

American Academy of Arts and Letters

633 WEST 155 STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10032
www.artsandletters.org



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Cody Upton
cupton@artsandletters.org
(212) 368-5900

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES 2012 ARCHITECTURE AWARD WINNERS

New York, March 20, 2012 — The American Academy of Arts and Letters announced today the recipients of its 2012 architecture awards. The Academy's architecture awards program began in 1955 with the inauguration of the annual Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture, which is awarded to a preeminent architect from any country who has made a significant contribution to architecture as an art. In 1991, the Academy began giving Arts and Letters Awards (formerly called Academy Awards) to honor American architects whose work is characterized by a strong personal direction. An additional award category was created in 2003 to honor an American from any field who has contributed to ideas in architecture through any medium of expression.

The **Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture** of \$5000 recognizes an architect of any nationality who has made a significant contribution to architecture as an art.

Kathryn Gustafson
Seattle, Washington
London, England

Three **Arts and Letters Awards** of \$7500 each recognize American architects whose work is characterized by a strong personal direction.

Marlon Blackwell
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Elizabeth Gray & Alan Organschi
New Haven, Connecticut

Michael Maltzan
Los Angeles, California

One **Arts and Letters Awards** of \$7500 recognizes an American who explores ideas in architecture through any medium of expression.

Hilary Ballon
New York, New York

The winners were chosen from a group of 40 individuals and practices nominated by the members of the Academy. The members of this year's selection committee were: Henry N. Cobb, Michael Graves, Hugh Hardy, Steven Holl, Ada Louise Huxtable, Richard Meier (chairman), James Polshek, Billie Tsien, and Tod Williams. All five awards will be presented in New York City in May at the Academy's annual Ceremonial. Work by the winners will be featured in the upcoming exhibition on view in the Academy's galleries on Audubon Terrace. A list of previous winners is attached.

EXHIBITION OF WORK BY NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS AND RECIPIENTS OF HONORS AND AWARDS

Admission Free

Thursday, May 17 to Sunday, June 10, 2012

Thursdays through Sundays, 1 - 4 p.m.

Closed Memorial Day Weekend, May 26 - 28

Audubon Terrace, New York City
Broadway between 155 and 156 Streets
#1 Train to Broadway and 157 Street

A scholar of architecture and urban studies, **Hilary Ballon**'s work explores how the built environment affects life in our cities, New York and Paris in particular. She is curator of *The Greatest Grid: The Master Plan of Manhattan, 1811-2011*, which is currently on view at the Museum of the City of New York. In *Robert Moses and the Modern City*, she reconsidered the impact of New York's master builder and stimulated a debate about large-scale public works in a three-part exhibition (MCNY, Queens Museum of Art, and Columbia University) and book (W.W. Norton, 2007). Her other books include *New York's Pennsylvania Stations* (W.W. Norton, 2002); *Louis Le Vau: Mazarin's College, Colbert's Revenge* (Princeton University Press, 1999); and *The Paris of Henri IV: Architecture and Urbanism* (Architectural History Foundation/MIT Press, 1991). She is University Professor at NYU, Professor of Urban Studies and Architecture at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, and Deputy Vice Chancellor of NYU Abu Dhabi. This award recognized the "quality of scholarship and the originality and relevance of Hilary Ballon's books, articles, and exhibitions on architectural history and urbanism," said Ada Louis Huxtable, "which have done so much to deepen and enrich our understanding of the art of architecture."

Marlon Blackwell has practiced architecture in Fayetteville, Arkansas, for over two decades, and is Distinguished Professor in the Fay Jones School of Architecture at the University of Arkansas. "He enters the national discourse from a position that is rooted in the vernacular of his region—the South," said Billie Tsien. "Working outside of the mainstream Blackwell has developed a voice that is uniquely his own. The Eastern Orthodox Church in Springdale, Arkansas, has a facade that recalls the iconography of a Stuart Davis painting and possesses the stark strength of a totem. This is truthful architecture—simple, powerful, and steadfast." Other projects include the Ruth Lilly Visitors Pavilion at the Indianapolis Museum of Art; and the Museum Store at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Blessings Golf Clubhouse, and L-Stack House, all in Arkansas.

Elizabeth Gray and **Alan Organschi** are teachers, architects, and fabricators whose New Haven-based practice has explored the intersection of environmental constraint, social need, and available resources to produce architecture that is environmentally sensitive as well as culturally and physically durable. "Simple structures like a contractor's storage shed or a footbridge," said Tod Williams, "are gently re-imagined and then realized as elegant, exactly detailed buildings that are as spare and as astonishingly rich as a poem." Notable projects include the Fairfield Jesuit Community Center, Material Storage Barn, and Firehouse 12 Music Studio in Connecticut. Current projects include Common Ground Environmental High School, Barnum Landing Ferry Terminal, and Mill River Park Carousel Pavilion, also in Connecticut.

Kathryn Gustafson has practiced landscape architecture for over 30 years from her offices in Seattle and London, and has built work in Europe, North America, Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. "Two projects in particular," said James Polshek, "best exemplify her quietly spectacular work: the poetic and sublime Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain in London and her Lunar Garden (Arthur Ross Terrace) that frames the Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History. The power of her imagination and the precision of her execution have enriched the many natural and man-made places she has touched with her magic." Other notable projects include the Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard in Washington D.C.; the Lurie Garden in Chicago; *Towards Paradise* installation at the Venice Biennale; Cultuurpark Westergasfabriek in Amsterdam; and Valencia Parque Central in Valencia Spain. "She is an artist of space," said Polshek, "who has moved far beyond the boundaries of landscape architecture or environmental design." Kathryn Gustafson is the first solo woman and third landscape architect in 57 years to be awarded the Brunner Prize.

Michael Maltzan's Los Angeles-based practice has created work that demonstrates a deep belief in architecture's essential role in our cities and landscapes. His work—from the MoMA Queens renovation in New York to the New Carver Apartments near Skid Row in Los Angeles—has created new cultural and social connections across a range of scales and programs. Other notable projects include Inner-City Arts in Los Angeles; St. Petersburg Pier in Florida; Zhe Zhi Bridge in Chengdu, China; San Francisco State Mashouf Performing Arts Center; Playa Vista Park in California; and the Pittman Dowell Residence in La Crescenta, California. "From inventive architecture of the house to a blend of inner-city works," said Steven Holl, "Maltzan's architecture is distinguished in its spatial energy. His ability to bring formal aspects to bear on problems of social space is inspiring and promising."

The **American Academy of Arts and Letters** was established in 1898 to "foster, assist, and sustain an interest in literature, music, and the fine arts." Election to the Academy is considered the highest formal recognition of artistic merit in this country, and current members are 250 of America's leading voices in Art, Architecture, Literature, and Music. Each year the Academy awards over 60 prizes, and presents exhibitions of art, architecture, and manuscripts, and readings of new musicals. It is located in three landmark buildings on Audubon Terrace at 155 Street and Broadway, New York City.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS

Recipients of Awards in Architecture 1955 – 2012

reverse chronological order

ARNOLD W. BRUNNER MEMORIAL PRIZE

2012	Kathryn Gustafson
2011	Mack Scogin and Merrill Elam
2010	Michael Van Valkenburgh
2009	Juhani Pallasmaa
2008	Peter Zumthor
2007	Eric Owen Moss
2006	Jean Nouvel
2005	Shigeru Ban
2004	Hans Hollein
2003	Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio
2002	Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa
2001	Henry Smith-Miller and Laurie Hawkinson
2000	Toyo Ito
1999	Fumihiko Maki
1998	Alvaro Siza
1997	Henri Ciriani
1996	Tod Williams and Billie Tsien
1995	Daniel Urban Kiley
1994	Renzo Piano
1993	Jose Rafael Moneo
1992	Norman Foster
1991	Tadao Ando
1990	Steven Holl
1989	Richard Rogers
1988	Arata Isozaki
1987	James Ingo Freed
1986	John Hejduk
1985	Arthur May and William Pedersen
1984	Peter D. Eisenman
1983	Frank O. Gehry
1982	Helmut Jahn
1981	Gunnar Birkerts
1980	Michael Graves
1979	Charles W. Moore
1978	Cesar Pelli
1977	Henry N. Cobb
1976	James Stirling
1975	Lewis Davis and Samuel Brody
1974	Hugh Hardy, Malcolm Holzman, and Norman Pfeiffer
1973	Robert Venturi
1972	Richard Meier
1971	John Andrews
1970	Charles Gwathmey and Richard Henderson
1969	Noel Michael McKinnell
1968	John M. Johansen
1966	Romaldo Giurgola
1965	Kevin Roche
1964	Harry Weese
1963	Edward Charles Bassett
1962	Ulrich Franzen
1961	I. M. Pei
1960	Louis I. Kahn
1959	Edward Larrabee Barnes
1958	Paul Rudolph

1957	John Carl Warnecke
1956	John Yeon
1955	Gordon Bunshaft
1955	Minoru Yamasaki (Honorable Mention)

ARTS AND LETTERS AWARDS IN ARCHITECTURE

2012	Hilary Ballou
2012	Marlon Blackwell
2012	Elizabeth Gray and Alan Organschi
2012	Michael Maltzan
2011	Sylvia Lavin
2011	William E. Massie
2011	Julie Vandenberg Snow
2011	Anthony Vidler
2010	Stephen Cassell and Adam Yarinsky
2010	Michael Meredith and Hilary Sample
2010	Michael Sorkin
2009	Stan Allen
2009	Wendell Burnette
2009	Jeffrey Kipnis
2008	Jim Jennings
2008	Neil Denari
2008	James Carpenter
2008	Kenneth Frampton
2007	Wes Jones
2007	Tom Kundig
2007	Lebbeus Woods
2006	Marwan Al-Sayed
2006	Yung Ho Chang
2006	Jeanne Gang
2005	Gisue Hariri and Mojgan Hariri
2005	Toshiko Mori
2005	Massimo Vignelli and Lella Vignelli
2004	Preston Scott Cohen
2004	James Corner
2004	Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi
2003	Greg Lynn
2003	Guy Nordenson
2003	Andrew Zago
2002	Rick Joy
2002	Nader Tehrani and Monica Ponce de Leon
2001	Vincent James
2001	William Sharples, Christopher Sharples, Coren Sharples, Kimberly Holden, and Gregg Pasquarelli (SHoP)
2000	Jesse Reiser and Nanako Umemoto
2000	Will Bruder
1999	Eric Owen Moss
1998	Laurie D. Olin
1997	Daniel Libeskind
1996	Maya Lin
1995	Mack Scogin and Merrill Elam
1994	Craig Hodgetts and Hsin-Ming Fung
1993	Franklin D. Israel
1992	Michael Rotondi and Thom Mayne
1991	Rodolfo Machado and Jorge Silvetti