

Paris, 5 December 2025

Press release

Prix Versailles 2025: World Titles Announcement and celebration of the World's Most Beautiful Lists

The Prix Versailles World Ceremony was held on 4 December 2025 at UNESCO Headquarters, in the presence of the international community, who came out to support and congratulate this year's laureates.

The event was the occasion to officially celebrate the 72 "World's Most Beautiful" projects in each of the Prix Versailles categories – Museums, Hotels, Restaurants, Emporiums, Airports, Campuses, Passenger Stations, and Sports.

Spread across 25 countries this year, all these architectural achievements were either recently built or underwent exemplary renovations.

During the ceremony, the 2025 World Jury – chaired by Irina Bokova – discerned three World Titles in each category.

In the words of the Jury's Chairperson:

"Each year, the Prix Versailles challenges us to look beyond aesthetics alone and to evaluate architecture and design as a force capable of shaping the world we inhabit. It invites us to measure creativity not only by its boldness, but by its integrity – its ability to respond to cultural context, to uplift communities, and to contribute meaningfully to a sustainable future."

Paris, UNESCO House

4 December 2025



Quote – Opening speech for the World Ceremony by Irina Bokova, Chairperson of the Jury

Excellencies,
Ministers, Ambassadors,
Distinguished representatives of UNESCO,
Honoured laureates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a true honour, as Chair of the Jury, to welcome you to the 2025 Prix Versailles celebration here at UNESCO – an institution that stands as a beacon for cultural understanding, global dialogue, and the safeguarding of our shared heritage.

Presiding over this year's Jury has been both a privilege and a profound responsibility. Each year, the Prix Versailles challenges us to look beyond aesthetics alone and to evaluate architecture and design as a force capable of shaping the world we inhabit. It invites us to measure creativity not only by its boldness, but by its integrity – its ability to respond to cultural context, to uplift communities, and to contribute meaningfully to a sustainable future.

As always, UNESCO reminds us that architecture is inseparable from culture. It is a form of expression that carries memory, fosters identity, and builds bridges between people. The laureates we honour tonight embody these principles. Their projects show a remarkable balance between innovation and sensitivity, between ecological stewardship and artistic ambition.

For the Jury, awarding the World Titles was both inspiring and challenging. We witnessed an extraordinary array of projects representing diverse regions, traditions, and visions of the future. Each finalist demonstrated the depth and vitality of contemporary design. Yet the laureates who stand before us tonight distinguished themselves in a particular way: they created works that speak to the world – not only to their immediate surroundings. They remind us that architecture, at its best, elevates the human experience.

Our choice emphasised values that have always guided the Prix Versailles:

- Intelligent sustainability, grounded in long-term responsibility
- Cultural resonance, honouring heritage while embracing progress
- Public value, ensuring spaces serve communities in meaningful ways
- Aesthetic excellence, enriching both daily life and the urban landscape.

These principles align closely with UNESCO's mission, and it is fitting that we celebrate these achievements here in this symbolic home of cultural cooperation.

To the laureates – on behalf of the entire Jury, I congratulate you. Your work stands as a testament to what can be achieved when imagination, ethics, and technical mastery converge.

To my fellow jurors – thank you for your diligence, your insight, and your unwavering commitment to fairness and excellence throughout this process.

And to UNESCO and all our partners – thank you for your continued support. Your belief in the transformative power of design sustains the very purpose of the Prix Versailles.

As we honour this year's laureates, let us be reminded that architecture does not simply shape skylines and urban development – it shapes societies. May the spirit of the projects we celebrate tonight inspire all of us to continue building a world that is more beautiful, more sustainable, and more humane.

Congratulations once again to the 2025 laureates.

Thank you, and please enjoy the evening.

Paris, UNESCO House
4 December 2025



Quote – Closing remarks for the World Ceremony by Jérôme Gouadain, Secretary General

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Esteemed friends of the Prix Versailles,

It is an honour for me to give the closing remarks for this ceremony tonight.
First and foremost, we would like to thank you all for being here with us this evening.
It is important to shine a light on everything that wows the world. Which is precisely why the Prix Versailles was created 11 years ago.

Beauty brings local residents and communities together. It forms a new horizon, a new point of leverage for a more humane type of development, one that is based on intangible values and cultural diversity. Promoting a balance between society, culture and nature – what we refer to as intelligent sustainability –, it is capable of uniting all of humankind around common goals.

Actualising this cultural intelligence will be a pivotal challenge for our younger generations.
All of you Prix Versailles laureates have the power to inspire the global community. And so, we heartily thank you for your engagement and your persevering hard work.

Our most sincere congratulations to each and every one of you. Until next time!

PRIX VERSAILLES

2025 WORLD JURY



LANG LANG
Pianist (China)



IRINA BOKOVA
Former Director-General of UNESCO
Chairperson of the World Jury (Bulgaria)



MA YANSONG
Architect (China)



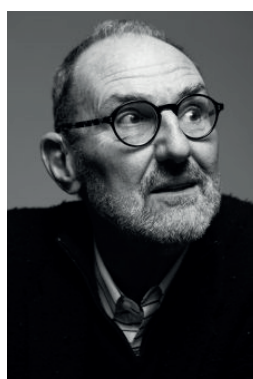
EMMA WATSON
Actress (United Kingdom)



LEANDRO ERlich
Conceptual artist (Argentina)



IRIS VAN HERPEN
Fashion designer (Netherlands)



THOM MAYNE
Architect (United States)



MARIA DE MEDEIROS
Actress, Film director (Portugal)



PRIX VERSAILLES

WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL MUSEUMS LIST 2025

Grand Palais

Paris, France

Saka Museum

Bali, Indonesia

Special prize for an Interior

Audeum

Seoul, Republic of Korea

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Kunstsilo

Kristiansand, Norway

Diriyah Art Futures

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Cleveland, United States

Special prize for an Exterior

Joslyn Art Museum

Omaha, United States

*The Laureates are listed in the alphabetical order of the countries they represent
(based on their two-letter ISO 3166 country codes).*



PRIX VERSAILLES

WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL EMPORIUMS LIST 2025

Special prize for an Interior

Cartier

Brussels, Belgium

Louis Vuitton Taikoo Hui

Shanghai, China

Tianjin Zhongshuge

Tianjin, China

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Tiffany & Co. Montenapoleone

Milan, Italy

Rolex Ginza

Tokyo, Japan

Toraya Ginza Building

Tokyo, Japan

Special prize for an Exterior

Apple The Exchange TRX

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Longchamp SoHo

New York, United States

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WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL HOTELS LIST 2025

Jumeirah Marsa Al Arab

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Palazzo Talia

Rome, Italy

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Mandarin Oriental Qianmen

Beijing, China

Romeo Roma

Rome, Italy

Rosewood Munich

Munich, Germany

MGallery Sosei Sapporo

Sapporo, Japan

Al Moudira

Luxor, Egypt

Todos Santos Boutique Hotel

Todos Santos, Mexico

Special prize for an Interior

Hôtel du Couvent

Nice, France

Special prize for an Exterior

Shebara

Sheybarah Island, Saudi Arabia

Hôtel Hana

Paris, France

Raffles Sentosa Singapore

Singapore, Singapore

Mandarin Oriental Mayfair

London, United Kingdom

The Manner

New York, United States

Ran Baas The Palace

Patiala, India

Namia River Retreat

Hội An, Vietnam

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WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL RESTAURANTS LIST 2025

Gerbou

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Smoked Room

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Special prize for an Interior

Blackswan

Beijing, China

Ōrtensia

Shanghai, China

Lobster Club

Palma de Mallorca, Spain

Bouchon Carême

Helsinki, Finland

Ladurée rue Royale

Paris, France

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Ducasse Baccarat

Paris, France

Julie's

London, United Kingdom

Shell

Nusa Penida, Indonesia

Coro

Orvieto, Italy

Seven Island

Busan, Republic of Korea

Kimyona

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Special prize for an Exterior

Another Smith

Tha Sai Luat, Thailand

Beefbar

New York, United States

Japón

Miami Beach, United States

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WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL AIRPORTS LIST 2025

Yantai Penglai International Airport

Terminal 2

Yantai, China

Special prize for an Interior

Marseille Provence Airport

Terminal 1

Marignane, France

Roland Garros Airport

Arrivals Terminal

Réunion Island, France

Kansai International Airport

Terminal 1

Osaka, Japan

Special prize for an Exterior

Portland International Airport

Main Terminal

Portland, United States

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San Francisco International Airport

Terminal 1

San Francisco, United States

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WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL CAMPUSES LIST 2025

James Cook University

Engineering and Innovation Place

Townsville, Australia

Special prize for an Interior

Shanghai Jiao Tong University

School of Design

Shanghai, China

Special prize for an Exterior

University of Copenhagen

Niels Bohr Bygningen

Copenhagen, Denmark

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LCI Barcelona

Barcelona, Spain

University of Oxford

Gradel Quadrangles, New College

Oxford, United Kingdom

Leiden University

Herta Mohr

Leiden, Netherlands

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WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL PASSENGER STATIONS LIST 2025

Special prize for an Interior

Gadigal Station

Sydney, Australia

Mons Station

Mons, Belgium

Baiyun Station

Guangzhou, China

Saint-Denis – Pleyel Station

Saint-Denis, France

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Villejuif – Gustave Roussy Station

Villejuif, France

Special prize for an Exterior

KAFD Station

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Qasr Al Hokm Station

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL ARENAS LIST 2025

Xi'an International Football Centre

Xi'an, China

SAP Garden

Munich, Germany

Special prize for an Exterior

Le Colisée

Chartres, France

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Kagawa Prefectural Arena

Takamatsu, Japan

Caesars Superdome

New Orleans, United States

Special prize for an Interior

Intuit Dome

Inglewood, United States

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