



# The International Highrise Award 2020 Internationaler Hochhaus Preis 2020

## PRESS RELEASE

### Five projects from Europe and Asia in the final for the world's best high-rise

Frankfurt/Main September 23, 2020

The finalists of this year's International Highrise Award (IHA) have been determined. The jury selected five buildings, three from Europe and two from Asia, from a total of 31 nominated high-rise buildings from 14 countries.

The IHA is considered the world's most important architecture award for high-rise buildings. The winner will be honored on October 29th in Frankfurt's Paulskirche. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the event will be broadcast live on the Internet.

The International Highrise Award (IHA) is presented by the City of Frankfurt am Main together with Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM) and DekaBank and is endowed with a statuette of the internationally renowned artist Thomas Demand and prize money of 50,000 euros.

#### The 2020 finalists at a glance:

- **Omniturm** (Frankfurt am Main/Germany) by BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group, Copenhagen / Denmark
- **Eden** (Singapore) by Heatherwick Studio, London / UK
- **Norra Tornen** (Stockholm / Sweden) by OMA Office for Metropolitan Architecture, Rotterdam / Netherlands
- **The Stratford** (London / UK) by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, London / UK
- **Leeza SOHO** (Beijing/China) by Zaha Hadid Architects, London / UK

The International Highrise Award 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.**



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### Jury statements / About the Finalists:

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting travel and contact restrictions, a digital jury meeting was held this year. The winner of the IHA 2018, L. Benjamín Romano, joined the jury from Mexico. Under the chairmanship of Anett-Maud Joppien, the discussion was lively and controversial. The focus was on the ecological and social qualities of the buildings. The aspect of resilience in relation to the structure and life cycle of a building was also examined in many of the competition entries. The result is a shortlist of five finalists, representing the enormous range of all the nominated buildings: One of the first mixed-use towers in Germany (Omniturm), a lushly planted luxury residential tower (EDEN), a brutalistic-looking pair of high-rise residential buildings (Norra Tornen), a high-rise building as a motor for the urban development of a neighbourhood (The Stratford) and a prime example of parametric design (Leeza SOHO).

With the Frankfurt **Omniturm** by BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group from New York / Copenhagen, the first hybrid high-rise in a German city centre has made it to the finalists. For jury member Ina Hartwig, the tower lives up to its name. It combines gastronomy, offices, flats and shops under one roof. This puts it at the top of the international urban development league.

Once again, a project from Singapore is among the finalists. Shell-shaped planters make **EDEN** by Heatherwick Studio from London a memorable example of a high-rise residential building. With its lush planting it impressively demonstrates the motto of the urban development "City in a Garden". Jury member Klaus Fäth considers the greening concept to be a "Garden of Eden", in which the plants are protected by recessed balconies and projecting wall panels. For jury chairman Anett-Maud Joppien, the bulbous shell motifs and green jungles exert a great attraction that cannot be resisted.

**Norra Tornen** from the Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) in Rotterdam is standing in Sweden's capital Stockholm. There the project forms a gateway to the Hagastaden district. Stockholm's tallest residential buildings cultivate living at height with a pronounced reference to the outside world in northern Europe. Jury member Andreas Moser praises the elegance with which the towers emerge from the lower buildings surrounding them and rates positively the tension between the brutalistic appearance of the towers and their context. Jury member Victor Stoltenburg also considers the design of the structures with modular box-like bay windows and the surface design with rough concrete elements to be a remarkable accent in the cityscape.

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill from New York, otherwise known worldwide for its height records, is among the finalists with another residential project. **The Stratford** in London combines design hotel and design living under one roof and sets new urban development accents in the district of the same name.



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The striking large form with deep incisions makes the building a landmark visible from afar. The space, which is characterised by double and single high ceilings created throughout the building, its greened and cantilevered public spaces and the careful massive and translucent design of the envelope create a modern high-rise that inspires L. Benjamín Romano.

An outstanding structural achievement is the **Leeza SOHO** by Zaha Hadid Architects in Beijing, whose glass shell actually conceals a double tower. The atrium between the towers, which is over 190 metres high, is the tallest in the world, and its fascinating curved shapes are only possible with the help of parametric design. For Peter Cachola Schmal, the Leeza SOHO is the sculptural solution of a double high-rise building that focuses on spatial overwhelming and experiences for hundreds of small offices and home offices that are on their way to the new airport to create their digital quarter.

### The 2020 IHA jury:

Chair of the international jury determining the outcome of the 2020 International Highrise Award is Anett-Maud Joppien (Architect / Dietz Joppien Architekten AG in Frankfurt/Potsdam).

The other members of the jury are:

- Klaus Fäth (Civil Engineer / osd – office for structural design, Frankfurt/Hamburg)
- Dr. Ina Hartwig (Head of Cultural Affairs of the City of Frankfurt/Main)
- Andreas Moser (Architect / ma cyrus | moser | architekten, Frankfurt/Main)
- L. Benjamín Romano (Architekt / LBR&A Arquitectos, Mexiko Stadt, Mexiko)
- Peter Cachola Schmal (Director / Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Frankfurt/Main)
- Victor Stoltenburg (Managing Director / Deka Immobilien Investment GmbH, Frankfurt/Main)

Consultants without voting rights:

- Horst Muth (Graduate Engineer/ Deka Immobilien Investment GmbH, Frankfurt/Main)
- Rudi Scheuermann (Architect and Civil Engineer, Arup Deutschland GmbH, Frankfurt/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 ninth time in 2020.

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:**

**2018 „Torre Reforma“** in Mexiko City (Mexico), BR&A Arquitectos as architects and developer.

**2016 „VIA 57 West“** in New York City (USA), BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group and The Durst Organization as the developer.

**2014 „Bosco Verticale“** in Milan (Italy), Boeri Studio and Hines Italia as the developer.

**2012 “1 Blight Street”** in Sydney (Australia), a cooperation between ingenhoven architects in Düsseldorf and Architectus in Sydney with DEXUS Property Group; DEXUS Wholesale Property Fund, Cbus Property as the developers.

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

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

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

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