insulation requirements of the owner, who asked for girls’ bathrooms to be on the second floor, were met by installing high-performance insulation in the roof and walls, particularly on the upper storey, where the insulation is encased in the zinc cladding.

*Photos: Brett Boardman, Australia. Drawing: Fox Johnston, Australia.*
The jury’s verdict...
This house is cleverly designed for easy living and is ahead of its time: its thermal inertia and optimal orientation reduce the need for air conditioning and heating. Rainwater is collected and used to water the gardens.

With a view across the ocean to the horizon, and set in a perfectly landscaped garden, this house (which is permanently occupied) has everything the heart could desire. It is designed to please the senses, but is also practical, built with solid, durable materials which require minimum maintenance and take on the patina of time. Bluestone, glass and wood are combined with ANTHRA-ZINC® on the building envelope and in the structure of the interior spaces. These choices reflect the environmental requirements of the owner, who asked the architect to install broad sun screens and high-performance insulation in the roof and walls, particularly on the upper storey, where the insulation is encased in the zinc cladding.

Carpe diem
Collective Housing

- Winner
- Special awards

10 projects nominated

20 projects presented

B+ Arkitekter

Aktis Architecture

GKP Architecture

Holscher Arkitekter
The jury’s verdict...
Using a single material, QUARTZ-ZINC®, solved several questions: the architectural connection between the two buildings, exposure to the sun, the integrity and economy of the main façade... With simplicity and a profound understanding of the material, the architect has succeeded in giving the building true plasticity.
In Barcelona, San Jordi College, the biggest in the city’s university, recently acquired a new building for student accommodation. The new structure had to be integrated into the neighbourhood in accordance with city planning requirements while adjoining the existing buildings although separated from them by an interior garden below street level. Bordering Ricardo Zamora Street, the eight storey building is the highest in this complex and is balanced by the volume of the low block, which is much longer. QUARTZ-ZINC was already installed on the roof of this building using standing seam, and was a natural choice to ensure the unity of the building. The architect applied it in strips to cover the two facades and the roof of the residence. He carried the theme further by using the same material to create unusual, original screens.
Winner Collective Housing
SPECIAL ISSUE N° 4 - ARCHIZINC TROPHY

Special award

**Collective housing**

Social housing in Roosendaal (The Netherlands)

**Architect(s):** Schaap Tjitse, Sturm Architekten

**Technique(s):** Inno-panel produced by the King-Facade Group

**Aspect(s):** QUARTZ-ZINC®

**Surface in zinc:** 2,100 sq. m (21,000 sq. ft.)

**Net floor area:** 3,000 sq. m (30,000 sq. ft.)

Bergen op Zoom is located less than 50 km south of Randstad Holland, one of the most highly populated and industrialised regions in the world. Like most industrial cities today, Roosendaal attempts to solve the equation of the sustainable city with all its sociological, economic and environmental unknowns. On the edge of a built-up neighbourhood and green spaces, this complex of 71 apartments (owner-occupied and rented) aims to combine the best of collective housing and individual houses, providing exemplary solutions for energy saving and environmental protection (high performance insulation, use of certified wood, recycled concrete, etc.). The entrance hall, which connects like a village square, is a place where people pass through or meet (benches are provided) and also opens onto the galleries on the interior facades of the two buildings. By cladding them in QUARTZ-ZINC® Inno-panels, “an aesthetic, soft, light material” the architect was able to unify this complex space while providing a contrast with the exterior facades. The environmental orientation of the project meant that materials were chosen according to their durability and recycling possibilities. This requirement is the result of very strict regulations.


A village atmosphere

Bergen op Zoom is located less than 50 km south of Randstad Holland, one of the most highly populated and industrialised regions in the world. Like most industrial cities today, Roosendaal attempts to solve the equation of the sustainable city with all its sociological, economic and environmental unknowns. On the edge of a built-up neighbourhood and green spaces, this complex of 71 apartments (owner-occupied and rented) aims to combine the best of collective housing and individual houses, providing exemplary solutions for energy saving and environmental protection (high performance insulation, use of certified wood, recycled concrete, etc.). The entrance hall, which connects the two buildings, opens onto the street and houses a double elevator. Like a village square, it is a place where people pass through or meet (benches are provided) and also opens onto the galleries on the interior facades of the two buildings. By cladding them in QUARTZ-ZINC® Inno-panels, “an aesthetic, soft, light material” the architect was able to unify this complex space while providing a contrast with the exterior facades. The environmental orientation of the project meant that materials were chosen according to their durability and recycling possibilities. This requirement is the result of very strict regulations.

The jury’s verdict...

This sober project implemented original solutions to provide quality of life: individualised treatment of the facades, glass roofs over the galleries, structure enabling light to penetrate, etc. Aesthetic reasons aside, it shows how zinc and its advantages have gained ground in environmental applications, for it was chosen here because of its recyclability and the compatibility of the installation system (Innofel panels) with high performance insulation.
The jury’s verdict...
This condominium has the volumes of a large house, and the inspired idea of cladding it entirely in zinc was not devoid of risk. Its success is founded on the proportionate balance between roof and façade and on the quality of the details: roof-gable junction, box gutters, and harmonious terraces.
An island in the heart of the city

Less ostentatious than its neighbour, Ostend, the North Sea harbour of Nieuwpoort is an ambitious town on the move. As a seaside town, it aims to become the leading marina in Europe. As an urban town, rapid real estate growth and development, fuelled by this same desire for movement, is revitalising an urban landscape with a strong classical tradition. In the heart of a neighbourhood dominated by brick buildings, this new approach has brought with it the Kaaizicht residence, an island opening onto two streets, which combines 31 apartments with a shopping mall. The challenge for the architect was to blend in with neighbouring buildings while giving a strong contemporary identity. From the outset, the idea of creating a single block went hand in hand with the choice of QUARTZ-ZINC® to cover the roof and facade. Combined with the use of wood for the windows and balconies, “this material gives the building a special luminosity, which is in harmony with the other buildings”, explains the architect. From the technical point of view, standing seam was ideal for handling the many junctions, perforations and cut-outs.
Public buildings

- Winner
- Special awards

84 projects presented

21 projects nominated
The Møns Klint Geo Center is an invitation to travel back in time by going underground. Inside the chalk cliffs of Møn, a 217 sq. km Danish island south-east of Sjaelland, we can travel back to the Cretaceous period, 70 million years ago. At that time, Denmark did not yet exist, but was being formed by animal and plant debris at the bottom of a warm sea. After the waters retreated and the continents emerged, the glacial period and erosion gave it its present appearance and shaped the abrupt fossil-rich escarpments of the cliffs of Møn, some of which tower above the Baltic Sea from a height of 128 m. Surrounded by a beech forest which is a refuge for rare species, the subterranean Geo Center was built on the east side of the island near an old hotel, which now houses its administrative departments. In an area covering 1,200 sq. m, visitors are invited to discover the geology, flora and fauna of past and present. There are specialised displays: more academic for adults and older children, fun and appealing to all five senses for young children. The only part of the building, constructed entirely of white concrete, to emerge from the ground is the structure, which houses the entrance hall and the cafeteria. Clad in glass and cedar, it is roofed in natural VM ZINC®, which is completely concealed by the roof edge, minimising its impact on the landscape and revealing its kite shape only when viewed from the air.

**Public buildings**
Geo Center on the Island of Møn (Denmark)

Architect(s): PLH Architects
Technique(s): Standing seam
Aspect(s): Natural VM ZINC®
Surface in zinc: 500 sq. m (5,000 sq. ft.)
Total surface: 3,000 sq. m (30,000 sq. ft.)

Photos: Timme Hovind, PLH and Confident Aps, Martin Tørsleff, Denmark.
Drawings: PLH and Confident Aps, Denmark.
The Møns Klint Geo Center is an invitation to travel back in time by going underground. Inside the chalk cliffs of Møn, a 217 sq. km Danish island south-east of Sjælland, we can travel back to the Cretaceous period, 70 million years ago. At that time, Denmark did not yet exist, but was being formed by animal and plant debris at the bottom of a warm sea. After the waters retreated and the continents emerged, the glacial period and erosion gave it its present appearance and shaped the abrupt fossil-rich escarpments of the cliffs of Møn, some of which tower above the Baltic Sea from a height of 128 m. Surrounded by a beech forest which is a refuge for rare species, the subterranean Geo Center was built on the east side of the island near an old hotel, which now houses its administrative departments. In an area covering 1,200 sq. m, visitors are invited to discover the geology, flora and fauna of past and present. There are specialised displays: more academic for adults and older children, fun and appealing to all five senses for young children. The only part of the building, constructed entirely of white concrete, to emerge from the ground is the structure, which houses the entrance hall and the cafeteria. Clad in glass and cedar, it is roofed in natural VM ZINC®, which is completely concealed by the roof edge, minimising its impact on the landscape and revealing its kite shape only when viewed from the air.

The jury’s verdict...
On this site, where the building merges into its surroundings out of respect for the environment, zinc has reverted to its most traditional use: roofs with a low slope. It contributes to the discreet, streamlined appearance of the superstructure, with vertical columns concealing the rainwater downpipes.
Special award

Public buildings
Vallee de l’Hérault Regional District Council Centre in Gignac (France)

Architect(s): Elodie Nourrigat & Jacques Brion (N+B Architectes) & Julien Wafflart, Architecte Associé (Montpellier)

Technique(s): Standing seam
Aspect(s): QUARTZ-ZINC®

Surface in zinc: 5,543 sq. m (55,430 sq. ft.)
Total surface: 4,450 sq. m (44,500 sq. ft.)

Functional

The jury’s verdict...
The urban planning approach which promoted the creation of a “village green” and the volumes of a village went hand-in-hand with a stylistic approach and a balanced economy of materials, which were limited to local stone, wood and QUARTZ-ZINC®: a trio of discreet, noble materials combining harmonious lines (slats and standing seam).
Located less than 30 km from Montpellier, Gignac (population 4,000) faces the Séranne mountains and overlooks the scrubland of the Causse d’Aumelas and the vineyards in the valley. At the entrance to the town, the Carnalce business park, built by the Hérault Valley regional district council, pays homage to these landscapes. The architects wanted to build it like the villages of old — remaining faithful to tradition and avoiding mere imitation. As a result, the buildings are set around a central area like the houses around a village green, and have been designed with the proportions of traditional buildings. The “green” is designed for social activities and is sheltered by the district council building and surrounded by the eight modules of the medical and service buildings. This demonstrates the clearly contemporary register intended by the designers who preferred to think about the siting, orientation and general organisation of space and materials rather than “architectural gesticulation towards aesthetics”. The buildings, designed on the same model but of different lengths, are separated from one another in order to encourage natural ventilation and maintain the dynamics of the central space. The unity of the project is ensured by uniform treatment: the main buildings (facades and roof) are clad in QUARTZ-ZINC®, chosen for its durability, its affinity with the other materials (wood and local stone) and because it can be used without prior treatment. The gable ends are open to the north and south by glassed curtain walls and protected from the sun by wooden slats and broad sun screens which are both functional and elegant.
Special award

Public buildings
Sewage treatment plant in Liège-Oupeye (Belgium)


Technique(s): Standing seam (warm roof) and Flat lock panel

Aspect(s): QUARTZ-ZINC® PLUS (roof), QUARTZ-ZINC® (facade)

Surface in zinc: 1,915 sq. m (19,150 sq. ft.)
Total surface: 4,380 sq. m

The jury’s verdict...
One of the reasons why zinc is an architectural material is that it can adapt to constraints rather than create them. This ability is illustrated here by the oblique installation of the cladding on the exterior surface, which contributes to the impression that the building is bursting into the landscape.

Today, sustainable development and the need for transparency encourage public authorities to provide the public with more and more information about their projects, far as possible, and to engage the local community in the planning process. The Liège-Oupeye sewage treatment plant serves 450,000 inhabitants and the biggest in the country after Brussels. The project was won by the inter-municipal Association for water separation and treatment for the municipalities of the province of Liège (Aide) which has taken this as far as possible, giving the Liège-Oupeye water treatment plant (serving 450,000 inhabitants and the biggest in the country after Brussels) a building for public use with a 150 seat conference room.

Situated opposite the entrance, this building and the adjoining panoramic tower are the only parts of the plant above ground, as the ten 60 m diameter ponds have been constructed like craters. The “educational” building also evokes telluric phenomena: seated obliquely on a base of staggered concrete blocks, which resembles a massive rock, it stamps its silhouette on the horizon - a giant crystal with three transparent facets – in contrast to the matt, mineral surface of its east-facing third facet, clad in QUARTZ-ZINC®. “The layout of the openings and the flat lock panels emphasises the oblique seating of the building,” comment the architects. “This unusual installation meant that special precautions had to be taken to avoid water infiltrating between the zinc panels and collecting at the bottom of the window and door sills. Therefore all the technical details were submitted to and approved by VM ZINC® and full-size mock-ups were made before work began.”

Photos: Ludovic COMBE (AA'E) - France, AAL and Tim Van de Velde - Belgium.
Construction drawings: AAL (Atelier d’Architecture de Lavaux scrl), Belgium.
Today, sustainable development and the need for transparency encourage public authorities to provide the public with more and more information about their projects. In Belgium, the inter-municipal Association for water separation and treatment for the municipalities of the province of Liège (Aide) has taken this as far as possible, giving the Liège-Dupeye water treatment plant (serving 450,000 inhabitants and the biggest in the country after Brussels) a building for public use with a 150 seat conference room. Situated opposite the entrance, this building and the adjoining panoramic tower are the only parts of the plant above ground, as the ten 60 m diameter ponds have been constructed like craters. The “educational” building also evokes telluric phenomena: seated obliquely on a base of staggered concrete blocks, which resembles a massive rock, it stamps its silhouette on the horizon – a giant crystal with three transparent facets – in contrast to the matt, mineral surface of its west-facing fourth facet, clad in QUARTZ-ZINC®. “The layout of the openings and the flat lock panels emphasises the oblique seating of the building,” comment the architects. “This unusual installation meant that special precautions had to be taken to avoid water infiltrating between the zinc panels and collecting at the bottom of the window and door sills. Therefore all the technical details were submitted to and approved by VM ZINC® and full-size mock-ups were made before work began.”
Commercial buildings

25 projects presented

7 projects nominated

- Winner
- Special award
The jury's verdict...
The dimensions and masterly use of QUARTZ-ZINC® for the facade and roof set off the strongly stated plasticity of the building. As a counterpoint, the perfect handling of many details (recessed corners, perforations, etc.) is pleasing to the eye and highlights the architectural potential of the material.
Aerodynamic

The Italian company, NICE SPA, specialising in motorisation systems for doors, gates and shutters and other home automation applications, wanted to symbolise its values and the essence of its business - movement and its transmission - in the design of its head offices. Seen from the south, the building initially gives the impression of a submarine emerging from the long undulating grass. This dynamic theme inspired the design of the complex, particularly the slant of the windows towards the south, reminiscent of the aerodynamics of racing vehicles. In another dimension, the offices are built around an egg-shaped interior courtyard, suggesting rotating rings. The staggering of the windows from one level to the next is mirrored by the layout of the interlocking panels of the cladding. The special link with nature is illustrated perfectly by the location of the head office, leading to the choice of the material “quality” of a QUARTZ-ZINC® skin for the roof and facade.
Winner Commercial buildings
Special award

Commercial building
Cité du Multimédia in Montréal (Canada)
Architect(s): Anik Shooner, Menkès Shooner Dagenais Letourneux (MSDL) Architectes
Technique(s): Flat lock panel
Aspect(s): Natural VM ZINC®, QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface in zinc: 4,000 sq. m (40,000 sq. ft.)
Total surface: 42,500 sq. m (425,000 sq. ft.)

The jury’s verdict...
The QUARTZ-ZINC® blends seamlessly with the other materials and acts as a natural mediator between the clay brick and the glass curtain wall in this complex. The flat lock panel system is combined here with a building approach aiming to reduce the energy consumption of the building.
Fallen into disuse after de-industrialisation and the construction of the Bonaventure highway, the old suburb of Récollets, close to the St Lawrence, in Montreal, took on a new life in the 1990s thanks to dynamic new service industries. Initially converted to house these new businesses, it has since been improved by the construction of modern buildings such as the Cité du Multimédia, built in 2005 and which completes the 8th phase of this ambitious project, more accurately reflecting the vitality of the area. This phase of the Cité du Multimédia, which is made up of two streamlined buildings connected by a glass structure, expresses this seamless renewal by the treatment of the building envelopes. The clay bricks blend with the surrounding buildings, providing the transition with the port area. On the West building, the QUARTZ-ZINC® flat lock panel cladding, combined with glass, forms an immense curtain wall in striated glass giving drivers on the highway the impression of a giant circuit board. Apart from its aesthetics, the complete separation of the supporting framework from the functional sections allowed thermal efficiency and performance specifications to be met. In the same vein, the abundance of windows and the interior open space layout provides 85% of the work desks with direct or indirect natural light, allowing a 40% saving on energy consumption related to artificial lighting.
Special Trophies

- Innovation
- Environment
- Technical performance
- Jury’s award

171 projects presented
7 projects nominated

Mias Arquitectes
**Innovation**

- **Special prize**
  House in Viladecans, Barcelona (Spain)
  **Architect(s):** Blai Pérez Gonzalez, Estudio de arquitectura Tabp
  **Technique(s):** Standing seam and Interlocking panel
  **Aspect(s):** QUARTZ-ZINC®
  Surface in zinc: 300 sq. m (3,000 sq. ft.)
  Total surface: 340 sq. m (3,400 sq. ft.)

**Sculptural house**

Nothing stimulates creativity so much as constraints. Here the plot – a cramped triangle – and exposure to the sun gave rise to a house which is almost a sculpture. Its longest side, overlooking the street, faces south. The building winds around itself in a complex angular spiral, the openings of which light the central space. Freed from the laws of symmetry and apparently overstepping the laws of balance, this house provides 340 sq. m of living space. The rooms are superimposed and distinguished by their shape and height. The light superstructure, built on a metal frame, is supported by a reinforced concrete base. This concession to custom is completely camouflaged by QUARTZ-ZINC® cladding. "Because of its lightness, the QUARTZ-ZINC®, installed using standing seam (roof) and interlocking panel (façade), made it possible not to unbalance the structure and ensure both the cladding and water-tightness.

*Photos: Paul Kozlowski, France. Drawings: Estudio de arquitectura Tabp, Spain.*

**The jury’s verdict...**

The block effect or the complexity of a building, are usually considered as defects that are artificially counterbalanced. The success of this project is the result of harmonious blending of the volume with its material.
Nothing stimulates creativity so much as constraints. Here the plot – a cramped triangle – and exposure to the sun gave rise to a house which is almost a sculpture. Its longest side, overlooking the street, faces south. The building winds around itself in a complex angular spiral, the openings of which light the central space. Freed from the laws of symmetry and apparently overstepping the laws of balance, this house provides 340 sq. m of living space. The rooms are superimposed and distinguished by their shape and height. The light superstructure, built on a metal frame, is supported by a reinforced concrete base. This concession to custom is completely camouflaged by QUARTZ-ZINC® cladding. “This material was envisaged from the outset of the project for aesthetic reasons – it gives the project its cohesiveness – and for constructive reasons,” says the architect. “Because it is light, the QUARTZ-ZINC®, installed using standing seam (roof) and interlocking panel (façade), made it possible not to unbalance the structure and ensure both the cladding and watertightness of the envelope.”
Environment

- **Special prize**
  Student residence in the Vigny-Musset mixed development zone in Grenoble (France)
  
  **Architect(s):** GKP Architecture (Granveaud, Katz, Peresetchensky and Ritvo) and Aktis Architecture
  
  **Technique(s):** Sine Wave profile
  
  **Aspect(s):** QUARTZ-ZINC®

  **Surface in zinc:** 860 sq. m
  (8,600 sq. ft.)

  **Net floor area:** 2,400 sq. m
  (24,000 sq. ft.)

  Photos: Paul Kozlowski and David Boureau, France.
  
  Drawings: GKP Architecture, France.
Nature study

At the beginning of the 1990s, Grenoble began a huge development programme: the Vigny-Musset mixed development zone, situated in the southern districts on the edge of the Olympic Village. The aim of the project was to rebalance the sociological composition of the Southern suburbs of Grenoble by making room for new residents and businesses. Housing, residences providing services, schools, social and sports facilities, universities, service industries, businesses, etc., were planned on 28 hectares. When the semi-public company in charge of this project was formed, sustainable development and high environmental quality had not yet become major issues. However, these concerns have been addressed in the mixed development zone since 2003, when a new team arrived in the city hall. They immediately focussed on the environment and energy savings. GKP, who won the development contract in 1992 and continue to work as consultants to the SEM, added a sustainable development charter and high environmental quality objectives to the specifications for the mixed development zone which led many owners to equip their buildings with solar collectors and opt for external thermal insulation. GKP Architecture, the designer of the student residence attached to the annex of the Joseph Fourier University, one of the most recent buildings, chose a lightweight wall solution for this north-facing building, which has sufficient inertia via its concrete floors. The façade is made up of a wood frame clad on the outside in QUARTZ-ZINC®, chosen for its quality and durability. Sine Wave profile, which is usually reserved for the large surfaces of industrial buildings, has found a more domestic expression here, thanks to the vertical profiles which demarcate similar sized modules to the windows and add a touch of class to what is essentially a functional building.

The jury’s verdict...

Concern about the environment through high environmental quality initiatives, thermal regulations and, more recently, the “Grenelle de l’environnement”, is extending the use of zinc and the systems developed by VM ZINC to new applications. Here, the use of the QUARTZ-ZINC® Sine Wave profile is an integral part of the external thermal insulation and represents a low-cost, durable and elegant cladding solution.
The jury’s verdict...
The complexity of the double curve, combined with the dimensions of the building, made its construction particularly tricky. These difficulties were overcome by intensive design work and meticulous installation resulting in a brilliant expression of the initial idea.
Is it a bird? A fish? It is not by chance that passengers seeing the unusual shape of the new Brest airport from the sky for the first time invariably ask these questions. From his initial sketches, the architect, Denis Dietschy, sought an eye-catching image: “Brest is the meeting place of sea and sky and these two elements are wonderfully evoked by the manta ray”. The outline of the immense building, with its glass facades facing the four points of the compass, immediately illustrates this idea but the designer has taken this metaphor further. The undulating shape of the creature is suggested by the double curve of the roof, which is supported by a slim metal roof frame, while the colour and texture of its skin are spectacularly rendered by the QUARTZ-ZINC® covering. The successful completion of the VM ZINC® compact roof project was a technical challenge. Because of the length of the slopes, which can be 60 m from ridge cap to eaves, the very low roof pitch in places and the complex shape of the roof with its two inverted sine curves – one lengthwise and the other across the width – the Arcora design office and the VM ZINC® Design Assistance Office worked together on numerous technical details such as the placement of the box gutters, positioning of the outlets for the rainwater system and the lay-out of the standing seam to optimize drainage.
The jury’s verdict...
In all successful architectural designs, the whole is greater than the parts. Thanks to its half-buried location and its VM ZINC® roof, the building seems to be a rise in the ground. Extremely meticulously installed, the material outdoes itself to create perfect integration into the surrounding environment.

Like the Century plant (agave americana) from Central America, evoked by the curves and matt finish of its VM ZINC® roof which barely emerges from the ground, the Palafolls Public Library in Catalonia is the fruit of long germination. Over 10 years passed between the first sketches made by the Catalan architect Enric Miralles and the completion of the work. During this time, the single vaulted room of the initial project underwent a metamorphosis while retaining this characteristic design, reflecting traditional Catalan architecture. The original loaf-shaped design became more complex in order to establish a closer relationship with the outside world. Without losing the warmth and protection of the curves, “cutting the building into slices” gave birth to this half-buried labyrinthine structure with its adobe brick walls. Inside, light filters through roof windows in the vaults. Secret courtyards open up and invite the visitor to continue reading in the shade of a tree as in the gardens of old. “The only real wall in the library is the one which marks the boundary between indoors and outdoors,” writes the architect Benedetta Tagliabue. “This line is the ‘doorway’ to the library. For us it is an instrument of sensory transformation.”

Photos: Paul Kozlowski, France.
Drawing: EMBT, Spain.

- Special prize
  Public library in Palafolls (Spain)
  Architect(s): Enric Miralles & Benedetta Tagliabue (Miralles Tagliabue EMBT)
  Technique(s): Standing seam
  Aspect(s): Natural VM ZINC®
  Surface in zinc: 7,000 sq. m (17,000 sq. ft.)
  Total surface: 714 sq. m (7,140 sq. ft.)
Uninhibited complexity

Like the Century plant (agave americana) from Central America, evoked by the curves and matt finish of its VM ZINC® roof which barely emerges from the ground, the Palafolls Public Library in Catalonia is the fruit of long germination. Over 10 years passed between the first sketches made by the Catalan architect Enric Miralles and the completion of the work. During this time, the single vaulted room of the initial project underwent a metamorphosis while retaining this characteristic design, reflecting traditional Catalan architecture. The original loaf-shaped design became more complex in order to establish a closer relationship with the outside world. Without losing the warmth and protection of the curves, “cutting the building into slices” gave birth to this half-buried labyrinthine structure with its adobe brick walls. Inside, light filters through roof windows in the vaults. Secret courtyards open up and invite the visitor to continue reading in the shade of a tree as in the gardens of old. “The only real wall in the library is the one which marks the boundary between indoors and outdoors,” writes the architect Benedetta Tagliabue. “This line is the ‘doorway’ to the library. For us it is an instrument of sensory transformation.”