



**public space
2024**

european prize for urban public space 2024

minutes of the jury's deliberations for the seafronts category

Meeting at the Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona, the Jury is constituted by its president, **Beth Galí**, architect, landscape and urban designer (Barcelona); **Sonia Curnier**, architect (Lausanne); **Fabrizio Gallanti**, architect and curator (Bordeaux); **Žaklina Gligorijević**, urban planner (Belgrade); **Beate Hølmebakk**, architect (Oslo); **Manon Mollard**, architect and editor (London); **Francesco Musco**, architect and urban planner (Venice); and **Lluís Ortega**, architect (Barcelona), the Jury secretary who has produced the minutes.

statement

The jury valued the diversity of the submitted projects and wishes to highlight the quality and ambition of those selected as finalists.

First, we recognise the urgency of the problems caused by climate change and the critical impact it has on urban seafronts. All finalists produced excellent projects when creating spaces that promote sustainability and public wellbeing through intelligent use of natural resources.

As a jury we recognise the diversity of economic and social conditions across Europe and the variety of challenges faced by teams delivering meaningful civic projects in a context of limited resources and insufficient appreciation of the value of the seafront as urban public space. The finalists succeeded in meeting these challenges, while demonstrating an excellent command of the design of these seafront spaces, from large-scale elements down to construction details.

In general, we also wish to celebrate the varied civic actors who are undertaking the challenging work of promoting the creation and on-going care of inclusive urban spaces.



procedure and assessment

The Jury met on three occasions.

The first meeting, in telematic format, discussed how to organise the system for analysing and selecting the 44 projects presented in this category within the deadline established in the rules.

The Jury members individually evaluate each project presented. In a second Jury meeting, this time in person, in Barcelona, all the votes were counted and, after a detailed assessment and discussion of the projects, the five finalists were unanimously selected.

The finalists were invited to Barcelona for public presentation of the projects, which included discussion of questions raised by the Jury members. The Jury then proceeded to deliberate and finally decided on the winner of the first prize in the **Seafronts Category of the European Prize for Urban Public Space 2024**.

The Jury of the European Prize for Urban Public Space 2024 awards the **First Prize of the Seafronts Category** to:

Beach improvement and redevelopment of the harbour edge

Porto do Son (Spain), 2022

Developer: Portos de Galicia – Conselleria do Mar – Xunta de Galicia / Concello Porto do Son

Authors: RVR arquitectes, CREUS e CARRASCO

The project in Porto do Son serves a dual purpose: renaturalising the seafront with dunes protecting an existing park and rebuilding the relationship between port activities and the local community. It achieves this in a nuanced way, offering a remarkable range of solutions that acknowledge the diversity of the urban waterfront without oversimplifying the challenges posed by such variety. The project remedies the previous poor coexistence between port activities and the urban activities of Porto do Son and fosters direct contact between town and sea. The Jury appreciates the project's bold– even radical – decision to preserve the old wall that protects the town from particularly rough seas by placing the new facilities on its reverse side. These new facilities will bring new urban life to a space that was previously reserved exclusively for port installations. We especially applaud the fact that the project demonstrates deep understanding of the issues it addresses,



including the need to protect and integrate architecture and seafront defences; the urgency of ensuring access to the water for all members of the community by connecting this experience as closely as possible with the urban fabric; the necessity of providing infrastructure that enhances pedestrian use of the waterfront; and the importance of safeguarding and restoring natural systems in a situation of urbanisation and climate change. This approach is handled with honesty, care, and thoroughgoing architectural expertise, resulting in a design that is both responsive to urban needs and respectful of natural systems.

finalist projects

The Jury of the 2024 European Prize for Urban Public Space Award highlights the finalist status of the following four projects:

Beach Boulevard

Delfzijl (Netherlands), 2021

Developer: Gemeente Eemsdelta

Authors: LAOS landscape urbanism

The Beach Boulevard reconnects the town centre with the Wadden Sea, creating a new public space that combines infrastructural improvements with ecological restoration. We greatly value the authors' confidence in the potential of new public spaces to enhance socioeconomic conditions. This project is an exemplary demonstration of how architecture and engineering can come together to address both the technical challenges posed by rising water levels and the architectural needs of a new public space that reconnects Delfzijl with the seafront.

Redevelopment of Dún Laoghaire Baths

Dublin (Ireland), 2023

Developer: Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Country Council

Authors: DLR Architects Dept. + A2 Architects

This revitalisation of abandoned seafront facilities and reconnection of the town with the sea, creating a new, inclusive public space, is a robust architectural intervention that rebuilds the relationship between the city and the water. It is sensitive to the existing architectural heritage and reimagines the experience of approaching the water, including access to swimming, through a cohesive and convincing architectural approach. We appreciate the project's ability to integrate the existing pavilion, activating a public facility that opens the city to the waterfront and regenerates the bathing area with new access points.



Coastal Walk

Palamós (Spain), 2021

Developer: Ajuntament de Palamós

**Authors: Ardevol Consultors Associats, Estudi Martí
Franch Arquitectura del Paisatge SL**

This 5 km coastal project demonstrates excellent design by preserving the landscape and connecting the town, beaches, and park through minimal interventions. We appreciate the project's ability to achieve so much with seemingly very little. However, this simplicity is the result of thoughtful design and in-depth research into the best construction techniques for this type of landscape, aimed at accommodating heavy public and visitor use, while minimising its impact. The result is outstanding, a remarkable achievement: the project expands the urban experience into a privileged landscape while protecting it from the effects of intensive use.

Sea Park

Rimini (Italy), 2023

Developer: Municipality of Rimini

Authors: Benedetta Tagliabue – EMBT Architects

Sea Park in Rimini transforms a fragmented seafront into a cohesive urban park, embracing the city's vibrancy and creating a green space for both tourists and locals while also addressing climate change. We appreciate the project's ability to meet the needs of one of Italy's most popular tourist destinations, creating a public space that serves both locals and visitors as well as becoming an ecologically significant asset in protecting the city from rising sea levels. The park's design reflects the local cultural identity and, using simple urbanisation techniques, it creates a vibrant experience that incorporates natural elements, sports facilities, and leisure areas.



Beth Galí, President of the Jury



Beate Hølmebakk



Sonia Curnier



Manon Mollard



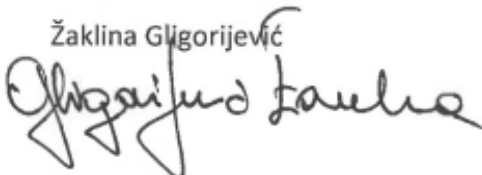
Fabrizio Gallanti



Francesco Musco



Žaklina Gligorijević



Lluís Ortega, Secretary of the Jury

