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RPWT 2019. The 6 young architects set off on a 40-day world tour, visiting the works of architecture by Renzo Piano and the great masters

professionearchitetto, media partner in the initiative, will follow the six traveling architects and reporters

On 20 June, the young architects will set off on leg after leg of their travels. They are the winners of the award that takes young people around the world to discover the latest iconic architectural works and the achievements of the great masters. The sketches, drawings and reflections of the architect-reporters will show us the works from a new perspective.

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First Paris with its high concentration of advanced architecture. There will be an unmissable visit to the award-winning **Palais de Justice** - the "vertical city" whose silhouette dominates the new Clichy-Batignolles éco-quartier - and the contiguous site of the **Maison de l'Ordre des Avocats**. And then to the **Fondation Jérôme Seydoux-Pathé** with its "armored" skin, the construction site of the École Normale Supérieure of Cachan now being built on **the Paris-Saclay campus**, the complex of **Rue de Meaux**, and of course, the revolutionary **Centre Georges Pompidou**.

Setting off from the Ville Lumière on 20 June on a 40-day trip will be the six young architects selected to take part in the **Renzo Piano World Tour 2019**. This year the intense itinerary will take in five continents and 27 cities, enabling the winners to visit the most famous works by **Piano and the Renzo Piano Building Workshop**, as well as the outstanding achievements of contemporary architecture and the works of the great masters, such as **Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Louis Kahn and Frank Lloyd Wright**.

After Paris, the six participants will divide into two groups following two different itineraries before joining up again in the final stages taking them to **New York, Entebbe and Genoa**

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(28 July). In the Big Apple, among the different places on the schedule, the young architect will visit West Harlem to see The Forum (newly built and inaugurated last autumn) and the other two buildings on the **Manhattanville campus** designed by the RPBW: the Jerome L. Greene Science Center (a neuroscience research center) and the Lenfester Center for the Arts (a prestigious art school) built for Columbia University.

Renzo Piano World Tour Award 2019

Itineraries, architectures, protagonists

In **Entebbe**, Uganda, the six travel-architects will visit the center of excellence in pediatric surgery now being built on Lake Victoria, 35 km from the capital Kampala. A project for the NGO Emergency, which the Renzo Piano Building Workshop has designed in collaboration with TAMassociati, with the structural design by Milan Ingegneria of Prisma Engineering.

The six participants - Valentina Macca (Università degli studi di Catania–Syracuse), Eirinaios-Stylianos Palapanis (National Technical University of Athens), Paul-Antoine Yves Marie Lucas (Oslo School of Architecture and Design), Andrea Basso (Università degli studi, Padua), Raúl Ferrándiz Lopez (Polytechnic University of València), Lukas Kaufmann (Technische Universität München) - will document their journey and talk about it with drawings and photographs, presenting their reflections and feelings. Thoughts and images that will preserve in time a unique experience of travel.



Left to right: Raúl Ferrándiz Lopez, Andrea Basso, Lukas Kaufmann, Eirinaios-Stylianos Palapanis, Valentina Macca and Paul-Antoine Yves,Marie Lucas

Through social media and articles - to be published by professionearchitetto (media partner in the initiative) - it will be possible to follow the movements of the six young people as they gain ideas through travel or simply discover new insights into buildings that have marked the recent history of architecture, as well as others so innovative and advanced as to be ready to influence the work of future generations of designers.

Returning to the itinerary, after their experience in Paris (where, among much else, they will visit the RPBW office at Le Marais), three of the travelers will fly to Oslo and then stop in Athens, Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

From Europe they will pass to Japan to visit architectural works in Kyoto and Tokyo and finally arrive in the United States, with stopovers in San Francisco, Boston, Exeter, New Haven and, as mentioned, New York.

After leaving Paris, the other group will visit **Ronchamp** and then head to Switzerland, stopping in **Basel**, **Bern** and in Germany at **Weil am Rhein**. They will stay in Europe to visit **Santander** and **London**. Then travel to **Sydney**, and **Noumea** in New Caledonia, before landing in the United States, with a stopover in **Los Angeles** (to visit the museum of the

cinema that the RPBW has designed for the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, the institution well-known for awarding the Oscars). Then will continue to **San Diego**, **Houston**, **Dallas**, **Forth Worth** and **New York**.

Thomas Pepino RPWT 2018 "Focus on the constructional solutions, which will prove useful"

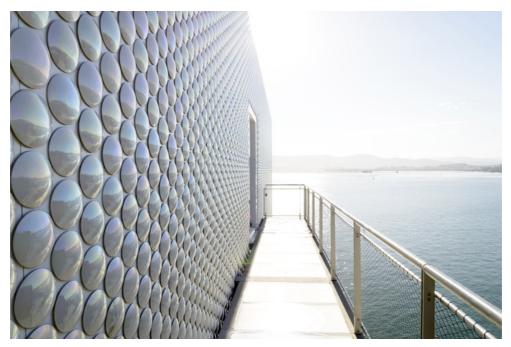
"Let yourself be guided by your own interests and train your feet before setting off, so that you're ready to go non-stop. And remember that you won't even be able to sleep."

These are the tips offered to the architectural travelers by the young architect **Thomas Pepino.** Last year, together with loanna Mitropoulou and Ricardo Fernandez Gonzalez, he completed the tour in 40 days around the architectural works selected for the <u>Renzo Piano World Tour 2018</u>. And then: go back and look at the same places at different times of day, if possible: "**Get up early and see them at dawn, then maybe return at sunset**, waiting for night to fall, to observe the transformations from one time of day to another."



This is important according to Thomas, a tireless traveler. He recommends the travelers to: "Observe the details, the architecture, grasping them and reusing them. This is what I am doing in my experience as a designer."

Thomas Pepino describes the technological nodes of the Centre Pompidou as if he had just looked at them, and the "skin" of the **Centro Botín at Santander**, a cutting-edge art center inaugurated in June 2017. The architect suggests studying the ceramic discs (some 270,000 were used), resembling "fish scales or rivet heads", that form the iridescent surface of the building stretching out over the waters of the bay of the Cantabrian city.



Santander, Centro Botín, Photo by © Gerardo Vela

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Still indelibly impressed in Thomas's memory is the **Gropius House** in Lincoln, Massachusetts, where the founder of the Bauhaus lived. It should be explored, he says - "For its meaningful relationship with the surrounding garden and landscape."

Then there's the **Whitney Museum of American Art in New York**, an important gallery but also a community center designed by the RPBW, closely related to its extraordinary setting (contiguous to the High Line). A building endowed, among other things, with a huge gallery on the 5th floor devoted to temporary exhibitions: the largest free-plan gallery built in New York.



Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, view from the west side of the highway, September 2014, photo by © Ed Lederman

The Astrup Fearnley Museum in Oslo is another unmissable architectural work, Thomas says, among those designed by the RPBW, together with the **Stavros Niarchos cultural center** in Athens, with its opera house and the National Library. "A project of immense dimensions," he comments, devised o to recover a lost relation with the sea. On a level site the terrain has been raised to insert the new buildings, so generating an artificial hill with the "energy canopy" on top. And then the great Esplanade with the broad canal. The water is brought to the site to symbolize the relationship regained with the sea.

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Stavros Niarchos Cultural Center in Athens, photo by © Yiorgis Yerolymbos

The participants in the RPWT 2019

This year six universities were involved, each of which selected a young architect by public competition (reserved for graduates after January 1, 2016). Again this year the leitmotiv of the initiative is "The art of construction: the importance of the structural details".

In addition to **the Renzo Piano Foundation**, which established the award, conceived from its first edition as an opportunity for an apprenticeship and a training and study experience, the RPWT is supported and financed by: the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation**, one of the world's largest philanthropic organizations, and the **Fundación Botín**, a historic Spanish foundation whose goal is the creation of development based on creative talent. Both foundations were already involved in the initiative last year. Added to these this year are: **Selvaag Gruppen**, a Norwegian real estate development of the well-known museum at Weil am Rhein, in Germany, and **Taschen Publications**, among the best-known publishers of books on art and architecture.

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Also collaborating on the project, ever since it took its first steps, is **ProviaggiArchitettura** and **Habitat 2020**. Finally, the experience of Silvia Pellizzari, the first traveller on the Renzo Piano World Tour, was the subject of a publication, a travel diary published by **Lettera22**. The second volume on the journey undertaken in 2018 by Thomas Pepino, Ioanna Mitropoulou and Ricardo Fernandez Gonzalez, will be published in July 2019.



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