



Genoa, 27 July 2019 | Lukas, Andrea, Raül, Eirinaios, Valentina and Paul Antoine  
photos by Elisa Scapicchio

## PRESS RELEASE

***The six participants of the third edition of the Renzo Piano World Tour 2019—Valentina, Andrea, Raül, Lukas, Eirinaios and Paul Antoine—returned to Genoa on 26 July, very tired but enthusiastic, after more than five weeks of travel, and having visited five continents: from Europe to Oceania, from Asia to America, passing through Africa. More than 220 works visited in total, of which 26 were designed by RPBW. After all, Schopenhauer used to say "during trips a single month away seems longer than four months spent at home".***

Rome, 30 July 2019. This year's Renzo Piano World Tour, the great journey around the world that brought six young architects to see and touch with their own hands the masterpieces of the history of modern and contemporary architecture, kicked off in the city of Paris on 20 June. A prize that, now in its third edition, is changing, evolving, both in terms of the number of participants—from one, to three, to six—and the number of universities and sponsors involved, as well as the architectural works visited. Indeed, although each edition of the *grand tour* involves several iconic and irreplaceable works, the itineraries are enriched or changed from year to year, also depending on the progress of some works of architecture.

In line with the mission of the Piano Foundation, particular attention is given to the visits to open sites, which are increasingly numerous. Thanks to the guidance of local architects actively involved in the projects, the students were able to discover in detail the making of some of RPBW's recent architectural works: "*Naturally it's interesting to study a project, read the drawings, understand what was behind it - says Milly Piano - but to be able to visit a*

*building is definitely something different, because it leads you to understand things that a drawing cannot convey. Besides, today there are not many opportunities to visit a construction site".*

This year, in particular, the number six seems to be recurring: six participants, six universities, six sponsors. The universities involved (Syracuse, Athens, Oslo, Padua, Valencia and Munich), through a public call—reserved for those who graduated after January 1, 2016—identified a young architect, evaluating in particular: the architect's portfolio, curriculum, individual skills and knowledge of English, keeping in mind the theme "*Art of construction: the importance of structural details*". In addition to the **Renzo Piano Foundation** that established the award, conceived from its first edition as an opportunity for apprenticeship and training experience, the RPWT is promoted by: the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation**, one of the largest philanthropic organisations in the world, and the **Fundación Botín**, a historic Spanish foundation whose aim is to create development from creative talent. These are joined this year by: **Selvaag Gruppen**, a Norwegian real estate developer and operator, **The Vitra Design Foundation**, which is responsible for the conception and growth of the well-known design museum in Weil-am-Rhein, Germany, and **Taschen Publications**, among the world's most famous publishers of art and architecture books.

For the complex logistical aspect, from the first edition of the project, there is also a collaboration with **ProViaggiArchitettura**, an organisation that has been active since 1995 with the aim of making architecture known through visits to the main projects and major transformations, and **Habitat 2020**, an association that deals with urban development projects, to which we owe the support for the publication of the travel diary that **Lettera22** carries out every year to narrate this great adventure: last year it was the turn of Silvia Pellizzari, this year of Thomas Pepino who, on the occasion of the closing day at Villa Nave, in Genoa, was able to present his work directly to Renzo Piano. **professionearchitetto.it**, on the other hand, has been the media partner of the initiative since last year, following the movements of the six young reporters through its social pages and website.

## **Participants of RPWT 2019**

For the first edition only one lucky person had this opportunity (Silvia Pellizzari, who graduated in 2015 in Building Engineering - Architecture at the University of Padua) while for the second there were three (Ioanna Mitropoulou of Greece-School of Architecture, National Technical University of Athens, Ricardo Fernandez Gonzalez from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid and Thomas Pepino from the University of Padua). This year, however, there are six young architect-travellers, divided into two groups for most of the time, excluding the stops in Paris, New York, Entebbe and Genoa. These were **Valentina Macca** (25 years old, the youngest participant, from the University of Catania - Syracuse), **Eirinaios-Stylianos Palapanis** (27 years old, from Kos, a graduate of the National Technical University of Athens), **Paul-Antoine, Yves, Marie Lucas** (26 years old, from the Oslo School of Architecture and Design with previous experience in Paris, Hong Kong and Copenhagen), **Andrea Basso** (26 years old, from Treviso, a graduate of the University of Padua, the most engineering-focussed member of the group), **Raúl Ferrándiz Lopez** (26 years old, from the Polytechnic University of València, an enthusiast of structures and technical aspects) and **Lukas Kaufmann** (28 years old, a photography fan, from the Technische Universität München, now in Berlin).

## **The 2019 tour, at a glance**

This year the RPWT has involved 27 cities: Paris, Oslo, Athens, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Basel, Ronchamp, Bern, Santander, London, Osaka, Kyoto, Tokyo, Sydney, Nouméa., San

Francisco, Boston, Exeter and New Haven, Los Angeles, San Diego, Houston, Fort Worth, Dallas, New York, Entebbe, and Genoa.

Starting from Paris, from the Beaubourg and the studio on rue des Archives, heading to the construction site of the MOda - Maison de l'Ordres des Avocats and the École Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay (a large technological and scientific centre located south of the city), the students embarked on a journey around the world that led them to visit—albeit separated into formations—some of the most beautiful iconic architectural works ever built, or that were in the process of being built. They set off from Europe, passing from the Jérôme Seydoux-Pathé Foundation to Ville Savoye, from the Beyeler Foundation to the Vitra Campus, from the Snøhetta studio to the Astrup Fearnley Museet in Oslo to the RPBW Botín Centre in Santander and the Stavros Niarchos Cultural Centre in Athens (without missing the New Acropolis Museum in Tschumi). Going back northwards, to London, with the Shard and its skyline for one group, Amsterdam with the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum, the Stedelijk Museum and the NEMO of RPBW for the other.

The East awaited them, in Japan and Australia + New Caledonia respectively. From the "floating" airport of Kansai, to the temples of ancient Kyoto, to the brutalism of Le Corbusier's National Museum of Western, to the spectacular lantern that is in Tokyo, the Maison Hermès by RPBW, in the district dedicated to the brands of Ginza. But also the visionary metabolism of Kenzo Tange's Shizuoka Press and Broadcasting Centre and Kisho Kurokawa's Nakagin Capsule Tower, from the 21\_21 Design Sight Museum in Tadao Ando, to the Sumida Hokusai Museum in SANAA, opened in 2016.

New Caledonia, its nature and the Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre in Noumea welcomed Raul, Andrea and Lukas, before they arrived in Sydney and its port, where they saw Aurora Place, One Sydney Harbour, Sydney Opera House and the Royal Botanic Gardens.

North America offered the youngsters a particularly lively time. Two roadmaps were planned: San Francisco, Boston, Exeter and New Haven for Valentina, Eirinaios and Paul Antoine, Los Angeles and San Diego, Houston, Fort Worth, Dallas for the others. Here, they were able to admire both modern and contemporary masterpieces, some of which—particularly interesting—are still works in progress. These include the AMMP - Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, the Salk Institute in Louis Kahn, the Eames House, the Gehry House in Santa Monica or the California Academy of Sciences, by RPBW. But also, the De Young Museum by Herzog and de Meuron, the SFMOMA by Mario Botta and Snøhetta, the Menil Collection or the Kimbell Art Museum. Passing first through Harvard and then Yale, heading for New York, where the two groups were finally able to meet, and face together the last tranche of travel, the Big Apple, Entebbe and finally Genoa.

In NY there are so many things to see, the city is buzzing ("*New York, New York, New York, so much to see in this city*" they write). Here's an overview: from the 565 Broome Soho to BIG's Via 57 West, from Columbia University's New Manhattanville Campus + Center of the Arts, Science Center and Forum, to the Morgan Library or New York Times building, all by RPBW. Not to be missed are some jewels from the history of architecture: Frank Lloyd Wright's Solomon R. Guggenheim, inaugurated in 1959 on Fifth Avenue, the MET Breuer, the New Museum of Contemporary Art by the Japanese SANAA (Kazujo Sejima and Rue Nishizawa) in lower Manhattan, the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and the Seagram Building by Mies Van der Rohe. But also the most contemporary of contemporary structures, such as the Whitney Museum, the Shed and The Vessel on the High Line, or the large area wounded area of the 9/11 Memorial on Ground Zero, the World Trade Center, the Fulton Center and Oculus aka the White Dove.

A very long flight with a stopover in Doha brought the sextet to Uganda. Here they visited the centre of excellence in paediatric surgery that is set on Lake Victoria, 35 km from the capital Kampala. A project, for Emergency, that the Renzo Piano Building Workshop has designed in collaboration with TAMassociati, with the structural designs by Milan Ingegneria, Prisma Engineering's plant design and Salini Impregilo's technical consultancy.

After about twenty flights, 12 time zones, hundreds of pages written in notebooks, at least 20,000 photos and hours of video material shot, Valentina, Andrea, Raül, Lukas, Renos and Paul Antoine arrived in Genoa, where they were able to visit the RPBW archive and share their experiences around the large square table of Villa Nave. Asked what had been the architectural work that had most moved them at the end of this adventure, they replied: Noumeà for its uncontaminated beauty, and the Menil Collection for its natural light. Everyone has found that, among the many visited, the buildings of RPBW are always the most busy (Raul said *"What will stay with me is the emotion of seeing the people who visit the spaces"*). After all, this is precisely the aim of this journey: to understand architecture by experiencing it, observing it with other eyes. In conclusion, after the thanks, Renzo Piano commented *"it's a nice thing when you construct a building and you see people inside it. When I was a young architect, at the end of the Beaubourg in Paris, I was about 39 years old, I was very anxious about the final result and I met a man, a famous Italian director, Roberto Rossellini, who one day looked at me and said to me: the only important thing to understand the building is to look at the people who look at the building. It was a very good suggestion and it's true, it's the only way to look at the building, mirrored in the eyes of the beholder."*

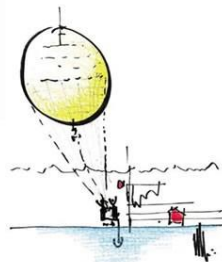
## The Renzo Piano Foundation

The Foundation was established in Genoa in 2004. It is a non-profit institution dedicated to the promotion of the profession of architect, which carries out study and research activities in the field of architecture. The Renzo Piano Foundation's programme is divided into various activities: conservation and enhancement of the archive, training and dissemination. Its creation is also due to the awareness of how important the preservation and availability of project documents accumulated in forty years of work had become. Among the activities related to training, there is the promotion of a series of internships at the offices of the Renzo Piano Building Workshop in Genoa and Paris. The internships, which last six months, are entirely funded by a scholarship made available by the Foundation itself, but it is the universities involved (some of the most important in the world) that choose from time to time, according to criteria suggested by the RPBW studies, the most deserving students.

## RENZO PIANO WORLD TOUR 2019

### RPWT 2019 Renzo Piano World Tour in 40 days

Award Art of Construction: the importance of structural details



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