

“The 5th LIXIL International University Architectural Competition” Seeking and Reviewing
Next-generation Sustainable Housing Technology
“INVERTED HOUSE”
by The Oslo School of Architecture and Design (Norway) Wins Top Prize
~ The winning project is scheduled to be completed on the site of Memu Meadows in Taiki-cho,
Hokkaido in November 2015 ~

The LIXIL JS Foundation (located in Koto-ku, Tokyo; Chairman: Yoichiro Ushioda), which facilitates surveys and research related to the housing and building materials industries as well as supporting the development of human resources, conducted the Open Final Screening for the 5th LIXIL International University Architectural Competition at the Keidanren Kaikan (Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) on April 21, 2015 (Tue). The purpose of the competition is to seek and review next-generation sustainable housing technology and communicating that technology to global society. The top three universities chosen from twelve participating universities in eleven countries gave presentations, and INVERTED HOUSE by The Oslo School of Architecture and Design (Norway) was selected as the winner.



Group photo



The Oslo School of Architecture and Design
INVERTED HOUSE

During the Open Final Screening, a heated discussion occurred between head of jury, Kengo Kuma (Architect / Professor, the University of Tokyo) and jurors, Tomonari Yashiro (Professor, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo / Vice President, the University of Tokyo), and Dana Buntrock (Architect, Department of Architecture, University of California, Berkeley). The theme of the 5th competition was “House for Enjoying the Harsh Cold.” In the town, where the winters are cold and isolated, the contestants were called on to propose facilities that allow people to enjoy even the cold and severity of nature in a positive way by leveraging Taiki-cho’s beautiful water and greenery.

The Oslo School of Architecture and Design’s INVERTED HOUSE was given the top prize in recognition of its idea of four spaces created by the walls placed in cruciform varying their characteristics with the seasons and its keen insight into natural phenomena, including its consideration even to the way of making a shadow or piling up the snow, as well as its successful architectural approach in which the four spaces individually designed by team members are placed in each section divided by the walls.

In his general comments, head of jury, Kengo Kuma said, “Though this year’s competition was conducted based on an unprecedentedly challenging theme: ‘House for Enjoying the Harsh Cold,’ the winning project presented an even more challenging and bold proposal: ‘Enjoy a semi-outdoor life in Hokkaido.’ I believe that it resulted in being able to send a strong message to the world.” At the award ceremony, Ms. Laura Cristea from the winning team at The Oslo School of Architecture and Design commented, “We are proud of this result. The process up to this point has been extremely enjoyable. The real project has yet to start and we are very much excited about it.”

With support from Kengo Kuma & Associates, the team will arrive at a final design for “INVERTED HOUSE,” and the project is scheduled to be built in November 2015 on a site at Memu Meadows, located in Taiki-cho, Hokkaido. Please see the attached document for an overview of the competition.

<Reference Information>

◀ Attached Document ▶

■ List of Winning Works

▪ Top Prize



The Oslo School of Architecture and Design (Norway)
INVERTED HOUSE

▪ Award of Excellence (2 works)



Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)
WEAR-HOUSE



Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette (France)
PASSAGE
THERMAL DELIGHT

■ Overview of the 5th LIXIL International University Architectural Competition

1. Participating universities: 12 universities in 11 countries

* The three universities marked with ☉ proceed to the Open Final Screening held on April 21.

☉Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette (France)

Politecnico of Milan (Italy)

☉The Oslo School of Architecture and Design (Norway)

Superior Technical School of Architecture of Madrid (Spain)

Istanbul Technical University (Turkey)

Yale University (USA)

Universidade de Sao Paulo (Brazil)

The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)

Seoul National University (South Korea)

☉Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)

Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan)

Tokyo University of Agriculture (Japan)

2. Judging method

Twelve universities in eleven countries were invited to submit proposals for a next-generation, sustainable house designed for a cold region. Three entrants were then selected in the first screening (based on documents submitted). The top prize winner was subsequently chosen in the Open Final Screening.

3. Jury:

Kengo Kuma (Architect / Professor, the University of Tokyo)

Tomonari Yashiro (Professor, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo / Vice President, the University of Tokyo)

Dana Buntrock (Architect, Department of Architecture, University of California, Berkeley)

4. Prizes

Top prize (one work): \$15,000 (USD; including design fee)

Award of Excellence (two works): \$3,000

*Top-prize work will be constructed on a site in Memu Meadows (Taiki-cho, Hokkaido).

■ **Building schedule for “INVERTED HOUSE”, the top prize work by The Oslo School of Architecture and Design (2015)**

May-June: Working drawing

July: Cost estimates, etc.

Aug: Construction begins

Sept-Oct: Construction continues

Nov: Construction set to be completed

■ **Overview of Facility**

Name: Memu Meadows

Location: 158-1 Memu, Taiko-cho, Hiro-gun, Obihiro, Hokkaido

Owner: LIXIL JS Foundation 2-1-1 Ojima, Koto-ku, Tokyo, 136-8535

Site area: App. 184,000 square meters

Main facilities: Experimental house “Même”, “Mock-up of Multiple floor Bamboo House”, “A recipe to live”, “BARN HOUSE”, “HORIZON HOUSE”, “NEST WE GROW”, Multipurpose Facility, Conference Pavilion, Residence 1L and 1R (accommodation for researchers), two log houses (accommodation for researchers), fitness center, restaurant, Administration Wing, etc.

Official website: <http://www.lixiljsfound.com/>

Contact Information

Executive Secretariat of 5th LIXIL International University Architectural Competition

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