

USA's REAL DEMOCRACY IS PUT TO TEST

(Editorial at Page 2)

ADPSR asks the AIA clear definitions on Human Rights under the new Administration.
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ARC-PEACE NL will produce a Special Supplement on this issue on January 2017.



The NEW URBAN AGENDA approved at HABITAT III

Nine official definitions on the 2016-2036 worldwide drafted document. Governments' action is now expected.
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"My Journey at the Nuclear Brink"

This is the title of the book written by William Perry (left). It describes his lifelong passion to prevent nuclear war, including his experience as US Secretary of Defense (1994 – 1997).
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WISELY MANAGED SOIL, WATER AND COWS CAN HELP THE PLANET



ADPSR colleague Franziska Amacher (left) reviews 'Cows save the Planet' and 'Water in Plain Sight', bestselling books by Judith D. Schwartz (right).
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FIRST RIBA INTERNATIONAL PRIZE

The Universidad de Ingeniería y Tecnología in Lima, Peru, was designed by Grafton Architects. Pictured above is Yvonne Farrell, cofounder of the famous Irish firm.
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WOMEN SHOW THE WAY

70 of them advocated sanitation at human settlements and the right to housing in Peru. (Photo below)
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I WANT TO BE AN ARCHITECT!

A sad story by a brilliant daughter of immigrant parents, explaining why she cannot achieve her vocation.
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Trump incarnates the Dangerous Side of Democracy

The US Constitution (1789) starts "We the people". Does the US Presidential Election honor people's vote?

Considering the fundamentals of democracy - as proposed by both Plato's 'The Republic' and Aristotle's 'The Politics' - it is quite obvious that only a minority of politicians identify with them, and even fewer practice the morals and ethics sustaining democracy.

That's why the world is as it is, and goes as it goes.

After three decades advocating democracy worldwide we, at ARC•PEACE, are both shocked and concerned about the bizarre process of the 2016 US Presidential Elections.

According to the Classics society has a natural origin: **the satisfaction of human needs.**

Every society requires an organization and structure to enable its development and survival: **the political structure or the city government.**

In a democratic society people cohabits harmonizing three essential virtues: **prudence** (wisdom), **fortress** (courage), and **temperance** (self-control).

Democracy is an ideal system that is endangered whenever this delicate virtuous balance is broken.

Therefore, any society stops being democratic if and when one of the three powers dominates the other two. *Gambling with democracy is not recommended.*

The appalling six months long electoral campaign that ended last November 8 reminded of the Cold War days.

Sad to say, many have learned nothing beneficial from those dark decades.

Otherwise, who could have guessed that real democracy would be put to the test by the greed of a rich and foolish man and the unlimited self-confidence of a stubborn woman?

This is historically the fifth time the outdated Electoral College mocks the majority popular vote; thus the democratic roots of the nation are jeopardized and future US global impact is wrapped in uncertainties.

In 1824, John Quincy Adams was elected president despite not winning either the popular vote or the electoral vote. His opponent, Andrew Jackson defeated him on both accounts; but as none of them had got the 131 electoral votes required, the House of Representatives chose Adams.

In 1876, Rutherford B. Hayes won the election (one electoral vote of difference), but he lost the popular vote by more than 250,000 ballots to Samuel J. Tilden.

In 1888, Benjamin Harrison received 233 electoral votes to Grover Cleveland's 168, winning the presidency. But Harrison lost the popular vote by more than 90,000 votes.

In 2000, George W. Bush was declared the winner of the general election and became the 43rd president, but he didn't win the popular vote either. Al Gore holds that distinction, garnering about 540,000 more votes than Bush. However, Bush won the electoral vote, 271 to 266.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton ended last November with more than 209,000 votes over Donald Trump; but the tycoon has been declared winner on electoral votes (306 to 232).

Observation: in all five cases the Democrat candidates won more popular votes than the other candidate; but they lost.

In 2014 scientists from Princeton University found that the US was looking more like an oligarchy than a real representative democracy; **thus eroding a government of the people, by the people, for the people** as stated by Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address.

The study concluded that average citizens had an almost nonexistent influence on public policies and that the ordinary citizen had little or no independent influence on policy at all.

The Electoral College has been widely criticized for several reasons; i.e. for being anti-democratic by definition, since the President is thus elected indirectly rather than through a direct electoral system.

Another criticism is that it creates inequality among voters in different states during the Presidential Election. Usually, only voters in key states determine the outcome of the election, and so it is claimed that the vast majority of Americans, who do not live in competitive states, are ignored by election campaigns.

Former candidate Ms. Jill Stein has promoted a vote recount at the critical States where the election system collected major criticisms: *'This is really not only about this election; this is about reforms that need to be made to create an election system that we can believe in'* – says Stein.

The Editor

This Newsletter has been edited by co founder Oscar Margenet Nadal in collaboration with Andy Margenet Cáceres and Alejandra Cerutti Jacob. We also thank Dick Urban Vestbro, Raphael Sperry, Franziska Amacher and Marilú Sánchez Hurtado for their material contribution. Next NL (#52) is planned for March 2017. All members are invited to send suggestions for articles, photos and projects. If you wish to be an ARC•PEACE member, please contact: secretariat@arcpeace.org Visit our website: www.arcpeace.org and our Facebook pages in several languages and email groups. ARC•PEACE is registered in special consultative status with UN ECOSOC since 1993. It is also registered as an NGO with Spanish RNA N° G1° / S4ª / N°141 since December 2015.

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Thanks for your time contribution and/or generous donation!

My Journey at the Nuclear Brink

By William J. Perry and reviewed by Lawrence D. Freedman

Our ability to survive the nuclear age for so long is an impressive achievement, but it is hard to avoid the nagging feeling that at some point humankind's luck will run out.

Until nuclear weapons are somehow eliminated, we have little choice but to rely on deterrence and a taboo (of uncertain strength) against their use.

Meanwhile, governments must make every effort to limit the number of nuclear-armed states, reduce the number of nuclear weapons that exist, and narrow the options for their use.

Perry has long been one of the more strenuous advocates for confronting the dangers of the nuclear age, and his engaging memoir explains why.

As a young mathematician, Perry helped the CIA analyze intelligence on Soviet capabilities during the Cuban missile crisis.

Later, working in the Pentagon during the Carter administration, he came to realize that it was conceivable for a false alarm to cause an inadvertent nuclear war.

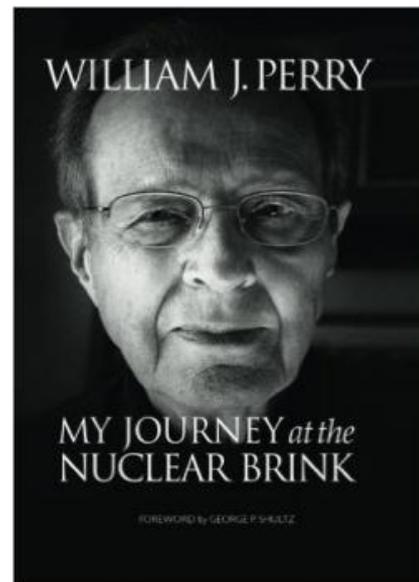
As President Bill Clinton's secretary of defense, he prioritized a program to help the Russians safely dismantle parts of the Soviet nuclear arsenal and pushed for cuts to the U.S. stockpile as well.

Not surprisingly, the recent deterioration in U.S. - Russian relations has left him anxious, and he calls on the nuclear powers to revive their efforts to reduce the risks of catastrophe.

Brad Roberts, in his well-researched and carefully argued book '*U.S. Nuclear Weapons on the 21st Century*', takes a different approach.

Without denying the risks described by Perry, he worries that there are also dangers in neglecting the more immediate challenges of nuclear strategy.

His primary concern is the possibility of a conflict between the United States and a country (or countries) that has more seriously considered how to employ nuclear weapons in a crisis, if only because it enjoys fewer conventional options than does Washington.



After an excellent survey of post - Cold War U.S. nuclear policy, he zeroes in on North Korea, which is probably the scariest nuclear - armed state, and then looks closely at China and Russia.

He concludes that the United States must start taking nuclear strategy seriously again and that doing so will require investing in new capabilities.

Suggested by Dick Urban Vestbro and adapted by The Editor.

Reversing Climate Change with soils and water

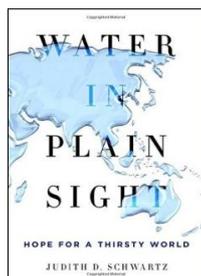
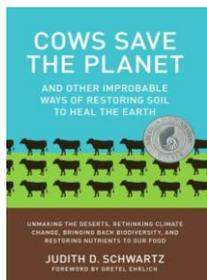
By Franziska Amacher reviewing Judith D. Schwartz's bestselling books

We met on a sunny afternoon in November and were sitting outdoors in a café.

Everything seemed normal and pleasant, yet November 8th had happened and the temperature was unusually warm confirming the statistics on this year's high temperatures.



Judith Schwartz is a petite and deceptively unassuming woman who looks at the big picture and at the connections between different systems.



In her books "Cows save the Planet" and "Water in Plain Sight" she addresses fundamental questions about our water management and how there are much better methods that actually can fundamentally affect climate change, drought and food production and ultimately be very important tools in reversing climate change

Her books are very effective in summarizing practices that change soil fertility and water retention. There are three areas where these practices are discussed:

- a) Animal husbandry.
- b) Growing of crops.
- c) Urban environments.

Also: Walter Jehne can be listened at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eiPDUDT9HiA>

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The New Urban Agenda is the outcome of years of preparation. Dozens of meetings were held around the world under the UN Umbrella. Now it is up to national governments and local authorities to implement the Agenda, with technical and financial partnerships and assistance from the international community. World leaders have committed to:

Provide basic services for all citizens.

These services include: access to housing, safe drinking water and sanitation, nutritious food, healthcare and family planning, education, culture and access to communication technologies.

Ensure that all citizens have access to equal opportunities and face no discrimination.

Everyone has the right to benefit from what their cities offer. The New Urban Agenda calls on city authorities to take into account the needs of women, youth and children, people with disabilities, marginalized groups, older persons, indigenous people, among other group

Promote measures that support cleaner cities

Tackling air pollution in cities is good both for people's health and for the planet. In the Agenda, leaders have committed to increase their use of renewable energy, provide better and greener public transport, and sustainably manage their natural resources.

Strengthen resilience in cities to reduce the risk and the impact of disasters.

Many cities have felt the impact of natural disasters and leaders have now committed to implement mitigation and adaptation measures to minimize these impacts. Some of these measures include: better urban planning, quality infrastructure and improving local responses.

Take action to address climate change by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

Leaders have committed to involve not just the local government but all actors of society to take climate action taking into account the Paris Agreement on climate change which seeks to limit the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius. Sustainable cities that reduce emissions from energy and build resilience can play a lead role.

Fully respect the rights of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons regardless of their migration status.

Leaders have recognized that migration poses challenges but it also brings significant contributions to urban life.

Because of this, they have committed to establish measures that help migrants, refugees and IDPs make positive contributions to societies.

Improve connectivity and support innovative and green initiatives.

This includes establishing partnerships with businesses and civil society to find sustainable solutions to urban challenges.

Promote safe, accessible and green public spaces.

Human interaction should be facilitated by urban planning, which is why the Agenda calls for an increase in public spaces such as sidewalks, cycling lanes, gardens, squares and parks. Sustainable urban design plays a key role in ensuring the livability and prosperity of a city.

How will this be achieved?

The New Urban Agenda will require new urban rules and regulations, improved urban planning and design, and municipal finance, among other things. To find out more about the implementation of the Agenda visit: <https://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/> Photo: Ariel Alexovich

This article is adapted from the UN official webpage by the Editor.



Dr. Joan Clos, HABITAT III CEO.



I WANT TO BE AN ARCHITECT!

NL Editor interviewed a girl with a strong vocation for Architecture. She is also driven by a socially responsible call. But, as to many others of her condition, these dreams are not easy to become true. (The girl's name is changed for security reasons).

Newsletter Editor: Hi, could you introduce yourself to NL readers?

Girl student: My name is Nura. I'm seventeen and I was born in the Balearic Islands, Spain. I grew up as one of three children of Moroccan immigrants in Mallorca. We live at the outskirts of Palma old town. I belong to a working class family with immigrants' typical problems. I have to take care of my little sister while my parents earn a living. I'm quite busy, you know.

NL: Are you about to finish your high school formation?

Nura: Yes. I studied in a school near my house. I had the fortune to meet good tutors there. They taught me to wisely invest time and effort to face the challenges of this time. They always motivated me by emphasizing the importance of education. So, I always tried to get the best out of me. Now I am finishing my last year of high school, preparing to do the entrance tests to the university.

NL: Have you already discovered your vocational inclination?

Nura: I was very confused when having to think of my future. You see, in Spain you must have a strong idea of your vocation as early as High School third level. I was curious about how the world worked. **But, at the same time, the idea of being able to help people to have a better life was always deep inside.** I knew the need to have a scientific approach like Biology, Anthropology or Medicine. But I also had the idea of dedicating time to the Arts, knowing that mathematics and physics are basics for a sustainable work of Art.

NL: When did you manage to make your mind?

Nura: Not long ago. But it wasn't any easy at all. One of my hobbies was drawing; since I was a child I used to page magazines on architecture, and I copied mainly Arabic designs due to my ancestors' culture.

But I also used to play as a doctor. As soon as I mentioned I decided for Architecture my family and close friends were quite surprised. They imagined me in white with a stethoscope around my neck, so all disliked my decision. They started pointing at the construction crisis in Spain and tried to put my back on Medicine. I think that was what made me stick to my choice and increased my curiosity for this subject.



NL: Did you get any institutional directions that helped you?

Nura: The first information I got was that it is impossible to study Architecture here, since the University of the Balearic Islands (UIB) only has Building Engineering. That meant I had to go away, to the Peninsula (Spain's inland), and my family does not have the resources to pay me a career out of Mallorca. I always had the idea of being able to apply for scholarships; but now it means I have to pay for accommodation apart from the tuition.

NL: Have you received any grant before?

Nura: Yes, I received help from the local government due to my good qualifications. But now, having to live in a new place, alone, away from my whole family I query myself whether the sacrifice is really worth it, even if I got a grant. At times I tell myself 'you're not born with a gift for architecture, do something else'. But architecture for me means the synthesis of all my tastes and interests in one: mathematics, physics, drawing and building.

Strange as it sounds I would like to build. Maybe this comes from my father. He's a plumber and often took me to his work when I was a young girl.

NL: Did you really enjoy being at a worksite?

Nura: Indeed. I loved to see how my dad and others worked hard while reforming a building. When after messing it all they left the worksite cleansed and well organized for the next day I recalled of my own house most of the time being reformed. Basically, I was raised between dust and cement. Sometimes I used to build my dolls' house with cardboard boxes messing the whole place to my mother's disgust. I think these memories influenced me to the point of clinging to Architecture. I would love designing and building my own house. A also like to see how people settle down in a new place and give it use.

NL: How would you define Architecture?

Nura: I think it's a combination of science and arts in one profession. A career that has an important history; that has evolved as the human being does. Is an art made science; able to create a structure from scratch, to give life to a place. I would design places following the human being trends. People need to carry out their activities or own life at places that fit their needs.

NL: Would you like to design following the Arabic influence?

Nura: I have been to Morocco and Tunisia; their architectural forms, colors and details are familiar to me. I would like to re create the diversity of portals, facades and windows with different shapes and colors, creating a lively urban scape wherever I live. To study architecture is a great economic and personal sacrifice to someone like me. I want to be an architect. So I'll do my best to get it.

NL: Thanks Nura. We really want you to receive the necessary support and you become a great architect.

The Editor

The readers wanting to help Nura realize her vocational dream are encouraged to contact NL Editor

“Commit architects to protecting human rights with the Trump administration”

This is the ADPSR petition to be presented to Mr. Robert Ivy, CEO of the American Institute of Architects; to Mr. Russell Davidson, President of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and to Mr. Thomas Vonier, AIA's elected President

“AIA must stand for the wellbeing of the architectural profession, but AIA’s uncritical embrace of the incoming Trump administration calls that into question.

Local economies throughout much of the country need revitalization, but we do not believe that kissing up to a litigious billionaire will benefit the majority of architects and designers.

A thriving profession requires a country of greater equality and shared prosperity, while deregulation threatens our ability to deliver quality work and even our professional standing. Trump’s promises to end longstanding environmental protections when a higher standard of care is called for will make the buildings we deliver complicit in abusing our children and grandchildren for the sake of short-term gain.

Above all, economic sustainability demands renewed respect for the earth and for all the people of the communities we live in and serve. It is not only our nation’s physical infrastructure that needs rebuilding, but after this divisive political campaign our social and political infrastructure needs restoration as well.

Our profession has an essential role to play, not only through executing the building projects our country needs – schools, affordable housing, and everything that can reduce our carbon footprint to sustainable levels – but also in demonstrating civil, public-spirited, and inclusive leadership.



AIA’s statement of partnership with the incoming administration somehow ignored that the President-elect, as a candidate, focused much of his campaign on threatening the dignity and human rights of women, Muslims, Latin@s, LGBT people, and others around the world, or that his victory once against frustrated the will of the American people through the mechanism of the antiquated electoral college. AIA’s uncritical statement of support for the next administration has been deeply unsettling to many architects, to say the least; AIA must immediately reassure its members and a nervous public that architects will respect human rights, protect our democratic values and contribute to community economic development as a foundation of our work.

We demand that AIA immediately adopt the human rights Ethics Rule that **Architects / Designers / Planners for Social Responsibility** has proposed to prohibit member participation in projects intended to violate human

rights because we are deeply concerned that the Trump administration may attempt to suborn members into ethically unacceptable projects, and because members and the public deserve proof of good will after AIA’s tone-deaf promise of support for a threatening administration. This will also help to reassert our profession’s independence in civil society and our value to our local communities.

With Mr. Trump’s authoritarian tone and his personal history of flouting the law (even refusing to pay AIA members for past work), we must also be cautious of threats to our democracy, and a renewed human rights commitment will do what our profession can to inoculate U.S. civil society more broadly against future abuse.

Our profession can achieve great things, and we can work with a Trump administration, but we can only do so on our terms, rather than on his, as a profession devoted to design for the public good.”

ARC•PEACE fully supports the letter of its associated ADPSR. Thus, we encourage our readers to sign in at:

<https://www.change.org/p/american-institute-of-architects-ban-design-for-killing-or-torture/u/18471383>

A Special Supplement on USA actuality will be published in January 2017. The Editor



Peruvian women advocate for Constitutional rights

Seventy women from 18 Provinces, 12 Regions and 13 districts of Lima gathered at the "National Encounter of Leading Women for the Right to a Dignified Housing", held in the district of Carabayllo, on November 23, 24.

They advocated for official sanitation at human settlements, the right to housing, expropriations at a fiscal price (not at market value), among other issues, informs ARC• PEACE Co-chair Marilú Sánchez.

The women were motivated by the presence of the advisors of Congresswoman Marisa Glave (President of the Housing Commission of the Congress of the Republic). *To Page 7*

[\(From Page 6: 'Peruvian women.....'\)](#)

The meeting finally focused on working on proposals for regulations for land regularization and access to land titling, as well as problems related to evictions, in order to design and present a land regularization law, mainly for the benefit of Women heads of household, widows and single mothers.

A proposal for legislation on land regulation and protection of women was also approved, as a matter of priority against arbitrary evictions in informal human settlements. The event was concluded by recommending: 1. Require the incorporation of the right to decent housing in the current Political Constitution.

2. Completion of legal reorganization of land possession and the titling.

3. Immediate cessation of the threat of eviction against thousands of informal occupations.

4. Call attention to the rulers and the citizens on the lack of decent housing, in particular to those living in risky areas.

[Report by Marilú Sánchez Hurtado](#)

[\(From Page 3: 'Reversing Climate.....'\)](#)

1. Animal husbandry. One of the best examples is Zimbabwe; once reputed as the breadbasket of Africa, due to droughts alternating with floods Zimbabweans stopped exporting foods and started to experience hunger.



Now, thanks to Allan Savory's holistic plan water is returning to the areas where he works. The landscape has turned green and, agriculture is thriving again, biodiversity restored and wild life can thrive when it can find new watering holes. How does he do it?

"Grazing animals can serve as a tool for preventing or reversing desertification"- he says.

The animals break the surface of the ground making it possible for water to soak in and keep moisture in the soils and for aeration. Animals help by grazing, compacting the decaying plants into the soil thus fertilizing it. After moving the animals to a new area new seedling grow in abundance. The bacteria pass through fungi to the soils that make soils living and fertile again. **"Cows save the Planet"** is contrary to what we have been told: That the methane produced by cows is a large contributor to the pollution responsible for climate change. In fact the methane from cows is part of the growing – digesting - decaying natural cycle that has gone on for millennia.

In the US western plains, there were thousands of buffalos, many more than current cow counts. The methane produced by cows is small compared to the potential carbon sequestering by cows trampling the decaying plant material into the soil and creating soil surfaces that can retain water that allows plants to survive during dry spells and cools the surface of the ground.



2. Growing of crops.

Agribusiness promoted the monoculture dependant on fertilizers and pesticides to create more profits in the short term. But in the long term have depleted our soils and the nutritional value of our food, and reduced the size of crops.

Monoculture food has as little as 10 to 50% of the nutritional value crops have in holistically managed fields because of disrupted natural cycles, including the water cycles. Alternative practices described in Schwartz book recreate natural cycles that mirror those that existed before tillage and before these chemical dependent agricultural methods existed.

According to Kristine Ohlson: *"synergies between plants and soil microbial communities in advanced highly fertile soil could allow for the capture of the equivalent of a year's anthropogenic CO2 emissions on less than 11 percent of the world's cropland."*

Urban environments. The work by Michal Kravcik shows that because we have interrupted the natural cycle of water by paving over cities, water is not retained on site but channeled through drains into the oceans.

When water is in the sponge that is our earth's surface, it goes into plants and through evaporation cools the surface of the soil and the air. But hard soil or non-permeable pavement or buildings without green roofs prevent the absorption of water. Keeping storm water on site will restore the water cycles that are crucial for ecosystems.



Lack of water means lack of food crops, so it affects our very survival. We know the sociopolitical consequences when people cannot feed themselves: War and migration.

Water cycles can be managed to cool the planet's surface and reverse climate change.

Judith Schwartz makes clear that: "Climate change is a manifestation of distorted carbon, water and energy cycles, simplifying this cycle to just one number."

This is confirmed by Walter Jehne: *"We definitely need to curtail CO2 emissions (...) We cannot solve the climate problem with just CO2 reduction."*

Water can be a crucial actor in reducing climate change **"due to the unique capacity of water (...) in governing 90 % of the earth's natural heat dynamics, and global climate."**

Adapted by The Editor

THE FIRST RIBA INTERNATIONAL PRIZE IS IN PERU

The RIBA International Prize has been three years in the making. The winning project was elected among entries from all over the world. The UTEC Universidad de Ingeniería y Tecnología de Lima, was chosen.

Founded in year 1834, the Royal Institute of British Architects launched its RIBA International Prize replacing the Lubetkin Prize, which was awarded annually to an RIBA member architect for a building outside of the European Union. It runs alongside the [Stirling Prize](#), the most prestigious UK architecture award.



The new prize was open to buildings of all type, size and budget, completed by a qualified architect in any country in the past three years. Headed up by architect Richard Rogers, the jury also included American architect Billie Tsien, NLÉ founder Kunlé Adeyemi, British architect P. Gumuchdjian and Marilyn Jordan Taylor, dean of the University of Pennsylvania School Of Design.

The UTEC University, at Lima, Peru, was selected ahead of five other shortlisted projects:

[Arquipelago Contemporary Arts Centre by Menos é Mais Arquitectos and João Mendes Ribeiro](#); [Heydar Aliyev Center by Zaha Hadid Architects](#); [Museo Jumex by David Chipperfield Architects](#); [Stormen Concert Hall and Library by DRDH](#) and [The Ring of Remembrance memorial by Agence d'architecture Philippe Prost](#).

Designers of the winning scheme were Grafton Architects (GA) from Republic of Ireland.

[Grafton Architects](#) collaborated with locally based **Shell Arquitectos** on the project. It comprises a campus for a specialist engineering university in Lima, located at the edge of a deep gorge in the city's Barranco district (*right photo*).

A series of landscaped terraces with clefts, overhangs and grottos make up the vertical campus building, and also provide shade.



Inside, a succession of platforms create open circulation and meeting spaces. Teaching rooms, laboratories and offices are enclosed, inserted into and suspended from the exposed concrete structure.

"Grafton Architects have created an innovative new model for a university campus that is highly responsive to its local environment and community" said Jane Duncan, RIBA President, "the mix of open and enclosed spaces are key to the success of this building visually and spatially", she added.



"Grafton Architects have created a new way to think about a university campus, with a distinctive vertical campus structure responding to the temperate climatic conditions and referencing Peru's terrain and heritage," the jury commented.

"The educational aspirations of the client plus the unique climatic conditions of Lima gave us the opportunity to 'invent' a new vertical campus for their new University of Engineering," said GA directors Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara.

Research and edition by Oscar Margenet Nadal