

Schellingpreis 2020: TEd'A Arquitectes

Laudation Wilfried Wang

"TEd'A arquitectes is a workshop and a studio. TEd'A arquitectes propose to move forward by looking back, without losing sight of the past and tradition; to continue to perfect tradition as an indisputable heritage; to defend regional identities against totalizing uniformity. We prefer evolution to revolution."¹

Technology continues to dominate all public discourse, including architecture. Technocrats and politicians continue to engage technological solutions to resist climate change. The majority of the western public, of technocrats and politicians are blind to the havoc and destruction that the uncritical embrace of technology has already brought to almost all environments and societies around the world.

In this context, the position and work of TEd'A Arquitectes stands out to mark a cultural position against naïve technophilia. The office has a theoretical base and a body of work that substantiates their approach. TEd'A Arquitectes belong to the generation of architects that has transcended the binary opposition of modernism versus postmodernism. They understand any precedents, whether fifty or five hundred years old to be part of a cultural continuum with an endurance that demands our respect, just as physical materials such as wood or stone, the one fifty years and the other five hundred thousand years old deserve to be treated with respect. Precedents and materials are the roots from which TEd'A Arquitectes' designs emerge to create transformed contributions to their cultural context.

Without nostalgia, without self-aggrandizing pathos, the work of TEd'A Arquitectes shows how respectful syntheses of contexts are possible everywhere. Standing in line with similar architects who preceded them, whether they be Pikionis, Döllgast or Lewerentz, TEd'A Arquitectes offer an approach that understands their presence and actions as simultaneously specific in time and opportunities as well as general and transcendent.