DUTCH JURY REPORT

HIGH QUALITY

The jury of the 10th Concrete Design Competition was surprised not only by the quantity of the entries but also of the quality. It was a pleasure to see all the poster presentations. Many diverse ideas were presented; the jury needed some time to study all 44 entries.

The theme of the 10th edition is 'REIMAGINE'. In what way should we use concrete differently to contribute to a more sustainable and circular building practice? As usual the entries for the competition can be about buildings, infrastructure, details or furniture, and address formwork, production, system or product. Most of the submitted ideas were related to buildings and building components.

REIMAGINE

The jury recognized some common themes in the ideas. In the circular economy the disassembly of building parts is a common theme. There were quite a few ideas on stacking blocks in different shapes and functions. Another common theme was the exploration into more sustainable concrete mixes. And several entries focused on stimulating biodiversity.

In the end the jury chose those ideas that were not only nicely presented and looked very promising at first sight, but were also well thought out and might be a real gamechanger in the future. The jury nominated six entries and awarded them with three prizes and three honorable mentions.

Honorable mentions

VT333 VersaTile presents a concrete tile solution that focuses on increasing biodiversity. The jury appreciated the fact that the designers did not only consider the right product for the housing of insects, but also the variety of ways this product could be used. The jury did have some doubts regarding the manufacturability of the triangular holes, but was convinced it can be made with some minor adjustments.

VC069 Virgin Connections sets a simple but powerful example of how to create demountable connections between concrete and wood structures: sturdy concrete piles as a base for a lightweight structure with a reversible connector. This idea fits well into the current discussion of circular economy and is well thought out in detail. The question the jury had was why the connectors are square instead of easier manufacturable round ones.

RE123 Trombe Wall uses steel slag in combination with cement to use concrete building blocks. It was appreciated by the jury for using waste as a building product as well as capitalize on using the heat storage capacity of steel slag in a Trombe Wall design. The jury did question the connection between the separate stacking blocks and how to stabilize the structure.

Third Place

MS778 The Arch is a beautiful, well designed and thought out architectural design. It uses materials from the sea (grind mussel shells) to reduce CO_2-levels and increase sustainability in design. Consideration was also given to the various stages of use, with the product eventually returning to the sea. The product is elegantly designed, although the jury did wonder if alternative forms and more challenging functions would be possible with this material.

The jury awarded third place with € 600 in prize money.

Shared first place

The jury chose two 1st prize winners with similar but both very well thought out ideas. Both proposals address the theme of circularity and explore de-mountable type of connections between wooden en concrete elements in a highly architectural way.

CM111 (dis)connection concerns a beautifully designed reversable connector of structural beam and column elements. The designed elements are not only functionally interesting: they also have the potential to add a high aesthetic quality to the architectural space. The objects with smaller parts and connectors were seen by the jury as perhaps too labor intensive. The larger, more open parts seem to have most potential.

XG068 MODUMN is a stacking principle for columns and connector with beams. The jury appreciated the well thought out formwork of the column and the fact that this could be self-made and or self-built. Also here the designed elements are not only functionally interesting, but also add a high aesthetic quality to the architectural space. The jury complimented this proposal as an exemplary clear way of presenting a design idea.

The jury awarded each team with € 1.200 prize money and a ticket to the Concrete Design Masterclass in August for each member.

The jury

We thank the members of the jury of the 10th edition of the Concrete Design Competition 2021-2022 for their time and dedication:

- Marieke Kums – STUDIO MAKS, chairman of the jury
- Serge Schoemaker – Serge Schoemaker Architects
- Pim Peters – IMd raadgevende ingenieurs
- Ellen van Genechten – Hurks