



CICA'S Book Awards: A brief and selective history

The international Book Awards of CICA (International Committee of Architectural Critics) for architectural criticism were established in 1980 at the 2nd International CICA meeting in Buenos Aires. Three awards were announced stressing the need for high quality and objective criticism, namely:-

1. A book on architectural criticism and/or theory which made a significant contribution to these subjects.
2. To the author of a significant article on architectural criticism and/or theory published in a journal or newspaper.
3. An introduction or an article in a catalogue connected to 'an architectural exhibition staged in museums, cultural centres or galleries'.

The initial CICA Awards Committee included: Bruno Zevi, Founding President (Italy), George R Collins (USA), Dennis Sharp (UK), Jorge Glusberg (Argentina) and Michele Champenois (France).

The first awards were announced in 1981 at the UIA Congress in Warsaw. The CICA Book Award went to Manfredi Nicoletti, *L'architettura della caverna*, Bari 1980. The CICA Award for architectural criticism (*ex aequo*): article in *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui* by Kenneth Frampton, and James Marston Fitch (*AIA Journal*). The CICA Award for an introduction to an architectural catalogue went to Arthur Drexler, *Transformations*, New York: MOMA, 1979. A special mention was made to *Contemporary Architects*, London: St James' Press 1980

At the UIA XV Congress in Cairo, 1985, the CICA Book Award was given to the book by Alan Colquhoun, *Modern Architecture and Historical Change*, Cambridge:MIT Press 1981. The journal award was for an article in the *Architectural Review* (8/84) by William Curtis on 'The uses and abuses of history' and the catalogue award to Heinrich Klotz for *Post-Moderne*, at DAM, Frankfurt, 1984.

Further awards followed at the UIA Congress in Brighton and lastly at Istanbul in 2005 when the now renamed CICA Bruno Zevi Book Award went to Dalibor Veselý for *Architecture in the Age of Divided Representation*, Cambridge MIT Press 2004. The CICA Pierre Vago Journalism Award was made to the special *Architectural Review* issue: 'Davey Reflects' (3/05). The Julius Posener CICA Exhibition Catalogue Award was given to Irénée Scalbert, *A Right to Difference: The Architecture of Jean Renaudie*, AA London 2004

Submissions for this year's award were more numerous than ever and many of the entries reached high standards of erudition, research, scholarship and presentation. However, it must be recorded that very few titles could be called 'critical'!

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