

Background information about the competition:

Photovoltaic Products for the Built Environment

Photovoltaics (PV) are the only electricity generating renewable energy technology suitable for deployment in the urban environment. If global warming is to be controlled renewable energy technologies will need to be deployed in many places and forms. PV's have the potential to supply a significant part of our electricity requirements and are expected to become increasingly visible in the built environment in the future. However integrating PV in the built environment should enhance that environment, rather than detract from it. This competition therefore aimed to encourage the design of well-integrated and well-designed PV products.

The competition was open to individuals and organisations throughout the world. Architects, engineers, designers and students of these fields with an interest in renewable energy, good design and the built environment were encouraged to enter the competition.

Categories

Entries were grouped into the following categories:

- Roofing products
- Façade products
- Other building products, e.g. shading devices building entrances
- Non-building products
- PV products recently released onto the market

Designs could combine two or more categories if appropriate and could range in scope from an entire structure to a smaller item such as a roof tile or mounting product.

Organisation and sponsors

The competition was organised by Halcrow Gilbert on behalf of Task 7 - Photovoltaics in the Built Environment, of the IEA Photovoltaic Power Systems Programme.

Sponsors include Shell International Renewables, Eastern Generation, Plus Wall Limited and Colt International Limited.

Jury

The jury consisted of technical experts from Task 7 and well-known designers and architects. This included the architects of some of the pre-eminent PV buildings constructed to date including David Lloyd Jones of Studio E Architects in the UK, Tjerk Reijenga of BEAR Architecten in the Netherlands and Steven Strong of Solar Design Associates in the US. Duncan Jackson Head of Industrial Design at Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners provided product design expertise.

Shortlisted entries and winners

Short listed entries were exhibited at the 16th European PV Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition held in Glasgow 1 - 5 May 2000. Final judging took place during the conference and the winners were announced at the end of the conference.

Awards were made for the best entry in each category (1500 Euros), the best student entry (750 Euros), the best overall entry (1500 Euros) and an exhibition prize for the entry that got the most votes from the attendees at the European PV Conference (1500 Euros).