

Pioneering buildings in focus: fifth call for submissions in the Constructive Alps award

The Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE and the Principality of Liechtenstein are today launching the fifth call for submissions for the international Constructive Alps architecture award. The focus is on renovations and new-builds that are emblematic of sustainable construction in the Alps.

The ARE's aim with this architecture competition is to raise awareness of a considered treatment of the climate, landscape, and local architectural heritage. In the future, it will become even more vital to build and renovate with a long-term view in order to maintain a high quality of life in the Alps. For the fifth Constructive Alps award, the ARE is therefore looking for regional approaches which will lay the foundations of Alpine architecture in the decade to come.

The ARE has made the award in partnership with the Principality of Liechtenstein since 2011. Even at its inception, Constructive Alps supported variety, recognising a whole range of different building types, such as residential properties, multi-use buildings, and mountain huts. Initially, the focus was on energy-efficiency and environmentally-friendly construction materials, but Constructive Alps subsequently evolved to adopt new issues. These included the question of how construction affects its immediate surrounding area, and how a building helps to develop the architectural heritage of its particular region.

In addition to new buildings, this year's competition is particularly also seeking renovations and projects which efficiently meet their energy needs, or use resources sparingly, such as by upcycling. Social aspects of construction and renovation will be a further important criterion, for example the quality of densification, or the involvement of the population.

Architects are invited to submit their project by 14 March 2020:
www.constructivealps.net.

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Constructive Alps

Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein – after 2010, 2013, 2015 and 2017 – will award also this year the International “Constructive Alps” Prize for sustainable architecture across the Alps. The contest will take place under the auspices of the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE). The prize is also a synonym for successful co-operational activities between ministries, educational and cultural institutions, and non-governmental organizations. During the selection process, the International Constructive Alps Jury is supported by experts from the University of Liechtenstein. A travelling exhibition will be composed by the Swiss Alpine Museum in Berne. The projects will also be featured in a special edition of the Swiss architecture magazine *Hochparterre* in autumn 2020. The International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) provides additional technical and organizational support.

Alpine Convention

The Alpine Convention is an agreement between eight alpine countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia and Switzerland) and the European Union signed in 1991. It represents a legally binding state treaty aimed at promoting the protection and the sustainable development of the Alps. Specific measures implementing the principles laid down in the Framework Convention are contained in the eight Protocols to the Alpine Convention. With the adoption of the Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps, the contracting parties also committed to implementing measures and providing the means necessary to transform the Alps into a model region with regard to climate change mitigation and adapting to climate change. The concept of sustainable construction and renovation takes on a crucial role in this context, as the energy consumed for building construction, heating and building removal represents a third of the energy consumed across the entire Alpine region. *Constructive Alps 2017* represents a joint contribution by Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein to the implementation of the objectives of the Alpine Convention and the Convention's Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps. The international award itself originates from ambitious efforts undertaken by the Energy Platform – a special-field working group established by the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention.