



PRESS RELEASE

**The International Highrise Award 2016:
Five buildings in the final for the world's best highrise**

Frankfurt am Main, September 16, 2016

The International Highrise Award (IHA) 2016 is entering its decisive phase – the jury has chosen five highrises for the final round. The award comes with prize money of €50,000 and a statuette of the internationally renowned artist Thomas Demand. The award will be presented by the City of Frankfurt/Main together with Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM) and DekaBank Deutsche Girozentrale at Frankfurt's Paulskirche on November 2, 2016.

The 2016 finalists at a glance:

- **Four World Trade Center** (New York/USA) by Maki & Associates, Tokio/Japan
- **432 Park Avenue** (New York/USA) by Viñoly, New York/USA
- **SkyHabitat** (Singapur) by Safdie Architects, Boston/USA
- **SkyVille@Dawson** (Singapur) by WOHA Architects, Singapore
- **VIA 57 West** (New York/USA) by Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), Kopenhagen/Denmark

The IHA is considered the world's most important architecture prize for highrises.

It is aimed at architects and developers whose buildings are at least 100 meters high and have been completed in the past two years. The jury consists of architects, structural engineers, real-estate experts and architecture critics. It judges the nominated projects according to the following **criteria: future-oriented design, functionality, innovative building technology, integration into urban development schemes, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness**. This year's five finalists were selected from 30 nominees from 14 countries.



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On the finalists:

The significant trend in high-rise development, away from office towers towards residential towers, is continued by this year's finalists. One has to emphasize that it seems "residential is where the innovation is" (Jury member Brigitte Shim). Furthermore this year finalists show that New York City is back in the game of innovative developments in high-rise construction. As jury member Ole Scheeren pointed out: "Asia versus America is an interesting conclusion at this point – they are the defining forces on the map. In Asia you can see the impact of the tropical, climatic and environmental consequences are very well translated into new types of residential high-rises. In New York the finalists all show some way of power-statement."

The **Four World Trade Center (New York/USA)** by Maki & Associates is the second new tower, after the 7 World Trade Center, that was completed on Ground Zero after the attacks on 11 September. The office tower blends quietly and unpretentiously into its significant neighbourhood. The glass facade reflects the surroundings so perfectly that the contours of the tower practically dissolve. This effect allows the precious building ground to be used commercially whilst granting due space to this emotional location. "The mirrored façade and the sculptural qualities of this project are executed so outstanding, that there are moments of disappearance when the perspective is changed. This immateriality seems to give an answer to the question: What can you create of nothingness?" (Jury member Ole Scheeren)

Since the completion of the shell construction in October 2014, the slender tower **432 Park Avenue (New York/USA)** rises significantly above all other buildings in northern Manhattan. The building by Rafael Viñoly Architects is currently the highest residential high-rise in the world and the third-highest building in the United States. Innovative support structure techniques enable this dizzying height on a relatively small ground plan. With these extremely slender proportions, the project serves as an example of new towers in the densest metropolises in the world.

For Jury-Chair Stefano Boeri it is evident that "Viñoly wanted to create a landmark, he wanted to establish a new prototype in high-rise-building. His super slender needle with the astonishing slenderness ratio of 1:15 is the sheer icon of the idea of a high-rise and will definitely be copied all over the world."

The white residential sculpture **SkyHabitat (Singapore)** by Safdie Architects consists of two stepped twin towers, connected by means of three *sky bridges*. Situated in a green park landscape, the building with its open structure is adapted to the requirements of the extreme climate. At the same time, it offers its residents appealing outdoor and communal spaces. The project is therefore a high-quality example of new residential forms in the tropics.



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For Peter Cachola Schmal, Director of the DAM the project “shows a new and fascinating concept of the vertical city. It is a machine for living, with certain high-class amenities, like balconies for everyone, skygardens, pools etc. for all its middle-class residents. It does take residential housing to a new level.”

SkyVille @ Dawson (Singapore) by WOHA with 960 apartments is an exceptional example of social housing in Singapore. The flexibly designed units on the extremely dense complex are grouped into little “villages” that share various communal spaces. Little communities are formed and solidarity is strengthened. “This is what I like about it: You’re in a high-rise building but they break down the units and you have this sort of a sky village on top of two other sky villages and you are part of a whole, but also part of a smaller unit at the same time”, said Jury member Brigitte Shim. This type of high-rise therefore makes a special contribution to counteracting anonymity in the megacities of our time.

The 136-metre-high hybrid of a classical high-rise and a traditional European perimeter development **VIA 57 West (New York/USA)**, situated right by the Hudson River, rises up in the form of a silver, shimmering tetrahedron. “The project is outstanding in its interpretation of a New York block – this is what makes it really interesting” (chair of the jury, Stefano Boeri). Under its steely roof skin, over 700 apartments are grouped around an interior courtyard with greenery, which serves as a tranquil oasis for spending sociable hours within this industrial neighbourhood with a motorway, a power plant, and a waste processing facility. In addition, the prototype of a “courtscraper” with its “innovative design” (Thomas Schmengler, Jury member) on the western edge of Manhattan offers all residents an unobstructed view of the river, due to its unique shape.

The 2016 IHA jury:

Chair of the international jury determining the outcome of the 2016 International Highrise Award is the winner of the 2014 IHA Stefano Boeri (Stefano Boeri Architetti, Milan). The other members of the jury are: Lamia Messari-Becker (civil engineer, Professor at the University of Siegen), Ole Scheeren (architect, Buro-OS, Beijing/Berlin), Brigitte Shim (architect, Shim-Sutcliffe Architects, Toronto), Horst R. Muth (Head of Project Management at Deka Immobilien GmbH, Frankfurt/Main), Peter Cachola Schmal (Director of Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Frankfurt/Main), Thomas Schmengler (CEO of Deka Immobilien GmbH, Frankfurt/Main) and Felix Semmelroth (Former Deputy Mayor in charge of Culture and Science for the City of Frankfurt/Main). Substitutional Jury members were: Claudia Meixner (architect, MEIXNER SCHLÜTER WENDT Architekten, Frankfurt am Main) and Holger Techen (civil engineer, imagine structure, Frankfurt am Main).



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The City of Frankfurt/Main's International Highrise Award:

The City of Frankfurt/Main has hosted the biennial International Highrise Award (IHA) since 2004. The International Highrise Award was jointly initiated in 2003 by the City of Frankfurt, Deutsches Architekturmuseum and DekaBank. Since then, it has been organized and financed in partnership and cooperation between Deutsches Architekturmuseum and DekaBank Deutsche Girozentrale and will be awarded for the seventh time in 2016.

Planners and developers jointly receive the award – a statuette by internationally famous artist Thomas Demand, together with prize money of €50,000.

Previous recipients of the IHA

2014 „Bosco Verticale“ in Milan (78 and 121,5 m), Boeri Studio and client Hines Italia.

2012 “1 Blight Street” in Sydney (139 m), a cooperation between ingenhoven architects in Düsseldorf and Architectus in Sydney with DEXUS Property as the developer.

2010 “The Met” in Bangkok (230 m), WOHA Architects in Singapore and Pebble Bay, Thailand as the developer.

2008 “Hearst Building” in New York (182 m), Foster + Partners and Hearst Corporation as the developer.

2006 “Torre Agbar” in Barcelona (142 m), Ateliers Jean Nouvel and Layetana as the developer.

2004 “De Hoftoren” in The Hague (144 m), Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (International) PA, London and ING Vastgoed as the developer.

Further information and press photos can be downloaded from:

www.international-highrise-award.com \ www.dam-online.de/presse

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