

## **Growing popularity of copper in contemporary European architecture**

*A media centre, museum, urban housing complex and two homes shortlisted for  
2009 Copper in Architecture Awards*

**Brussels, 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2009:** **With almost 50 entries from 16 countries, the 2009 Copper in Architecture Awards revealed an exceptional diversity of projects – many not yet published – representing the very best in contemporary European architecture. Five quite different buildings – a media centre, museum, urban housing complex and two individual homes – have now been shortlisted by the international team of architect and editor judges.**

The well-established Copper in Architecture Awards recognises architectural excellence and celebrates the use of copper in all its forms. The last two decades have seen their transformation from a UK-based programme highlighting craftsmanship, into a major, design-led Awards event for projects across Europe. For the first time, the 2009 Awards consider all entries together to select the very best in contemporary European architecture.

The five shortlisted projects clearly demonstrate the growing popularity of copper and its alloys as inspirational, as well as environmentally sustainable, architectural materials. The Clip House in Madrid, Spain – designed by Bernalte-León y Asociados – is a highly sculptural design formed from copper planes cantilevered from a vertical concrete spine. Still in Spain, but in complete contrast, Mangado y Asociados' Archaeology Museum of Vitoria makes extensive use of cast bronze elements to create contrasting elevational treatments to shape the surrounding urban spaces. In Copenhagen, Denmark, Dissing+Weitling arkitektfirma has used copper and glass to define a cool, high-density housing project at Frederikskaj, suggesting nautical references in its harbour-side location. Another house – this time in Ticino, southern Switzerland – incorporates copper mesh screening for transparency as an integral part of Davide Macullo Architetto's ecological and site-sensitive design. Finally, to Spain again where transparency is also achieved – this time with perforated copper screens, matching a strong copper façade grid on the Mediacomplex 22@ building in Barcelona designed by Patrick Genard y Asociados and Ferrater & Asociados.

Reference pages on each of the shortlisted projects can be found on the [www.copperconcept.org](http://www.copperconcept.org) website under the 'Awards 2009' tab. The winners will be announced at a presentation in London on 29 September.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EDITORS:**

Journalists and editors are invited to a presentation of all entries, awards ceremony and buffet in London on the evening of 29 September 2009. Please contact: [mail@copperdev.co.uk](mailto:mail@copperdev.co.uk) for a reservation.



***About the European Copper Institute and the Copper Development Association:***

The European Copper Institute (ECI) is a joint venture between the world's mining companies (represented by the International Copper Association, Ltd) and the European copper industry. Its mission is to promote copper's benefits to modern society across Europe through its headquarters in Brussels and its network of eleven national Copper Development Associations, such as CDA UK based in London.

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