

THE
DAYLIGHT
AWARD

2020
LAUREATES

JUHA LEIVISKÄ
RUSSELL FOSTER
HENRY PLUMMER

THREE DOCUMENTARIES

An inspirational series of documentary films about the three life-long careers representing interdisciplinary bridge building available to watch at thedaylightaward.com

Ole Stenum,
Film director and producer:

“Vertical Daylight”

Before planning the documentary on Juha Leiviskä, I called him for a briefing where he almost immediately told the story of how he became interested in architecture after a period when he was sure he wanted to be a musician. For Leiviskä, architecture is still very much associated with music... his architecture is music. That is readily sensed even from still images of his works. I am convinced that everyone should travel to Helsinki to see his buildings ‘live’. The film takes us through Leiviskä’s work and his special way of integrating daylight in buildings that all reflect his dynamic personality. In the documentary, Leiviskä is seen on a wonderful spring day in 2020, in Helsinki.

“The Vital Daylight”

We filmed Russell Foster in his 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. Russell’s breakthrough in research is very significant today in terms of both medical science and advances in architecture. I first met Russell Foster in Lausanne 8 years ago when he told me about his concept of photonic showers, which he wanted to install along the Autobahn motorway down through Germany, so that truck drivers could benefit from a ‘light bath’ to reset their inner clock. Talking to him then was very inspiring, and when

he was announced as The Daylight Award laureate I was looking forward to working on the documentary about him and sharing his infectious, inspiring curiosity and passion with a wider audience.

“The Architecture of Natural Light”

Henry Plummer gave us access to his photographic treasure, his iconic book “The Architecture of Natural Light”. His architectural photography, along with his inspiring thoughts and observations, enabled us to produce a documentary featuring the ultimate in architectural photography. As a cinematographer and director, working with his words and photography was a truly inspiring journey. It recalled the emotions evoked from a road-trip in different parts of the world to personally experience these amazing buildings. Plummer’s reflections add another layer to that experience, for which I will be eternally grateful.

THE JURY

James Carpenter

(Chairman of the jury 2020)
Founder of the cross-disciplinary design firm James Carpenter Design Associates, US. James Carpenter has worked at the intersection of art, architecture and engineering for nearly 50 years, advancing a distinctive vision based on the use of natural light and glass as the foundational elements of the built environment.

Marilyne Andersen

Marilyne Andersen, Professor of Sustainable Construction Technologies at EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne), co-founder of OCULIGHT dynamics Sàrl. And head of Laboratory of Integrated Performance in Design (LIPID). Previously, Andersen was head of the MIT Daylighting Lab that she founded in 2004.

Aki Kawasaki

Associate professor at the Hospital Ophthalmic Jules Gonin, Lausanne, Switzerland and Director of the Laboratory of Pupillometry, Jules Gonin. She is past-president of the European Association for Vision and Eye Research and member of The advisory board at the International Council of Ophthalmology.

Anne Lacaton

Principal of Lacaton & Vassal Architectes, based in Paris, France. Anne Lacaton is also Associate Professor of Architecture & Design at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich), based in Zurich, Switzerland. In May 2019 Lacaton & Vassal received The European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – the Mies van der Rohe Award.

Juhani Pallasmaa

Juhani Pallasmaa is a Finnish architect, writer, teacher and practicing architect who has lectured extensively across the world for more than 40 years. Pallasmaa is an honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and he is the 2009 recipient of the Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Koen Steemers

Professor of Sustainable Design, The Martin Centre for Architectural and Urban Studies, Department of Architecture, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. Koen Steemers is an architect and environmental design specialist, who was listed as one of the “top 50 most influential people in UK sustainability” by the journal ‘Building Design’.

GENERAL JURY STATEMENT

The Daylight award is subdivided into two separate categories: research in daylight and daylight in architectural applications. In 2020, however, one nominee was considered in both categories because his work and ideas have contributed to and impacted the world of daylight research and the world of architecture alike. Thus, exceptionally, for 2020, the jury has been allowed to recognise a third laureate for his extraordinary career celebrating daylight at its most essential and thereby bridging the two-fold mission of the Daylight Award.

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. 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.

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 Helaner-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.

Leiviskä is also inspired by music, and his architectural projects have a musical quality evocative of, notably, Mozart. While Leiviskä's architecture echoes architectural and musical precedents, equally, his treatment of light reflects the natural light conditions in Nordic forests, especially counterlight seen through foliage, and the ambience of birch trees with their white vertical rhythms. In sum, Leiviskä continues and enriches the humanistic traditions of the Nordic masters of modern architecture.

Jury Reasoning

Daylight solutions in modern architecture are usually based on variations of zenithal light, or narrow roof or wall slits to guide light along the surfaces of the architectural space. Leiviskä's light is an oblique light that both strikes vertical surfaces directly and is reflected to create experiences of layered light with a distinct sense of depth. His light does not only illuminate surfaces, it appears to originate and exist vibrantly in the architectural space itself. An especially subtle effect in his light articulations is the use of reflected colour, which makes colour a constantly changing, kinetic and pulsating phenomenon. The colours brighten and then fade, appear and disappear according to the intensity and direction of sunlight, like breathing.



Portrait photo of Juha Leiviskä in 1999,
courtesy of Juha Leiviskä Archive

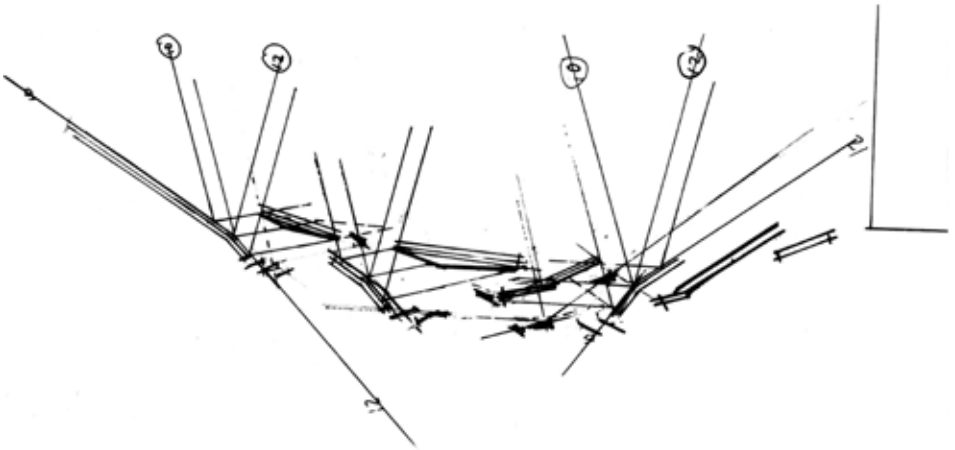
Männistö Church, Kuopio, Finland, by Juha Leiviskä,
1986–1992, photo by Henry Plummer



Pakila church, Helsinki, Finland, by Juha Leiviskä
1997–2002, photo by Arno de la Chapelle



Vallila Library, Helsinki, Finland, by Juha Leiviskä
1979–1984, photo by Arno de la Chapelle



Pakila church, Helsinki, Finland,
by Juha Leiviskä 1997–2002



Myyrmäki Church, Vantaa (near Helsinki), Finland,
by Juha Leiviskä 1980–84, photo by Arno de la Chapelle



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.

The author of nearly 200 scientific publications and four popular science books, Russell Foster is also a widely sought-after speaker and lecturer. In the industrialised modern world, we spend on average 90% of our lives inside buildings and the built environment is a primary moderator of the light to which we are exposed. The architectural community acknowledges Professor Foster's work that identifies the short and long-term health consequences of light and addresses when and how light ingress should be encouraged, and conversely, when it should be reduced and blacked out.

Jury Reasoning

Russell Foster's clinical studies in humans address important questions regarding light. How does morning light influence sleep? Why is light at night bad for health? Ultimately the answers to such questions have impacted the medical world in diverse domains including sleep medicine, psychiatry, neurology, geriatrics, ophthalmology, immunology and even cancer medicine. In identifying the neural substrate for a non-visual light pathway to the brain, he has demonstrated the powerful and wide-reaching impact of light on human health.



Portrait photo of Russell Foster, Oxford, UK,
courtesy of Nuffield Laboratory of Ophthalmology

Russell Foster

HENRY PLUMMER

Lifetime Achievement



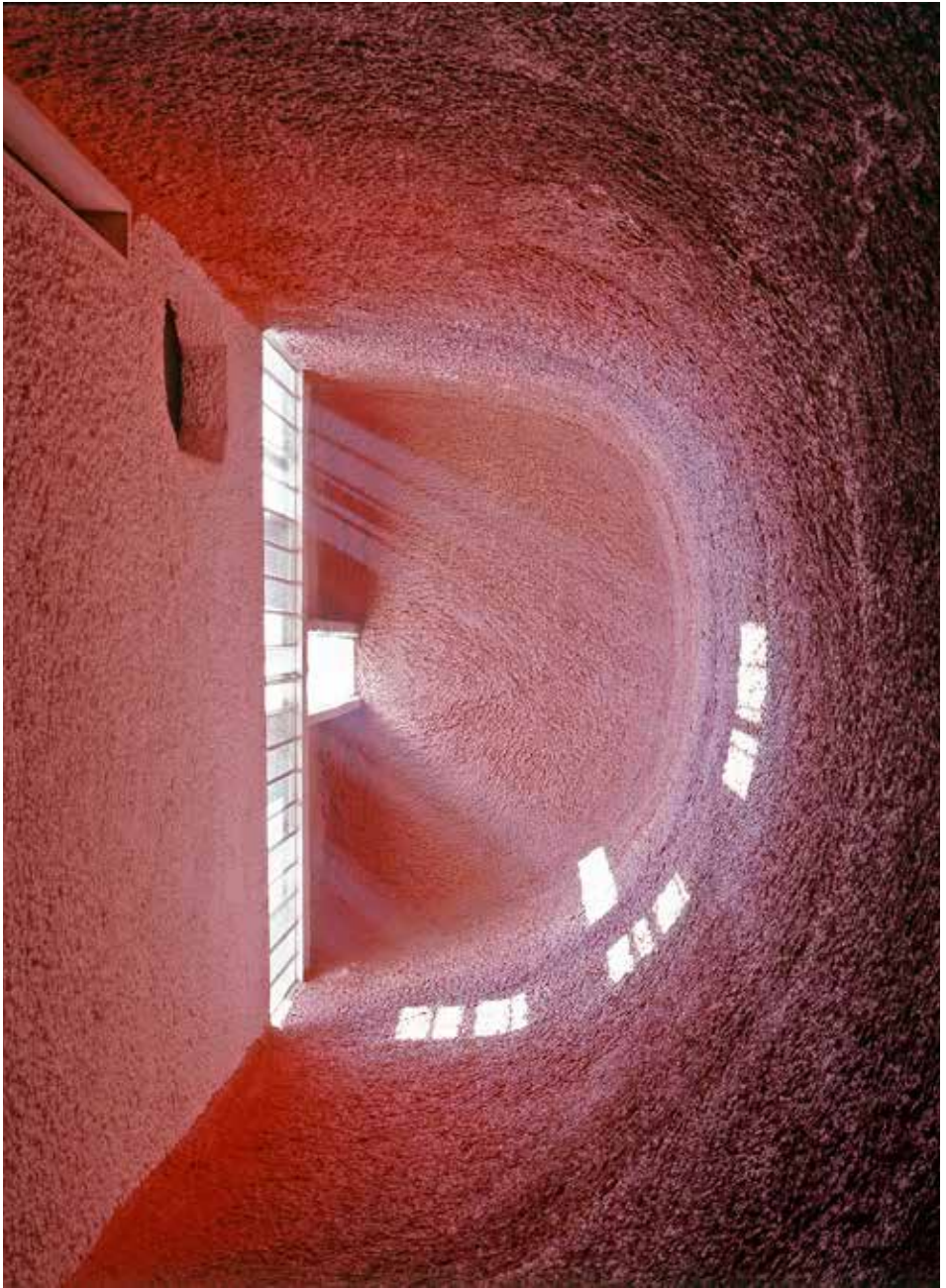
Henry Plummer is an American architect, photographer, academic, researcher and author of numerous books revealing the transformative power of daylight in architecture. Emeritus Professor Henry Plummer taught architectural history and design at the Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He gained his MArch degree from MIT, studied light-art with artist, photographer, educator and art theorist György Kepes, and was a photographic apprentice to Minor White.

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. In this way, his extensive body of work has inspired generations of architects to reveal and celebrate the experiential aspects of daylight in architecture.

Jury Reasoning

Henry Plummer's works are characterised by their humanistic, artistic, analytical and metaphysical focus. The depth and quality of his analysis is based on rigorous

studies, embracing experiential and phenomenological as well as intuitive and artistic attitudes towards investigations of daylight. He has recorded daylight phenomena which most of the academic world would not have known without his brilliant photography. Henry Plummer's exceptional writing has brought a deeper level of understanding and appreciation of the quality of natural light to academia and the profession. His words and photographs are an inspiration in the study and practice of architecture worldwide.



Portrait photo of Henry Plummer
by Henry Plummer

Photo by Henry Plummer, Chapel of Notre Dame
du Haut, Ronchamp, France, by Le Corbusier





Photo by Henry Plummer: Maison de Verre, Paris, France, by Pierre Chareau and Bernard Bijvoet

Photo by Henry Plummer, Church of Light, Ibaraki, Japan, by Tadao Ando



Photo by Henry Plummer, San Francisco de Asís,
Ranchos de Taos, New Mexico, US



Photo by Henry Plummer, Guerrero House, Zahora, Spain, by Alberto Campo Baeza

THE LAUREATES 1980–2020

Year Laureate

2020 Juha Leiviskä
2020 Russell Foster
2020 Henry Plummer
2018 Hiroshi Sambuichi
2018 Greg Ward
2016 Steven Holl
2016 Marilyne Andersen
2014 SANAA

Year Laureate

2012 Gigon & Guyer
2011 Lacaton & Vassal
2010 James Carpenter
2010 Peter Zumthor
2008 Richard Perez
2007 Bob Gysin
1987 Henning Larsen
1980 Jørn Utzon

HOW TO NOMINATE

Nominations are accepted, internationally, from representatives of diverse fields who have knowledge of, and an interest in advancing, outstanding daylight research and unique use of daylight in architecture.

The Award director actively solicits nominations from past laureates, professional organisations, architects, researchers and other professionals. You are welcome to nominate for The Daylight Award 2022.

E-mail address:
nomination@thedaylightaward.com



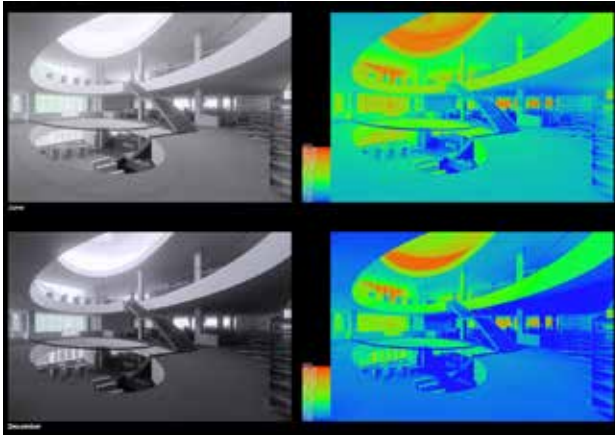
Naoshima hall, Naoshima, JP by Hiroshi Sambuichi,
The Daylight Award 2018 Laureate, photo by Shigeo Ogawa





Thermal Baths, Vals, Switzerland, by Peter Zumthor,
The Daylight Award 2010 Laureate, photo by Henry Plummer

Bagsværd Church, Bagsværd, Denmark, by Jorn Utzøn,
The Daylight Award 1980 Laureate, photo by Henry Plummer



Daylight simulation with Radiance software, developed by Greg Ward, The Daylight Award 2018 Laureate, for project Hayward Library & Community Learning Center, by Loisos Ubbelohde Architects, US

The Laboratory of Integrated Performance in Design (LIPID) at EPFL Lausanne, Switzerland, led by Marilynne Andersen, The Daylight Award 2016 Laureate

Chapel of St. Ignatius, Seattle, US, by Steven Holl, The Daylight Award 2016 Laureate, photo © Steven Holl Architects





Swedish School of Social Science, University of Helsinki,
Finland, by Juha Leiviskä, The Daylight Award 2020 Laureate,
photo by Arno de la Chapelle

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.

Daylight Research

The Daylight Award for Research is awarded to individuals or small groups of scientists who have distinguished themselves as outstanding contributors to internationally recognised daylight research. It acknowledges highly original and influential advances in the natural science, human science or social science disciplines, with special emphasis on the effects of daylight on human health, well-being and performance.

Daylight in Architecture

The Daylight Award for Architecture is awarded to one or more architects or other professionals who have distinguished themselves by realising architecture or creating urban environments that showcase unique use of daylight. Special emphasis is placed on architecture that considers the effect of daylight on general quality of life, human health, well-being and performance, and its value to society.

Exceptionally for 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.

The Daylight Award is presented by the philanthropic foundations, VILLUM FONDEN, VELUX FONDEN and VELUX STIFTUNG, established by Villum Kann Rasmussen. The foundations support a wide range of non-commercial purposes through scientific, social, cultural and environmental projects.

