

**Press Release**

**World Architecture Festival announces shortlist for inaugural ‘Wood Excellence Prize’**

***American Hardwood Export Council sponsored award to celebrate flair and creativity in wood design***

**September 03, 2014** - The World Architecture Festival (WAF) has announced the shortlist of projects for the ‘Wood Excellence Prize’, which makes its debut at this year’s WAF awards programme. Sponsored by the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC), the Wood Excellence Prize is the first of its kind to feature on the festival’s awards programme with the only criterion being that wood is an integral part of the project. Over forty submissions were received for the award and eight great timber projects will now be put forward for the final judging in Singapore led by renowned architect, Matteo Thun. The winner will be announced at the WAF awards ceremony on Friday, October 3, 2014.

The shortlisted projects include The Tent by a21studio (Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa, Vietnam); Pittwater House by Andrew Burges Architects (Sydney, Australia); Earth Wind and Fire Atelier by Arcau (Vannes, France); School ‘t Hofke by UArchitects (Eindhoven, The Netherlands); Regional Terminal at Christchurch Airport by BVN Donovan Hill (Christchurch, New Zealand); Salvaged Ring by a21studio (Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa, Vietnam); Alex Monroe Studio by DSDH (London, UK); and The Pinch by the Department of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong (Zhao Tong, China). The architects responsible have now been invited to present their project to the prize judges live at the festival.

Paul Finch, Programme Director, World Architecture Festival said: “This was a great way to appreciate how a ‘traditional’ material can be used to transform exteriors and interiors in new and unexpected ways.”

The WAF awards sit at the heart of the festival, and will see practices from around the world compete across 28 individual award categories for global recognition. Competing across three category groups

of completed buildings, landscape projects and future projects, previous WAF award entrants have ranged from renowned global architectural firms to small local practices. The winners of each category are put forward to vie for the coveted World Building of the Year award, presided over by the festival's 'super-jury', with the presentation of the award being the culmination of WAF 2014.

According to Roderick Wiles, AHEC Director for Africa, Middle East, South Asia and Oceania: "During WAF, we plan to show 'The Wish List' - an ambitious design project featuring a stellar list of architects and designers, including Richard Rogers, Norman Foster, Zaha Hadid, John Pawson, Alison Brooks and Amanda Levete. The project showcases how life cycle assessment (LCA) tools can be used to create an environmental profile for product design. Given that WAF is going to provide a new platform for showcasing wood in architecture around the world, it is fitting that we throw the spotlight on LCA, which can help the industry establish environmental frameworks that have real meaning and assess true sustainability."

The World Architecture Festival is the largest annual festival and live awards programme for the global architecture community. It is set to take place at Singapore's Marina Bay Sands between October 1 - 3, 2014. WAF has three central pillars of activity: a wide-ranging conference programme, featuring keynote lectures, dozens of expert-led talks and seminars from thought-leading architects and designers from across the globe; the world's largest annual awards programme in which practices from around the world compete across 28 award categories for global recognition; and three festival halls where all award entries are displayed in a unique awards gallery and where sponsors and suppliers can interact with delegates, make new contacts and showcase their services and products.

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#### **About AHEC**

The American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) is the leading international trade association for the U.S. hardwood industry, representing the committed exporters among U.S. hardwood companies and all the major U.S. hardwood production trade associations. AHEC runs a worldwide programme to promote American hardwoods in over 50 export markets, concentrating on providing architects, specifiers, designers and end-users with technical information on the range of species, products and sources of supply. In addition, AHEC also produces a full range of technical publications. For more information, please visit: [www.americanhardwood.org](http://www.americanhardwood.org).