



An architect, a neuroscientist and a photographer, demonstrating the power of daylight and its benefit to humans

The Daylight Award has released a series of documentaries about the 2020 laureates: architect Juha Leiviskä, neuroscientist Russell Foster and photographer and writer Henry Plummer, now streaming online at thedaylightaward.com

Copenhagen, 2 September, 2020. This year a global audience is invited to learn more about three extraordinary professionals who have dedicated their lifelong careers to daylight research and practice: Professor Russell Foster, director of the Nuffield Laboratory of Ophthalmology and Head of the Sleep and Circadian Neuroscience Institute at the University of Oxford; the extraordinary Finnish architect and master of daylight Juha Leiviskä; and the American photographer and writer Henry Plummer, whose words and photographs are an inspiration in the study and practice of architecture worldwide.

“Whether elucidating the neural effects of light or invoking the poetic essence of light, the laureates of the 2020 Daylight Award demonstrate to us the power of light.” – as the jury stated in their reasoning

The bridge between research and architecture

The documentaries are of interest to architects, researchers and scientists, building professionals, educators and students, and to a wide audience interested in human health, well-being and the environment. As such, the documentaries are aimed to inspire to relation building between theory and practice, to build bridge between scientific research and a practising architecture.

“The attention brought to the importance of daylight in human health flagged up the whole relationship between neuroscience and architecture in general. There is a lot of opportunity for architects and people like myself to work closely together and I think that will increasingly be the case in this decade” – says Russell Foster, Daylight Research laureate.

Four documentaries

The first film **“Celebrating Daylight”** includes a virtual presentation of the medals for the laureates presented by the chairs of the three VELUX FOUNDATIONS; Jens Kann-Rasmussen, VILLUM FONDEN, Hans Kann Rasmussen, VELUX FONDEN and Lykke Ogstrup Lunde, VELUX STIFTUNG while three unique documentaries showcase the laureates and their achievements:

“Vertical Daylight” - takes us through the work of Juha Leiviskä and his special way of integrating daylight in buildings that all reflect his strong personality, while experiencing some of his amazing works in Helsinki.

“The Vital Daylight” – filmed in Russell Foster’s study in Oxford where he explains his research on the eye’s ability to keep track of our circadian rhythm, using receptors unknown to us 20 years ago - a discovery with a wide-reaching impact.



“The Architecture of Natural Light” – a film recreation of Henry Plummer’s iconic book “The Architecture of Natural Light”. His photography, along with his inspiring thoughts and observations represent the ultimate in architectural photography today.

“While laureate Russell Foster studies the science behind the effect of light on human behaviour and physical and mental well-being, laureates Juha Leiviskä and Henry Plummer approach the effects and implications of daylight intuitively through architectural design, photographic expression and verbal mediation of these human responses.” – as stated by the jury in their reasoning

The 2020 jury consists of James Carpenter, jury chair (US), Marilyne Andersen (CH), Juhani Pallasmaa (FI), Anne Lacaton (FR), Koen Steemers (UK) and Aki Kawasaki (CH).

ABOUT THE DAYLIGHT AWARD

The Daylight Award honours and supports daylight research and daylight in architecture, for the benefit of human health, well-being and the environment. The award places specific emphasis on the interrelation between theory and practice. The Daylight Award is given every second year biennially in two categories; Daylight Research and Daylight in Architecture. The award is given as two personal prizes, and each to the sum of €100,000. Exceptionally in 2020, and to mark the 40th anniversary of the first Daylight Award given to Jørn Utzon, The Daylight Award is given to Henry Plummer for lifetime achievement.

For more details, please visit thedaylightaward.com

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Juha Leiviskä, Daylight in Architecture

Juha Leiviskä is one of the most significant contemporary architects in Finland, and a founding partner of the architectural practice Arkkitehtitoimisto Helander-Leiviskä in Helsinki. In 1992 he was honoured with The Order of the Lion of Finland and in 1994 with the Prince Eugen Medal, a medal conferred by the King of Sweden for outstanding artistic achievement. In his works of architecture, he demonstrates a unique ability to make daylight an integral element of his buildings, in a way that combines emotional stimulus, functionality, and a subtle yet thrilling presence of light as part of the spatial experience. In the current context of environmental values of architecture and the use of natural resources to create natural and sustainable comfort, the work of Leiviskä on daylight is particularly relevant today.

Russell Foster, Daylight Research

Russell Foster is a neuroscientist, a professor, Director of the Nuffield Laboratory of Ophthalmology and Head of the Sleep and Circadian Neuroscience Institute at the University of Oxford. In 2015, he was honoured with a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to science. His most acclaimed scientific discovery was that the eye contains a specialised cell, a light sensor that aligns the body clock and the sleep-wake rhythm to the day-night cycle. This singular discovery has changed fundamental tenets of knowledge regarding the effects of light on biological systems and human physiology.

Henry Plummer, Lifetime Achievement

Henry Plummer is an American architect, photographer, academic, researcher and author of numerous books revealing the transformative power of daylight in architecture. Emeritus Professor Henry Plummer taught architectural history and design at the Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Henry Plummer has devoted his career to researching daylight in architecture. Through extensive critiques and photographic investigations, he provides a thoughtful and evocative assessment of countless buildings through history. His unique approach to revealing the transformative, metaphysical qualities of daylight is to combine his power of narrative analysis, with his outstanding skill as an architectural photographer.

THE JURY

The highly acclaimed jury of The Daylight Award 2020 consists of **James Carpenter**, founder of James Carpenter Design Associates in New York, US, laureate of The Daylight Award in 2010, **Marilyne Andersen**, Professor of Sustainable Construction Technologies and Dean of the School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering (ENAC) at EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne), Switzerland, laureate of The Daylight Award in 2016; **Anne Lacaton**, Principal of Lacaton & Vassal Architectes, Paris, France, laureate of The Daylight Award in 2011 and winner of the EU Mies Award in 2019; **Juhani Pallasmaa**, Finnish architect, writer, teacher and practicing architect; **Aki Kawasaki**, Associate Professor of Biology and Medicine, University of Lausanne, Ophthalmic Hospital Jules Gonin, Lausanne, Switzerland, and **Koen Steemers**, Professor of Sustainable Design, Cambridge University, UK.