Award programs participate simultaneously in popular, scholarly, and professional conversations. Winning projects, and the response they generate, are a measure of how architecture is conceived and received at a particular moment within the discipline, the profession, and culture at large. Looking at more than one cycle -- comparing winners across successive editions of the same, or different, award programs -- larger patterns emerge; one can trace shifts in architectural production and reception across time and in different cultural and geographical regions.

This course will look at architectural award programs in two ways: as an archive of exemplary built work; and as discourse, a record of disciplinary and institutional values, concerns, and debates. The award programs we will study include: Pritzker Prize; AR Emerging Architecture Award; LaFargeHolcim Global Award for Sustainable Construction; World Architecture Festival Awards; Aga Khan Award for Architecture; European Union Mies Prize for Contemporary Architecture; European Prize for Urban Public Space; Cooper Hewitt National Design Award; Architectural League of New York Prize; and the Curry Stone Prize for Social Design.

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