

2023 RIBA NORMAN FOSTER TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS RESEARCH INTO URBAN IMPROVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

Madrid, 9 August 2023

The Norman Foster Foundation (NFF) and The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) are pleased to announce **Martha Pomasonco** of the University of Lima, Peru as the winner of the 2023 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship for her project '*Upgraded Barrios*'.

The annual scholarship offers £7,000 to fund research by an architecture student who demonstrates original thinking on issues relating to the sustainable survival of cities and towns. Martha intends to use the £7,000 travel scholarship to gather valuable first-hand information on the impact of neighborhood improvement projects in Latin America. Through direct observation and in-depth interviews, Martha's work will evaluate and compare the impact of the different projects she visits. The research aims to provide lessons and strategies that can be applied to future interventions.

Martha will study the Favela-Bairro project. After that, she will travel to Rosario, Argentina, followed by the '*Quiero mi Barrio*' project in Santiago, Chile, before returning to Lima.

Given the exceptional standard of applications this year, the jury also commended **Jan Dabrowski** from ETH Zürich, Switzerland for their project '*Atlas of Vanishing: Documenting West Africa's Forgotten Architecture*'.

2023 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship recipient, **Martha Pomasonco**, said:

'I am delighted and honoured to have been selected as the winner of the 2023 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship. I'd like to thank the University of Lima for nominating me, and the judging panel of the scholarship for selecting me. The scholarship will allow me to conduct research on my project '*Upgraded Barrios*'. It will let me gather valuable first-hand information on the impact of the most successful upgrading programmes in informal settlements promoted by Latin-American countries to find design lessons related to sustainability across time.'

NFF President **Norman Foster** said:

'The jury was impressed by the high standard of entries for this year's Travelling Scholarship. However, they were unanimous in their selection of Martha Pomasonco's proposal, which was to gather valuable first-hand information on the impact of neighborhood improvement projects in Latin America. We offer our congratulations to Martha for her well-deserved win and look forward to when she will be able to share the results of such a worthy study.'

RIBA President **Simon Allford** said:

'I was struck by Martha's project to investigate the design and structure of large scale informal urban settlements in Latin America. I look forward to seeing what she learns of the relationship between the urban and architecture infrastructure and lives of the residents in these communities. I would also like to thank Lord Foster and the Foundation for their continued support that facilitates individual research projects such as this.'

This year's scholarship attracted 60 applications, one of the highest application numbers since the scholarship was first awarded in 2007.

The judging panel was comprised of:

- **Norman Foster**, Lord Foster of Thames Bank (Founder and Executive Chairman, Foster + Partners; President, Norman Foster Foundation)
- **Farshid Moussavi OBE RA** (Founder, Farshid Moussavi Architecture; Professor in Practice of Architecture at Harvard University; Trustee of the Norman Foster Foundation)
- **Simon Allford** (Founding Director at Allford Hall Monaghan Morris; RIBA President 2021-23)
- **Chitra Marsh** (Director at Buttress Architects; National Chair of Women in Property; RIBA Council member)

Notes to editors

First established in 2006, the scholarship, supported by the Norman Foster Foundation, is now in its seventeenth year and is intended to fund international research on a topic related to the survival of our cities, in a location of the student's choice. Past RIBA Norman Foster Scholars have travelled through the Americas, Europe, Africa, South East Asia, the Middle and the Far East.

Norman Foster Foundation

The Norman Foster Foundation promotes interdisciplinary thinking and research to help new generations anticipate the future.

The first mission of the Norman Foster Foundation is to promote the importance of architecture, infrastructure and urbanism for the betterment of society. To this end, the second mission is to encourage new thinking and research across traditional boundaries to help younger generations anticipate the challenges of future change. In particular, it addresses those professionals who are concerned with the environment—architects, engineers, designers, urbanists, civic leaders, planners and artists. This is at the heart of a holistic approach to design and is ever more relevant as populations shift to cities. With the implications of climate change, robotics and artificial intelligence, sustainable design is not about fashion but about survival.

The Norman Foster Foundation is based in Madrid and operates globally.

Visit www.normanfosterfoundation.org for more information.

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

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