



## The International Highrise Award 2016 Internationaler Hochhaus Preis 2016

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON IHA 2016 - ARCHITECT  
Frankfurt/Main, November 2, 2016

### **BIG Bjarke Ingels Group**

Architect of "VIA 57 West" – winner of the International Highrise Award 2016

#### **Office profile:**

BIG is a Copenhagen and New York based group of architects, designers, builders, and thinkers operating within the fields of architecture, urbanism, interior design, landscape design, product design, research and development. The office is currently involved in a large number of projects throughout Europe, North America, Asia and the Middle East. BIG's architecture emerges out of a careful analysis of how contemporary life constantly evolves and changes. BIG believes that in order to deal with today's challenges, architecture can profitably move into a field that has been largely unexplored. A pragmatic utopian architecture that steers clear of the petrifying pragmatism of boring boxes and the naïve utopian ideas of digital formalism. Like a form of programmatic alchemy they create architecture by mixing conventional ingredients such as living, leisure, working, parking and shopping. By hitting the fertile overlap between pragmatic and utopia, the architects once again find the freedom to change the surface of our planet, to better fit contemporary life forms.



*Bjarke Ingels, Architect and founder of  
BIG Bjarke Ingels Group, Photo: KT  
Auleta*

**Bjarke Ingels** started BIG Bjarke Ingels Group in 2005 after co-founding PLOT Architects in 2001 and working at OMA in Rotterdam. Through a series of award-winning design projects and buildings, Bjarke has developed a reputation for designing buildings that are as programmatically and technically innovative as they are cost and resource conscious. Bjarke has received numerous awards and honors, including Wall Street Journal's Innovator of the Year Award, the Danish Crown Prince's Culture Prize in 2011, the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale in 2004, and the ULI Award for Excellence in 2009. In 2016, TIME Magazine named Bjarke one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World.

Alongside his architectural practice, Bjarke taught at Harvard University, Yale University, Columbia University, and Rice University and is an honorary professor at the Royal Academy of Arts, School of Architecture in Copenhagen. He is a frequent

public speaker and has spoken in venues such as TED, WIRED, AMCHAM, 10 Downing Street, and the World Economic Forum.



## The International Highrise Award 2016 Internationaler Hochhaus Preis 2016

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON IHA 2016 - CLIENT  
Frankfurt/Main, November 2, 2016

### **The Durst Organization**

Client "VIA 57 West" – prize winner of the International Highrise Award 2016

### **Office profile**

For 100 years, The Durst Organization has been a family-run business dedicated to the principles of innovation, integrity, community, and sustainability. We develop, build, own, and manage premier office towers and residential buildings that set new standards in environmental responsibility and user efficiency. Our enduring relationships with our tenants and partners are critical to our success and have made us generations of builders, building for generations.

We build, own, and operate many of the world's most innovative and efficient buildings. We create value for our tenants and partners by developing sustainable residential and commercial properties in which people live, work, and thrive. Founded in 1915 by Joseph Durst, The Durst Organization is still owned and managed by the Durst family. Today, Joseph's grandchildren, Jody and Douglas, lead the organization, while the next generation works side by side with the company's exceptional management, construction, finance, legal, leasing, and building services departments.



*Douglas Durst; © The Durst Organization*

**Douglas Durst** is the chairman and a member of the third generation to lead The Durst Organization. Douglas was born in New York City in 1944 and graduated from the Fieldston School and the University of California Berkeley. He is married to Susanne Durst, with whom he has three children. He joined The Durst Organization in 1968.

Under the leadership of Douglas and his cousin Jody, The Durst Organization built the nation's first sustainable skyscraper, 4 Times Square, and the first LEED Platinum high-rise office tower, The Bank of America Tower at One Bryant Park.

Today, the company owns, manages and operates a 13 million square foot office portfolio and nearly 2,000 residential rental units, as well as

overseeing the development, management and leasing of One World Trade Center.

Douglas is a director of the Real Estate Board of New York, The New School and The Trust for Public Land. Along with other family members, he is a trustee of The Old York Foundation, established by his father, which is committed to helping people through education to understand the history and issues facing New York City. In addition, Douglas has been an environmental activist for many years and created one of the largest organic farms in New York State.



## The International Highrise Award 2016 Internationaler Hochhaus Preis 2016

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON IHA 2016 - WINNER  
Frankfurt/Main, November 2, 2016

### VIA 57 West, New York / USA Winner International Highrise Award 2016



Architects: BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group,  
Copenhagen/Denmark; New York/USA

Client: The Durst Organization

Function: Residential

Height: 142 m

Completion: Februar 2016

Location: New York NY/USA

Photo: © Kirsten Bucher

In densely built-up metropolises such as New York, city planners and architects are forced not only to build ever higher, but also to develop innovative concepts. Consequently, just a few streets to the south of the prize-winning project, the railway sites of West Side Yard are currently being extensively built upon with up to sixteen high-rises. The Hudson Yards project is the largest real estate project to date in the USA. The VIA 57 West site on the western edge of midtown Manhattan was originally not envisaged for residential building either. Owing to the predominantly industrial character of the neighborhood – an electricity plant in the north and a waste sorting center in the south - the city administration under Mayor Bloomberg insisted on commercial usage for a long time. In total it took the client and the BIG architects more than one and a half years to convince them to accept residential usage of the site. The planning was also made more difficult by complicated property rights. The site belongs to an ownership community, so the leasehold contract is limited to ninety-nine years. This constellation, as well as the corporate policy of Durst not to sell any property, culminated in the building of rental housing.

Some of the investor's specifications with regard to the exterior form were clear: the building was to distinguish itself visually from an office high-rise and at the same time not obstruct the view of the Hudson River from the neighboring residential tower. The architects responded to this with the innovative concept of a "courtscraper". The hybrid of an American high-rise and a European perimeter development turns away from the building to the north-east and is orientated towards a green interior courtyard. At the same time, it affords views of the Hudson River to the west from the balconies integrated into the roof surface. This sculptural prototype therefore offers a quiet, sheltered oasis within the loud city, without being closed off from it. The creation of such natural and quiet zones in ever denser metropolises is one of the challenges of modern-day city planning and an ever more common aspect of contemporary highrise architecture.

As almost every apartment is unique, owing to the complex geometry of the building, and few types are repeated, the architects had to develop up to 250



## The International Highrise Award 2016 Internationaler Hochhaus Preis 2016

different floor plans, which is feasible today using digital tools.

The whole floor above the high, glazed ground floor is dedicated to the many amenities grouped around a park-like interior courtyard sloping slightly upwards and accessed from a circulating walkway, with a pool on the transverse side boasting a sun deck facing the Hudson River. Before that, one passes special environments for small children, teens, and twentysomethings – the latter being a giant lounge for getting to know those who are single. A pool room, a poker room, a golf simulator, a launderette, a reading room, a gallery, a cinema and TV room, hundreds of square meters of fitness equipment and, as a surprise, a double-story basketball hall, are all provided.

In contrast to the sky-scraping pencils with their exorbitant purchase prices of 30,000 to 50,000 euros per square meter, the VIA 57 West is a rental apartment block.

The design of this iconic project took place against the background of the continuously growing success of BIG in the United States. During the six-year planning period, the New York branch of the Danish architecture firm grew from six to 200 employees.

### Ecological aspects/sustainability

Use of recycled, renewable, and locally-sourced materials with low VOC content (Volatile Organic Compounds); energy-efficient housing technology; natural ventilation; demand-driven ventilation system; high-performance insulating glass; motion sensors for lighting in public and infrastructural areas; low-flow fixtures; hybrid heat pump; rainwater collection for cooling and irrigation; lushly planted inner courtyard

### From the jury's assessment

The winning high-rise, chosen by unanimous jury vote, was VIA 57 West in New York, USA, by BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group and owned by the Durst Organization. The Jury chose VIA 57 West, although it is not a typical high-rise. “It is a high building, but is it a high-rise?” In the end the jury agreed that this anti-high-rise-high-rise sends in its “clarity of concept” a new message about how we can perceive the city.

The project is outstanding in its interpretation of a New York block. As a residential building with an inner courtyard it is in a way a private building that additionally offers a public dimension. Developed from the constraints of the New York block and the New York zoning regulations VIA 57 West shows the most innovative form and space. The framework of the zoning regulations is normally so oppressive and seen as problematic to the city building agenda. And here BIG has taken this problematic thing and actually made it an asset. This is just brilliant.

Beside that, the project is not for the top or the bottom, but the middle-class, which is the fabric of making cities around the world.



## The International Highrise Award 2016 Internationaler Hochhaus Preis 2016

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON IHA 2016 - STATUETTE  
Frankfurt/Main, November 2, 2016

### **Statuette Internationaler Highrise Award 2016**



Statuette Internationaler Highrise Award  
Titanium and granite, 35 x 15 x 12 cm  
Artists: Thomas Demand; Photo: Friedemann Steinhausen

Thomas Demand is a reputed international photo artist and was brought on board by DekaBank to design the award statuette. Since 2004, the symbol of the International Highrise Award is made anew every two years and bestowed on the respective winner. The statuette consists of striking wafer-thin layers of titanium made using an electron-ray melting technology (EBM) which means they can be layered in almost any geometry at random. The process, which is otherwise mainly used to manufacture medical implants and in the aerospace and automotive industries, is currently considered the most innovative method of rapid manufacturing.

A building consists first and foremost of ideas that then take form during the design phase as concepts, plans, data and presentations, later as contracts, lists of claims, agreements, etc. – a veritable tower of documents. “And also after the building has been realized,” is how Thomas Demand describes his piece, “a highrise can be read as a stack of different tenants, visitors, usages, opinions, and assemblies, as a tower of different states, intentions, movements, changes, and deposits.”

Pieces by Thomas Demand are currently on show in museums in Kobe (Japan), Basel, Scottsdale (USA), Vienna, Berlin, Jerusalem and Cáceres (Spain). In Frankfurt he was last represented in the “Paparazzi!” exhibition at Schirn Kunsthalle.



# The International Highrise Award 2016

## Internationaler Hochhaus Preis 2016

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON IHA 2016 - EXHIBITION  
Frankfurt/Main, November 2, 2016

### **Exhibition**

### **BEST HIGHRISES 2016/17 – INTERNATIONAL HIGHRISE AWARD 2016**

**November 4, 2016 – January 15, 2017**

At Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM), Third Floor  
Schaumainkai 43, 60596 Frankfurt am Main

**Opening hours:** Tue, Thu—Sun 11.00 — 18.00 \ Wed 11.00 — 20.00

**Guided tours:** On Saturdays and Sundays at 4 p.m., led by Yorck Förster

For the International Highrise Award (IHA) Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM) has nominated a total of 30 buildings built within the last two years from 14 countries worldwide. On the third floor DAM presents all the nominated projects as part of the "Best Highrises 2016/17" exhibition and thus showcases the range of ideas and current trends in contemporary highrise architecture.

The 2016 winner, the residential Highrise **VIA 57 West 1** in New York, USA was designed by BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group from Copenhagen and New York and is documented in detail on its own exhibition platform, as are the four other finalist projects.

Two of the 2016 finalists are also in New York and two in Singapore: **Four World Trade Center** (New York/USA) by Maki & Associates, Tokyo/Japan; **432 Park Avenue** (New York/USA) by Viñoly, New York/USA; **SkyHabitat** (Singapore) by Safdie Architects, Boston/USA and **SkyVille@Dawson** (Singapore) by WOHA Architects, Singapore.

The special recognition for the Housing & Development Board of Singapore awards their efforts in promoting 'hyper-density'. The Housing & Development Board acts as client of innovative projects like SkyVille@Dawson by WOHA Architects, SkyTerrace@Dawson by SCDA Architects, and The Pinnacle@Duxton by ARC Studio Architecture + Urbanism, an International Highrise Award finalist of 2012.

The exhibition displays structural designs and technical details in the form of architectural plans. The façades and interiors are depicted in numerous photographs, and for some buildings there are interviews with the architects and developers. Models of the finalist highrises give the observer an idea of the buildings in their entirety. Short texts explain the key aspects of each project as well as the ecological criteria.

### **Accompanying catalog**

An accompanying catalog entitled "Best Highrises 2016/17. The International Highrise Award / Internationaler Hochhaus Preis 2016 " has been published by jovis. Edited by Peter Körner and Peter Cachola Schmal, it documents in detail all 30 projects and features articles by Brigitte Shim and Peter Cachola Schmal.

*In English and German, 128 pages, numerous colored ill. and drawings, card cover 21 x 27 cm, jovis Verlag, ISBN 978-3-86859-431-7; price: EUR 29.95*



## The International Highrise Award 2016 Internationaler Hochhaus Preis 2016

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON IHA 2016 - PARTNERS  
Frankfurt/Main, November 2, 2016

### **International Highrise Award 2016 Partners**

#### **City of Frankfurt**

Frankfurt is the dynamic financial and cultural center with Germany's most impressive skyline. Thanks to its outstanding infrastructure, Frankfurt at the center of the FrankfurtRhineMain region is not only very easy to reach, but also very well networked. With some 60,000 companies, 650,000 jobs, 248 square kilometers of space, and 700,000 inhabitants from 180 different nations, Frankfurt is a vibrant and diverse metropolis where everything is close at hand. Renowned sights, such as the Imperial Cathedral and the Paulskirche, the cradle of German democracy, are both located not far from the highrises, as are Frankfurt's riverside museums. These museums are connected by seven bridges and form the core of Frankfurt's museum world, an impressive synthesis of attractive cultural highlights and exciting urban planning. As a magnet drawing visitors from all over the world, the riverside museums each year draw more than two million visitors. The theaters are another great ambassador for Frankfurt the Cultural City and their artistic output thrills the international cognoscente. Frankfurt forges a skillful bridge between the traces of the past and contemporary architecture, and thus between tradition and modernity – Frankfurt stands for remarkable continuity at the highest of levels.

#### **Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM), Frankfurt am Main**

DAM was founded in 1984 as the first museum of architecture in Germany. It organizes changing exhibitions on national and international architectural and urban planning topics. As a center of debate on current issues, it hosts lecture and workshop series, brings out numerous publications, and takes part in national and international juries. The architecture of the museum building on Frankfurt's riverside is the brainchild of famed Cologne architect Oswald Mathias Ungers. The historical villa from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has a house-in-house inserted into it, using fundamental architectural means to make the architecture itself a theme.

#### **DekaBank Deutsche Girozentrale, Frankfurt/Main**

DekaBank is the Sparkassen investment arm and the largest provider of open real estate funds in Germany. Together with its subsidiaries it forms the Deka Group. The property division bundles the group's expertise in real estate. Investment companies Deka Immobilien Investment GmbH and WestInvest Gesellschaft für Investmentfonds mbH are major players in the European commercial property markets. The real estate fund portfolios include more than 450 properties in 23 countries. As the investment arm of the Sparkassen finance group the Deka Group feels duty-bound to pursue a sustainable business strategy in both ecological and economic terms. Not only the key investment focus on profitability, but also sustainability is an important yardstick for assessing the buildings nominated for the International Highrise Award. DekaBank is part of the Sparkassen Finance Group, which is the largest non-government patron of the arts in Germany, with an annual budget of EUR 150 million.



# The International Highrise Award 2016

## Internationaler Hochhaus Preis 2016

**For further information and press images as downloads please visit:**  
[www.international-highrise-award.com](http://www.international-highrise-award.com) / [www.dam-online.de](http://www.dam-online.de) /  
[www.deka.de/deka-gruppe/presse](http://www.deka.de/deka-gruppe/presse)

### **Contacts:**

**Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Press and PR**  
Stefanie Lampe  
T +49-69-212-31326 / [stefanie.lampe@stadt-frankfurt.de](mailto:stefanie.lampe@stadt-frankfurt.de)

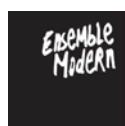
**Deutsches Architekturmuseum, curator of the “Best Highrises” exhibition**  
Peter Körner  
T + 49-69-212-38846 / [peter.koerner@stadt-frankfurt.de](mailto:peter.koerner@stadt-frankfurt.de)

**DekaBank, Press desk**  
Daniela Gniss  
T + 49-69-714-72188 / [daniela.gniss@deka.de](mailto:daniela.gniss@deka.de)

Media partner of the International Highrise Award 2016:



Music partner of the International Highrise Award 2016:



Ensemble  
Modern  
Frankfurt