RIBA Travelling Scholarship winner
2021
The Royal Institute of British Architects has awarded Politecnico di Milano's architecture student Weronika Zdziarska the 2021 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship, for her project 'Don't Stay Out Alone: addressing women's perception of safety and freedom in cities by design'. The jury unanimously gave Zdziarska the award for her exploration of gender in the public spaces of Latin America, which "demonstrated a sophistication in her early research which differentiated her work from that of her worthy fellow applicants".
Zdziarska’s winning project evaluates previous interventions carried out by international, regional, and local organizations in South America to provide safety for women living and working in cities. The architect chose to work on five cities, each representing different responses to her particular field of research: Medellín, Colombia; Quito, Ecuador; Santiago, Chile; Montevideo, Uruguay, and Curitiba, Brazil. Her proposal demonstrated the relationship between gender inequality and design, and outlines the best practices for building more inclusive cities.
The scholarship is awarded annually and offers £7,000 to fund the research of one architecture student with outstanding demonstration of original and critical thinking on issues related to the survival of cities and towns, and how people react to built spaces.

*Related Article*

**Iulia Cistecean, from the London School of Architecture, Wins the 2020 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship**

"Zdziarska’s proposal was very well structured and presented, with her focus on exploring and learning from South American urban environments that have improved inclusion and safety and increased gender equality in design. As a judging panel we were inspired by her initial research and pertinence of the proposal, and her drive to investigate and address these issues on an international scale. Congratulations on this winning project - I look forward to seeing the findings of this important research." – Professor Alan Jones, RIBA President

The 2021 jury comprised of:

- **Norman Foster**, Lord Foster of Thames Bank (Founder and Executive Chairman, Foster + Partners; President, Norman Foster Foundation)
- **Elena Ochoa**, Lady Foster of Thames Bank (Publisher and curator; Vice-President, Norman Foster Foundation)
- **Professor Ricky Burdett** (Professor of Urban Studies, and director of LSE Cities and the Urban Age Programme; Trustee, Norman Foster Foundation)
- **Sofie Pelsmakers** (Assistant Professor Sustainable Architecture and Sustainable Housing Design, Tampere University; Co-founder & Director, Architecture for Change (AFC))
- **Professor Alan Jones** (President, RIBA).
Past recipients of the RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship include:

- Iulia Cistelecan - London School of Architecture, UK 'Life Between Shelters: Refugee camps of today becoming cities of tomorrow' - 2020
- Siti Nura'af Ismail - University of Malaya, Malaysia - 'Architecture of Humility' - 2019
- Steven Hutt - University of Greenwich, UK 'East of Eden' - 2018
- Chloe Loader - University of Lincoln, UK 'Emerging Cities: Sustainable Master-Planning in the Global South' - 2017
- Abel Feleke - University of Western Australia, Australia 'Weaving the Urban Fabric: Examining the Significance of Community' - 2016

Image gallery
RIBA announces the winner of the 2021 Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship

By Josh Niland | Jul 16, 21 2:26 PM EST

2021 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholar: Weronika Zdzierska. Credit: Tomok Kaczor
A Milanese architecture student has been named as this year’s RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship recipient, the institute announced this week.

Weronika Zdziarska won for a project titled ‘Don’t Stay Out Alone: addressing women’s perception of safety and freedom in cities by design,’ a study of how groups in five different South American cities have intervened amidst the recent tragic uptick in violence that has plagued women in large urban areas across the globe. She is currently enrolled at the Politecnico di Milano.

Zdziarska’s project will attempt to “demonstrate the relationships between gender inequality and design,” in the hopes of creating more gender equity in the design and urban planning process. A £7,000 grant award goes along with the announcement.
"The Jury was unanimous in its selection of Weronika Zdziarska’s submission as the winner. Her methodology was impressive, and her project was beautifully presented. Her decision to explore issues of gender in the public spaces of just Latin America demonstrated a sophistication in her early research which differentiated her work from that of her worthy fellow applicants," Norman Foster said in a statement.

A data illustration for the project by Zdziarska. Image courtesy of RIBA.

Previous winners of the scholarship have included works that focus on a diverse range of topics related to life in cities. The full announcement of this year’s edition can be found here.
2021 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship News

Royal Institute of British Architects News – open to schools of architecture globally

15 July 2021

Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship 2021 Winner

Weronika Zdziarska wins 2021 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship

Architecture student Weronika Zdziarska

photo: Tomek Kacew

Thursday 15th of July 2021 – The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) is pleased to announce the 2021 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship recipient as Weronika Zdziarska, an architecture student from the Politecnico di Milano, Italy, for her project ‘Don’t Stay Out Alone: addressing women’s perception of safety and freedom in cities by design’.

The annual scholarship offers £10,000 to fund research by one outstanding architecture student who demonstrates original thinking on issues relating to the sustainable survival of cities and towns.
Veselina Zlatarska's project will evaluate previous interventions carried out by international, regional, and local organizations in South America, to improve the safety of women in cities. Five cities have been selected for evaluation, each representing different attitudes and responses to this area of research: Medellín, Colombia; Quito, Ecuador; Santiago, Chile; Montevideo, Uruguay; and Curitiba, Brazil.

This proposal seeks to demonstrate the relationships between gender inequality and design, and to outline best practices for building more inclusive cities.

The judging panel also commended 'Biofuel Producing Technology, Algae: An Alternative Energy Source' by Bassant Abdelrahman from the American University in Dubai, UAE.
The 2021 judging panel comprised of:

- Norman Foster, Lord Foster of Thames Bank (Founder and Executive Chairman, Foster + Partners; President, Norman Foster Foundation)
- Elona Dchea, Lady Foster of Thames Bank (Publisher and curator, Vice-President, Norman Foster Foundation)
- Professor Ricky Burdett (Professor of Urban Studies, and director of LSE Cities and the Urban Age Programme; Trustee, Norman Foster Foundation)
- Sofie Peetersmaers (Assistant Professor Sustainable Architecture and Sustainable Housing Design, Tampere University; Co-founder & Director, Architecture for Change (A4C))
- Professor Alan Jones (President, RIBA)

Student Weronika Zdrońska:

Lord Foster said:

"The Jury was unanimous in its selection of Weronika Zdrońska’s submission as the winner. Her methodology was impressive, and her project was beautifully presented. Her decision to explore issues of gender in the public spaces of just Latin America demonstrated a sophistication in her early research which differentiated her work from that of her worthy fellow applicants."
RIBA President Professor Alan Jones said:

"Zlatana’s proposal was very well structured and presented, with her focus on exploring and learning from South American urban environments that have improved inclusion and safety and increased gender equality in design. As a judging panel we were inspired by her initial research and prominence of the proposal, and her drive to investigate and address these issues on an international scale. Congratulations on this winning project – I look forward to seeing the findings of this important research."
2021 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship awarded to Weronika Żdziarska

Żdziarska, a student of Politecnico di Milano, is the latest recipient of the grant from RIBA and the Norman Foster Foundation for her research on women’s safety in urban cities.

by Jerry Elengical | Published on: Jul 19, 2021

Weronika Żdziarska, a student from Milan’s Politecnico di Milano, has been announced as the winner of the 2021 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship. Awarded annually by the Royal Institute of British Architects, the prestigious grant is conferred upon students of architecture who demonstrate outstanding potential and conceptual thinking in relation to problems concerning the sustainable preservation of urban areas, and it offers £7,000 for the winner to either travel and explore cities and towns relevant to their work or conduct research within their home country. Żdziarska’s proposal, titled ‘Don’t Stay Out Alone: addressing women’s perception of safety and freedom in cities by design,’ explores the connections between gender inequality and design while seeking to devise methods to make cities safer and more inclusive.
Zdziarska’s research explores links between gender inequality and design, aiming to make cities safer and more inclusive for women.

Image: Weronika Zdziarska

As the 14th student honoured under the programme, Zdziarska’s project will investigate past measures undertaken by organisations in South America at local, regional, and international levels to promote women’s safety in cities and subsequently work towards greater gender equality in design. Currently, five cities have been nominated for evaluation, namely: Medellin in Colombia, Quito in Ecuador, Santiago in Chile, Montevideo in Uruguay and Curitiba, Brazil. Each of them offers a unique set of variables, attitudes, and perspectives for this particular domain of inquiry.

The project will evaluate measures taken in five South American cities to promote women’s safety.

Image: Weronika Zdziarska
Sir Norman Foster, founder of British architecture firm Foster + Partners, explains the purpose of the grant in an official release, recalling how he won a prize as a student that allowed him to travel through Europe one summer to study buildings and cities that he had only learnt about from the pages of books. "It was a revelation - liberating and exhilarating in so many ways," he fondly reminisces. "Today, it is the privilege of the Norman Foster Foundation to support the RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship, which I hope will have a lasting legacy - offering the chance for discovery and inspiration for generations to come," he adds.

In a press statement, Professor Alan Jones, President of RIBA, recalls the evaluation process, and comments on the exceptional structure and presentation of Zdziarska's project compared to her peers. "As a judging panel," he says, "we were inspired by her initial research and the pertinence of the proposal, and her drive to investigate and address these issues on an international scale."

Alongside Jones and Foster, the jury this year included Elena Ochoa Foster (Vice-President of Norman Foster Foundation), Professor Ricky Burdett (Professor of Urban Studies and Trustee of the Norman Foster Foundation), and Sofie Pelsmakers (Assistant Professor of Sustainable Architecture and Sustainable Housing Design at Tampere University). In addition to awarding Zdziarska the grant, the panel also commended the work of Basant Abdeirahman from the American University in Dubai, UAE for his project: "Biofuel Producing Technology: Algae: An Alternative Energy Source."
Norman Foster Foundation

Zdziarska was commended for the structure and presentation of her research as well as its conceptual sophistication.

Norman Foster reflects on the panel’s decision to award Zdziarska with the scholarship in a press release stating, “The jury was unanimous in its selection of Weronika Zdziarska’s submission. Her decision to explore gender issues in public spaces of Latin America demonstrated a sophistication in her early research which differentiated her work from that of her worthy fellow applicants.” The jury’s verdict to honour Zdziarska could be categorised as a refreshing mark of progress in the way we acknowledge the deficiencies of contemporary city planning. Furthermore, it can be said that the nature of Zdziarska’s research with regards to how it will thoroughly investigate an oft-overlooked parameter in urban design - that of women’s safety - is an important step forward in the endeavour to design the world’s cities to be more inclusive and secure for their residents.

The RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship is open to students that have enrolled and completed their first year of study towards a professional qualification from a school of architecture invited by RIBA. Past winners include Iulia Cistelecan from the UK’s London School of Architecture, Joe Paxton from the Bartlett School of Architecture in London, Amanda Rivera from the University of Bio Bio in Chile, and Sahil Bipin Deshpande of the Rizvi College of Architecture in Mumbai, India.
Weronika Zdziarska Awarded 2021 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has announced Politecnico di Milano’s student Weronika Zdziarska as the winner of the 2021 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship for her project 'Don’t Stay Out Alone: addressing women’s perceptions of safety and freedoms by design.'

Awarded annually, the scholarship offers £7,000 to fund research by one outstanding architecture student whose proposal demonstrates original thinking or issues relating to the sustainable survival of cities and towns.

Weronika Zdziarska’s proposal was selected unanimously by the jury, comprised of Norman Foster; Erica Cohe, Lady Foster of Thames Bank; Professor Sandy Muirhead; Soheil Molavaei, Assistant Professor Sustainable Architecture and Sustainable Housing/Berlin, Emperor-University and Professor Alan Watson.

Zdziarska’s proposal seeks to demonstrate the relationships between gender inequality and design, and to outline best practices for building more inclusive cities.
Zdislavak’s project will evaluate previous interventions carried out by international, regional and local organizations in South America to improve the safety of women in cities. Five cities have been selected for evaluation, each representing different attitudes and responses to this area of research: Medellin, Colombia; Quito, Ecuador; Santiago, Chile; Montevideo, Uruguay; and Curitiba, Brazil.

"The Jury was unanimous in its selection of Zdislavak’s submission as the winner. Her methodology was impressive, and her project was beautifully presented," said Norman Foster.

"Her decision to explore issues of gender in the public spaces of just Latin America demonstrated a sophistication in her early research which differentiated her work from that of her worthy fellow applicants,” Foster added.
"Edibor’s proposal was very well structured and presented, with her focus on exploring and learning from South American urban environments that have improved isolation and safety and increased gender equality in design,” said RIBA President Professor Alan Jones.

“As a judging panel we were inspired by her initial research and pertinence of the proposal, and her drive to investigate and address these issues on an international scale. Congratulations on this winning project - I look forward to seeing the findings of this important research,” Jones added.
The 2021 jury comprised of:

- Norman Foster, Lord Foster of Thames Bank (Founder and Executive Chairman, Foster + Partners, President Norman Foster Foundation)
- Elena Ochoa, Lady Foster of Thames Bank (Publisher and curator, Vice-President, Norman Foster Foundation)
- Professor Ricky Kasowitz (Professor of Urban Studies, and director of UCL’s Cities and the Urban Age Programme, Trustee Norman Foster Foundation)
- Soffie Peltomäki (Assistant Professor Sustainable Architecture and Sustainable Housing Design, Tampere University, Co-founder & Director, Architecture for Change (A4C))
- Professor Alan Jones (President, RIBA)
Weronika Zdziarska wins 2021 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) is pleased to announce the 2021 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship recipient as Weronika Zdziarska, an architecture student from the Politecnico di Milano, Italy, for her project ‘Don’t Stay Out Alone: addressing women’s perception of safety and freedom in cities by design’.

The annual scholarship offers £7,000 to fund research by one outstanding architecture student who demonstrates original thinking on issues relating to the sustainable survival of cities and towns.

Zdziarska’s project will evaluate previous interventions carried out by international, regional and local organisations in South America to improve the safety of women in cities. Five cities have been selected for evaluation, each representing different attitudes and responses to this area of research: Medellín, Colombia; Quito, Ecuador; Santiago, Chile; Montevideo, Uruguay and Curitiba, Brazil.

Photo: Tomek Kaczor
The proposal seeks to demonstrate the relationships between gender inequality and design, and to outline best practices for building more inclusive cities.

The judging panel also commended ‘Biofuel Producing Technology: Algae: An Alternative Energy Source’ by Basant Abdelrahman from the American University in Dubai, UAE.

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- Sofie Polamakers (Assistant Professor Sustainable Architecture and Sustainable Housing Design, Tampere University; Co-founder & Director, Architecture for Change (AfC))
- Professor Alan Jones (President, RIBA)

Lord Foster said: "The Jury was unanimous in its selection of Weronika Zdziarska’s submission as the winner. Her methodology was impressive, and her project was beautifully presented.

"Her decision to explore issues of gender in the public spaces of just Latin America demonstrated a sophistication in her research which differentiated her work from that of her worthy fellow applicants."

RIBA President Professor Alan Jones said: "Zdziarska’s proposal was very well structured and presented, with her focus on exploring and learning from South American urban environments that have improved inclusion and safety and increased gender equality in design.

"As a judging panel we were inspired by her initial research and pertinence of the proposal, and her drive to investigate and address these issues on an international scale. Congratulations on this winning project - I look forward to seeing the findings of this important research."
Weronika Zdriarska recibe Beca de Viaje RIBA Norman Foster 2021 por su estudio del género en los espacios públicos de América Latina

Escrito por Dima Stouhi | Traducido por Luciana Truffa

El Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), ha concedido a la estudiante de arquitectura del Politecnico di Milano, Weronika Zdziarska, la beca RIBA Norman Foster Travelling 2021, por su proyecto ‘Don’t Stay Out Alone: addressing women’s perception of safety and freedom in cities by design’ (No salgas sola: abordando la percepción de seguridad y libertad de las mujeres en las ciudades mediante el diseño). El jurado concedió por unanimidad el premio a Zdziarska por su exploración del género en los espacios públicos de América Latina, que "demostró una sofisticación en su investigación inicial que diferenció su trabajo del de sus dignos compañeros de candidatura".
El proyecto ganador de Zdziarska evalúa intervenciones anteriores llevadas a cabo por organizaciones internacionales, regionales y locales en Sudamérica para proporcionar seguridad a las mujeres que viven y trabajan en las ciudades. La arquitecta eligió trabajar en cinco ciudades, cada una de las cuales representa diferentes respuestas a su campo particular de investigación: Medellín, Colombia; Quito, Ecuador; Santiago, Chile; Montevideo, Uruguay y Curitiba, Brasil. Su propuesta demostró la relación entre la desigualdad de género y el diseño, y describiendo de paso las mejores prácticas para construir ciudades más inclusivas.
La beca es otorgada anualmente y ofrece 7.000 libras esterlinas para financiar la investigación de un estudiante de arquitectura que demuestre de forma sobresaliente, un pensamiento original y crítico sobre cuestiones relacionadas con la supervivencia de ciudades y pueblos, y la forma en que las personas reaccionan ante los espacios construidos.

"La propuesta de Zdziarska estaba muy bien estructurada y presentada, y se centraba en explorar y aprender de los entornos urbanos sudamericanos que han mejorado la inclusión y la seguridad, aumentando de esta manera la igualdad de género en el diseño. El jurado se sintió inspirado por su investigación inicial y la pertinencia de la propuesta, así como por su impulso para investigar y abordar estas cuestiones a escala internacional. Felicitaciones por este proyecto ganador; estoy deseando ver los resultados de esta importante investigación." - Profesor Alan Jones, Presidente del RIBA

El jurado de 2021 estuvo compuesto por:

- **Norman Foster**, Lord Foster of Thames Bank (fundador y presidente ejecutivo de Foster + Partners; presidente de la Norman Foster Foundation)
- **Elena Ochoa**, Lady Foster of Thames Bank (editora y curadora; vicepresidenta de la Norman Foster Foundation)
- **Ricky Burdett** (profesor de Estudios Urbanos y director del LSE Cities and the Urban Age Programme; Administrador, Norman Foster Foundation)
- **Sofie Pelsmakers** (profesora Adjunta de Arquitectura Sostenible y Diseño de Viviendas Sostenibles, Universidad de Tampere; cofundadora y directora de Architecture for Change (AfC))
- **Profesor Alan Jones** (presidente, RIBA).
Entre los anteriores beneficiarios de la beca itinerante Norman Foster del RIBA se encuentran:

- Iulia Cistelecan - London School of Architecture, Reino Unido, ‘Life Between Shelters: Refugee camps of today becoming cities of tomorrow’ (La vida entre refugios: Los campos de refugiados de hoy se convierten en las ciudades de mañana) - 2020
- Siti Nurafif Ismail - Universidad de Malaya, Malasia - ‘Architecture of Humility’ (Arquitectura de la humildad) - 2019
- Steven Hutt – Universidad de Greenwich, Reino Unido, ‘East of Eden’ (Este del Edén) - 2018
- Chloe Loader - Universidad Lincoln, Reino Unido, ‘Emerging Cities: Sustainable Master-Planning in the Global South’ (Ciudades emergentes: Planificación general sostenible en el Sur global) - 2017
- Abel Feleke - University of Western Australia, Australia “Weaving the Urban Fabric: Examining the Significance of Community” (Tejiendo la trama urbana: El significado de la comunidad) - 2016

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