

## Contemporary Landscape Architecture in Central Europe



Marcin Czechowicz

The exhibition *Contemporary Landscape Architecture in Visegrad Countries* presented 40 of the best landscape architecture projects from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. The intention was to draw attention to the profession in Central European countries, where the understanding of public space is changing and landscape architecture is still quite a young profession. This travelling exhibition mainly presented public projects, thus giving visitors information about the wide range of tasks. The exhibition was supported by the International Visegrad Fund in the Cultural Cooperation category and shown in Warsaw, Prague, Nitra, and Budapest. It can be lent from the Polish Landscape Architecture Association ([www.sak.org.pl](http://www.sak.org.pl); <http://clav4.sak.org.pl/>). In Prague, where the exhibition ran for two weeks in the city's centrally located gallery of architecture, the opening discussion in the Prague City Hall showed that landscape architects have to find access to other architects and planners, as well as to citizens. Essential legislative and educational changes will now be addressed. The goal is to cooperate with neighbouring countries in order to make the design of open space in Central Europe a greater priority.

*Jitka Trevisan*

The square in front of the Wrocław Główny Railway Station in Wrocław, Poland, by Grupa 5 Architekci and Justyna Dziedziejko in cooperation with Ewa Potapow is on display in the exhibition.

### PERSONALITIES

**BJARNE AASEN** has celebrated his 80th birthday. The landscape architect has witnessed and contributed significantly to the great development the Norwegian landscape has undergone during the past sixty years. Aasen was trained as a gardener in 1956, and as a garden architect at the Agricultural University at Ås in 1963. He was then employed at the office of Grindaker and Gabrielsen, where, together with Toralf Lønrusten in 1966, he bought the firm and renamed it Landscape Architects Aasen and Lønrusten. Aasen has mainly been a practitioner during his career, but from 1975 to 1985 he was employed as an assistant professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the Agricultural University at Ås, where he was responsible for studio projects. From 1990 to 1995 Aasen was also an adjunct professor at the Institute for Urban and Regional Planning (NTNU) in Trondheim, but he continued his private practice at the same time.

Aasen is well known for several campus development projects in Norway, including the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, the University of Oslo, and the University of Tromsø. Aasen's large and impressive portfolio is often the result of team work. Trollstigen, for instance, which recently received the Norwegian Concrete Award, was developed with Reulf Ramstad Arkitekter AS. Ypsilon Bridge in Drammen, another award-winning project, was developed with architect Arne Eggen. On most of his major projects, however, Bjarne Aasen has been in charge. A prime example of this is the Western Front Plaza at the Nidaros Cathedral, which Aasen regards as a milestone in his career.

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Aasen recommends landscape architecture as a way of life for young, talented, and engaged people, but he is concerned about some young landscape architects' focus on design, and their lack of knowledge about nature and ecology. Focusing on architecture and design may weaken our ability to deal with the challenges that the management of the globe presents.

*Karsten Jørgensen*

**GONÇALO RIBEIRO TELLES** is the winner of the Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award 2013, the premier award of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA). The Portuguese landscape architect has made an outstanding contribution to landscape architecture through his life-long commitment to his chosen profession. Gonçalo Ribeiro Telles graduated in Agronomic Engineering and Landscape Architecture in 1950 to be part of the first generation of landscape architects in Portugal. He is a founding member of the Portuguese Society of Landscape Architects APAP, which was founded in 1976, and is still active in the association.

The revolution in Portugal in 1974 brought him to the forefront of the country's political life. In 1975 he was appointed Secretary of State of the Environment and undertook his work in environmental policies in Portugal. He was a pioneer in the defence and conservation of environmental values, the promotion of land-use planning, sustainable development, and the humanisation of cities. He is mainly responsible for the current legal Framework Laws on conservation, land-use planning and environmental quality. He continues to be active in the dissemination of the ideas and principles in these fields, where he was a forerunner and for which he has fought unceasingly. He has published over 100 works on various subjects, such as land-use planning, the environment, urbanism, visual analysis, landscape, projects, agriculture, resources, education, and policies. His career spans over 60 years and he has clearly had a lasting impact on the development of landscape architecture as a practitioner, in teaching, in public administration, and as a member of various governments. Within the Housing Department Institute he set up the Landscape Planning and Green Areas Department. He was also Minister for Quality of Life and was one of the first Portuguese politicians to call attention to ecological problems, having an influence far beyond the tiny size of the parties he has led.

APAP

