Since 1896, The Architectural Review has scoured the globe for architecture that challenges and inspires. Buildings old and new are chosen as prisms through which arguments and broader narratives are constructed. In their fearless storytelling, independent critical voices explore the forces that shape the homes, cities and places we inhabit.

Join us in conversation with Nomos on 15 December

Register for free to join the winners of the 2021 AR House awards and judges Fernanda Canales, Tina Gregorič and David Leech to discuss the creative ways that architects are pushing housing forward.

Nomos will present their project El Garaje, a ground-floor garage reimagined into a family home in Madrid and selected as the winner of this year’s AR House awards. Together with the three judges, we will discuss multipurpose rooms and flexible layouts, new relationships between housing and the street, and the potential offered by unused buildings in city centres.

The winning house was chosen by a judging panel that included three previous AR House finalists: Fernanda Canales, Mexico-based architect; designer, critic, and curator Tina Gregorič, co-founder of Dekleva Gregorič Architects; and David Leech, founder of David Leech Architects.

The winner was joined by two Highly Commended projects; House Hamburgö in Bohuslän, Sweden by Manthey Kula – in the rocky landscape of Bohuslän, House Hamburgö responds to the low and fragile sunlight of the area with a long and slim house, hung from two glulam arches. Also Highly Commended was House in Kanazawa in Japan by Shota Nakanishi Architects – a large, single sided and slightly tilted roof hangs over a sheltered veranda on the street edge, creating a social space on the ground floor and dynamic living areas in the upper floors.

Fernanda Canales praised the project in how it ‘rethinks the housing typology as an element to reactivate underused spaces in cities and transform rigid and obsolete infrastructure into lively solutions.’

Tina Gregorič said of the winning project that it ‘challenges convention, questions the resources scarcity, and also requires legal work to be considered inhabitable.’

David Leech also commented: ‘Where others would have seen only problems, El Garaje demonstrates that with care and imagination a difficult and unpromising site can be re-used and re-tuned to become a rich and joyful home, full of atmosphere and character.’

The winners and talks are sponsored by Nomos, a leading Swiss watch manufacturer.

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