



Lyon, France | June 6th, 2019

**EUROPEAN RESPONSIBLE
HOUSING AWARDS**



The winners of the ERHIN awards

For the third edition of the ERHIN awards, we received a record-breaking number of 86 submissions across five categories from 16 countries, and so, deciding on five winners and finalists was a challenging task for the Jury.

We are delighted to announce the winners of this year's European Responsible Housing Award:

Winner of the category "fair financing for housing affordability":

Place-based anti-speculation housing policies – Barcelona, Spanish

Public company **Institut Municipal de l'Habitatge i Rehabilitació (IMHAB)**, as part of the forward-looking Right to Housing Plan 2016-2025, pursued "place-based anti-speculation housing policies" - which included, among other things, selective acquisition of privately-owned housing units, mobilisation of affordable housing through bilateral agreements with private landlords.

What the Jury liked, Anne Vitaa (Finnish Union of Tenants):

- The Barcelona model is a strong housing planning that can regulate the private market.
- Social housing in the center of the city. Innovative aspects to tackle the erosion of the housing stock in gentrified areas.
- Replicability: interesting to engage other cities to do the same and inspire the municipalities to solve the problem of evictions.
- Increasing the affordable and public housing stock in a city which has a low level of both.

Winner of the category “more than a roof – supporting communities of equal opportunities”

Nettelbeckplatz – An experimental way of renewal a cooperative housing estate in Berlin – Berlin, Germany

Housing Cooperative **Berlin Bau- und Wohnungsgenossenschaft von 1892 eG** pursued an experimental and innovative renewal of a 1970s social housing complex (from 1970s), which featured adaptations as well as additions/extensions (of modern apartments, ateliers, co-housing solutions for a variety of households), using innovative construction strategies, energy-saving technologies, improving accessibility, expanding common spaces, and supporting the self-organised community.

What the Jury liked, Paulus Jansen (Director Woonbond)

- This project is the combination of several measures such as the refurbishment of former housing stock following energy efficiency standards, social and function-mix combining residential with art & crafts studios, shared spaces, and common facilities for seniors and participation of the local community.
- The project can serve as a “blue print” for other cooperatives and community-orientated investors.
- Provide additional 4.200 m² of living space generated through the re-design without affecting the size nor the quality of the existing public areas in the court-yard
- Holistic approach with strong participation of the residents.

Winner of the category “leaders of innovation, agents of fair energy transition”

Moerwijkzicht Breda – Roosendaal, Netherlands

Non-profit organisation **Alwel** – wanted to make “future-proof” their housing complex and so initiated a major energy renovation of 241 social rental homes. This involved numerous actions, including complete disconnected from gas connect, improved insulation and ventilation, increased comfort, decreased consumption, upgrades in lighting and window, new overall aesthetic following a design and colour scheme. However, it was the resident involvement and intensive collaboration (diverse mix, ca. 25 different nationalities, and 25 residents designed “floor contact person”) which was the project’s “most significant success factor”.

What the Jury liked, Eddie Jacquemart (President of Confédération National du Logement):

- The Moerwijkzicht Breda is one of the first large-scale projects in Netherlands in which natural gas heating has been replaced by district heating.
- The tenants are strongly involved in the project
- The heating requirement of the dwelling has been significantly reduced at the same time; residents pay lower living costs than before the renovation, have a more comfortable home with a healthier indoor climate, and the emission of the building-related CO₂ has been reduced to zero.

Winner of the category “building strategic alliances, fostering community participation”

The Kaleidoscope Project – Villeneuve-Saint-Georges, France

Public housing company **Villeneuve-Saint-Georges OPH** acknowledged structural challenges in the area and vulnerable residents in the community. They also recognised the need to evolve their decision-making processes, by involving tenants more fully, in fact, by pursuing a “100% participation” policy. Practically this mean prioritisation of projects, exchange of ideas, conversational walks, participatory work-camp, amongst other actions.

What the Jury liked, Lenka Tarabová (Assosiation of Tenants of the Czech Republic – SON)

- The Kaleidoscope Project allowed strong resident empowerment in one of the most challenged area in Ile de France (56% social housing, 38% of household below poverty line, difficult location because of a lot of traffic).
- Favour social mix and cohesion through sports activities, like the co-construction of a city stadium, or the play areas for young children or the collective practices that benefit the environment (creation of a shared garden).
- Creating opportunities and institutional structures for comprehensive participation of tenants and stakeholders for the new project design. Application is very transparent and well documented.
- With the ERHIN trophy, Villeneuve-Saint-Georges OPH hopes to experiment more by attracting the attention of artists, architects, sociologists, urban planners, etc. who wish to participate and contribute in new ideas.

Winner of the category “empowering the team, addressing employees changing needs”

Power to the People – empowering the team to improve services – Torino, Italy

Public body **ATC del Piemonte Centrale** underwent a strategic repositioning of the organisation, which involved comprehensive training of 100 staff members, as well as redefining dialogue with stakeholders, implementing new procedural and managerial methods, and service-oriented approaches.

What the Jury liked, Barbara Steenbergen (Head of EU liaison office, IUT)

- Change management by strong resident’s and staff involvement, concentrating on multiple issues:
 - 1) Preventing and managing late payments;
 - 2) Common regulations and methods for improving effectiveness and efficiency in service and supply contracts, organize training for workers in order to create more staff with managerial skills
 - 3) Managing maintenance requirements of the housing estates together with the residents. Ordinary maintenance job lots have been redefined by assigning €500,000 per year to repairs carried out autonomously by residents.

- In a difficult context for social housing as in Italy, this project can inspire a change all over the country as it's exportable.

Some questions to our jury members:

1. What are you especially proud in this edition of the European Responsible Housing Awards 2019?

It is very well organized. It is important to highlight good practices. I am surprised by the number of quality projects submitted and the amount of solidarity in different parts of Europe.

2. What is your experience of being part of the jury for the ERHA 2019 and which impression do you want to share?

I would like to thank for possibility to be part of a panel of experts. Every new challenge is of benefit to me. I was allowed, at least virtually to visit the various corners of Europe and see a lot of humanity.

3. Which positive impacts can these kind of initiatives bring to Europe, to the housing sector and (most important) to the tenants?

This is a tool to show in different countries that when it wants, it goes. There is no need to invent new things, but be inspired by projects that work well and have positive results. Tenants are important part of citizens of every community and this is the mirror, how important they are. How to make their lives happier, more comfortable, and more social.

If you have any questions regarding the Awards, please contact us:

Barbara Steenbergen

International Union of Tenants (IUT)

Member of the Executive Committee

Head of EU liaison office

Avenue des Rogations 28

B-1200 Bruxelles

Phone: +32 2 513 07 84

www.iut.nu

barbara.steenbergen@iut.nu

Ilaria D'Auria

International Union of Tenants (IUT)

Avenue des Rogations 28

B-1200 Bruxelles

Phone: +32 2 513 07 84

Mobile: +32 489 528 566

www.iut.nu

brussels@iut.nu