



A Note from the Founder: The Architecture of Tomorrow

“Design is not only about the spaces we create—it quietly shapes the way we live.”

Welcome to the April 2026 Issue of Forma The Magazine.

As the year unfolds, I find myself reflecting on how quickly our industry is evolving. From the growing conversation around gentle density in our cities to the desire for more independent, sustainable living, something deeper is changing. We're not just designing buildings anymore—we're shaping experiences, rethinking responsibility, and finding new ways to connect ideas with real life.

When I started Forma The Magazine, the intention was simple: to create a space where design could be shared, questioned, and explored. Not just a collection of beautiful projects, but a place for dialogue—where built works meet unbuilt visions, and where creativity at every stage has a voice.

In this issue, the journey moves across different scales and sensibilities—from coastal resilience and heritage reinterpretation to experimental forms and material innovation. We explore projects that balance memory and modernity, moments of play and interaction, and visions that push sustainability forward. Alongside these stories, competitions and global events continue to open new perspectives, reminding us that design is both a reflection of where we are and a question of where we're going.

To everyone who reads, contributes, and believes in this platform—thank you. And especially to the students and emerging voices: your perspective matters more than ever.

As you go through these pages, I invite you to look a little deeper. Beyond the forms and materials, there are intentions, responsibilities, and human stories that give each project meaning.

Let's continue to shape the future, together.

**Giuseppe Gutta
Founder, Forma The Magazine**

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Tide Bound: A Study in Coastal Resilience and Maritime Vernacular

Project by Peter Braithwaite Studio Ltd.

@Ema Peter / Peter Braithwaite

There is a quiet tension at the coastline—a space where permanence is constantly renegotiated. Here, architecture does not impose. It listens. It adjusts. It yields.

The coastal condition resists finality. It demands a language of adaptability—one that embraces flux rather than denies it.

Resilience, in this landscape, is not an added layer. It is the essence of design.

The primary challenge of the site—coastal geology combined with extreme weather—informed the project's most defining feature: its elevation. Rather than fighting the Atlantic's power, Tide Bound is elevated on a series of slender stilts. This is not merely an aesthetic nod to coastal wharves; it is a vital defensive strategy.

By allowing storm surges and relentless waves to pass unimpeded beneath the living quarters, the structure mitigates the destructive forces of the ocean. This design was "field-tested" early in the construction process when a hurricane struck the coast; the structure emerged unscathed, validating the studio's commitment to thoughtful, site-specific engineering.

The project's remote location and challenging terrain necessitated a departure from traditional utility systems. With no viable well for water, the studio integrated a sophisticated rainwater collection system directly into the home's concrete core foundation. This "stereotomic" element serves a dual purpose: it provides a sustainable, self-sufficient water source while acting as a heavy anchor for the lightweight, cedar-clad gables above.



@Ema Peter / Peter Braithwaite

"They do not resist the sea. They negotiate with it."



@Ema Peter / Peter Braithwaite

"Every line is informed by climate." Team Forma The Magazine



@Ema Peter / Peter Braithwaite

The interiors are defined by a restrained, monochromatic color story. Stark white walls and vaulted ceilings serve as a clean canvas, allowing the changing light of the Atlantic coast to become the primary "decor." This airy brightness is grounded by polished concrete floors, which offer a cool, industrial durability necessary for coastal living, and matte black accents found in window frames, lighting fixtures, and wood-burning stoves.



The kitchen departs from traditional cabinetry in favor of a bespoke, furniture-like island. A massive terrazzo-style stone sink is integrated into a warm, light-oak timber base, creating a tactile focal point. Above, slender white pendant lights disappear into the rafters, maintaining an uncluttered sightline. The presence of a traditional-style black wood-burning cookstove merges modern luxury with maritime utility.

The "maritime vernacular" is most evident in the soaring cathedral ceilings, which mimic the expansive feeling of the sea and sky. Large, black-framed apertures are strategically placed to act as living canvases. Instead of traditional artwork, the windows frame specific views—the dense evergreen forest on one side and the rocky, salt-sprayed coastline on the other—blurring the boundary between the sanctuary of the home and the wildness of the outdoors.



In a project focused on "coastal resilience," the heating elements are celebrated rather than hidden. The sculptural, matte black wood-burning stoves act as vertical anchors in the open-plan rooms. Their long, exposed flues draw the eye upward, emphasizing the height of the space while providing a primal sense of warmth and security against the harsh coastal winters.





@Ema Peter / Peter Braithwaite



@Ema Peter / Peter Braithwaite

“This project feels less like a house and more like a position—quietly taken—at the edge of the world. What strikes me most is its restraint. The project doesn’t try to impress the coastline of Nova Scotia; it accepts it. The elevated timber volume, almost understated, allows the ocean to pass beneath and around it, as if the architecture understands it is only a guest here.

Inside, the atmosphere shifts but remains consistent in intent. The space is minimal, yet never cold. Light becomes the real protagonist, filling the cathedral ceiling and reflecting on the concrete floor like a softened echo of the sea outside. The materials—wood, stone, fabric—feel honest, almost inevitable.

What I find particularly powerful is the balance between abstraction and warmth. The kitchen, with its tactile presence, and the living area, softened by natural textures, create a sense of lived calm. Even the wood-burning stove reads as more than a functional object—it’s a quiet anchor.

This project doesn’t seek attention. It earns it, through clarity and discipline.”

Jury Citation

Portugal Village House: A Dialogue Between Heritage and Modernity

Project by Creative Union Network





@Riley Snelling

Between memory and intervention. A house that does not replace the past—but continues it.

Within the urban fabric of Toronto, for the Portugal Village House, architecture is never neutral. It carries time within its walls.

This project operates with precision—not as a rupture, but as a careful continuation of what already exists.

The team at Creative Union Network isn't just preserving a look; they're reimagining heritage as a living, breathing space that evolves with us.

A dialogue unfolds between the past and the future, where heritage is not preserved as a frozen image, but reinterpreted as a living, breathing condition that shapes our daily lives.

The project encompasses a total of 2,125 sq. ft. of primary living space, supplemented by a 650 sq. ft. basement rental suite designed to address urban density and flexibility.

What began as a limited consultation to review a third-floor addition evolved into a comprehensive architectural intervention. The design team recognized that the home's potential lay not just in adding square footage, but in fundamentally restructuring the flow of light and movement. This approach led the homeowners to extend the renovation to the ground floor, ensuring a cohesive aesthetic and functional language throughout the entire residence.



@Riley Snelling



@Riley Snelling



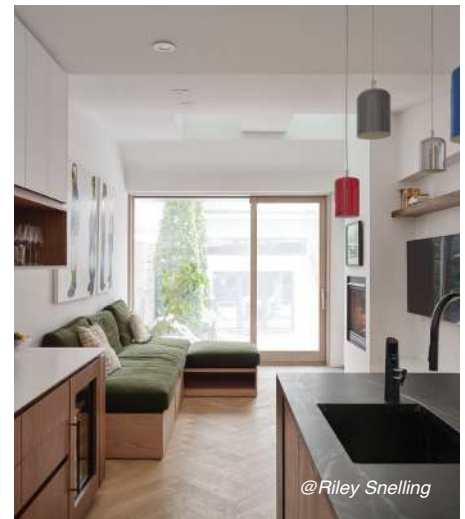
@Riley Snelling



@Riley Snelling

The Ground Floor: From Compartmentalized to Fluid

Historically, Toronto's narrow 19th-century homes feel like dark "railcars"—cramped and disconnected. This renovation shattered that mold by stripping away partitions and a dated rear addition to create a unified, open-concept sanctuary. By replacing walls with floor-to-ceiling glass and strategic skylights, the architects transformed the rear into a light-drenched pavilion that pulls the garden inside. Every inch works overtime: custom-milled "functional sculptures" replace traditional furniture, maximizing the narrow footprint while turning essential storage into art. What was once a series of isolated rooms is now a seamless, light-filled dialogue with the outdoors.



The Third-Floor Sanctuary: A Parent's Retreat

The new third floor is a private sanctuary—a single level dedicated entirely to rest, work, and wellness. By ditching traditional walls for three open zones, the space feels like a continuous, airy retreat. At the back, the Restorative Suite proves that 135 square feet can feel boundless. A massive picture window creates a "treehouse" effect, capturing elevated garden views and the warm, golden glow of the evening sun. Toward the front, the Morning Lounge acts as a sun-drenched transition space. Its centerpiece is a striking 8-foot triangular window—a modern nod to the home's original gabled roots. This "light-catcher" pulls the crisp morning sun deep into the heart of the floor, perfectly balancing the day's beginning and end.



Perhaps the most intentional gesture is the central "cutout". In semi-detached homes, the middle of the structure is notoriously dark. This was addressed by carving out a small, three-sided glazed balcony, specifically dimensioned to accommodate a yoga mat. This void acts as a vertical light well, allowing natural light to penetrate the core of the house from multiple angles. It offers a moment of outdoor serenity and a dual-aspect view that defies the constraints of a shared party wall.

A sculptural metal staircase links the levels, blending historic character with the new, airy addition. The spa-like bathroom continues this approach, using curated views and a minimal palette to create a calm, refined retreat.



Portugal Village House shows architectural editing—removing unnecessary and highlighting essential—can transform heritage house into light-filled modern home.

“The Portugal Village House is a quiet lesson in how to transform without erasing. Too often, projects like this fall into extremes—either frozen in nostalgia or stripped of identity. Here, the balance feels precise and intentional.

What stands out immediately is the way the space opens up. The typical narrow, compartmentalized layout is replaced by a fluid sequence that allows the house to breathe. Light moves freely, connecting interior and exterior in a way that feels natural rather than forced. The intervention doesn't fight the original structure—it releases it. The central light well is, in my opinion, the defining gesture. It brings clarity to the darkest part of the house while creating a moment of calm within the density of the plan. It's both functional and poetic.

Then there's the upper level, where the triangular window becomes a subtle but powerful reference to the original architecture. It doesn't replicate the past—it translates it.

This project doesn't try to impress. It convinces, through intelligence and restraint.”

Jury Citation





The **Next House: USA** challenges participants to reinvent suburban living by designing a compact (max 1,500 sq ft), sustainable, and affordable family home. Open to everyone, it offers a **€20,000 prize fund**. **Register by May 20, 2026**, and **submit by June 30, 2026**.



The **Rome Rain Rooms** competition tasks participants with designing reversible pavilions in Rome that capture rainwater. Open to all, it focuses on climate resilience and urban beauty with a **€10,000 prize fund**. **Register by May 28, 2026**, and **submit projects by June 29, 2026**.



The **Museum of Emotions** competition requires designing two contrasting exhibition halls—one positive, one negative—using only architecture to evoke feelings. This "silent" contest forbids text, relying on scale and light, with a **€10,000 prize fund**. **Register by June 18, 2026**, and **submit projects by July 20, 2026**.



The **Mujassam Watan Challenge #8** invites designers to create landmark sculptures for two Saudi Arabian sites: a high-speed highway gateway and a coastal pedestrian waterfront. Open to all, it features a **€50,000 prize fund**. **Register by July 23, 2026**, and **submit projects by August 27, 2026**.



The **Re:Form – New Life for Old Spaces #3** challenge invites designers to reimagine neglected structures like storefronts or garages into sustainable, functional environments. Open to all, it offers a **€10,000 prize fund**. **Register by September 10, 2026**, and **submit projects by October 12, 2026**.

Looking for a **design challenge**? The clock is ticking! Every month, we round up exciting **BUILDNER COMPETITIONS** with approaching deadlines. What are you waiting for? Grab your sketchbook and register before time runs out!

Think you've seen it all?
Scan to unlock the full lineup.





The House and The Tree: Rooted in Architecture

Project by JV Design Studio

@JV Design Studio

At the heart of the project, the tree is not preserved—it is celebrated. A living axis around which space, light, and life are organized. Architecture no longer imposes itself on nature—it listens.

The experience of entering the home is carefully controlled, relying on the architectural principles of compression and release. The arrival is defined by a contained space with a deliberately lowered ceiling, creating an intimate pause.

From this compressed threshold, the house dramatically opens into a double-height living area. Here, space, natural light, and sightlines rapidly expand outward toward the courtyard. This stark contrast between compression and release establishes a clear spatial hierarchy, significantly enhancing the psychological perception of openness within the social wing, creating a refined spatial experience.



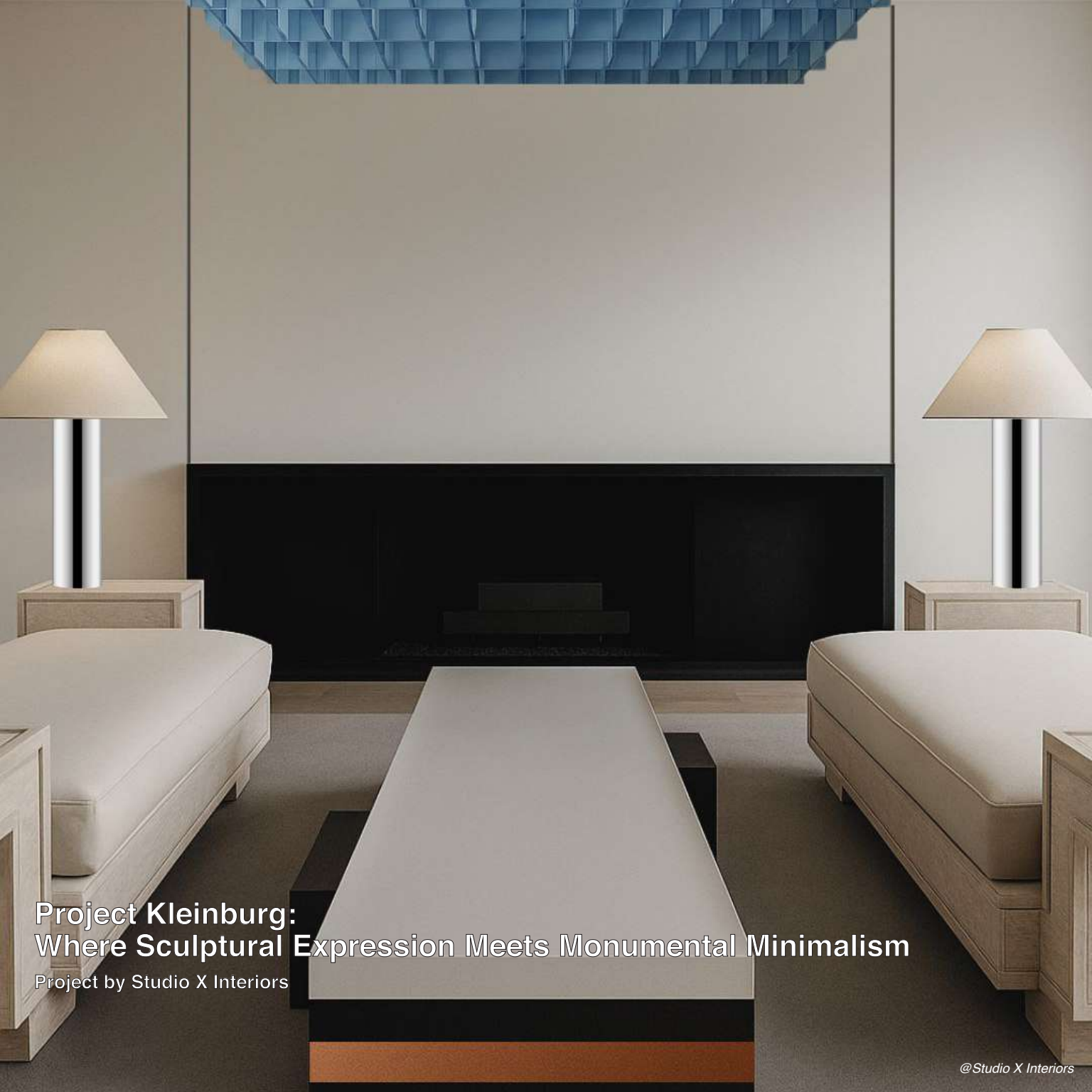
Materiality plays a fundamental role in grounding the home's conceptual roots. A combination of natural stone and warm wood cladding creates a tactile, earthy architecture that seamlessly integrates with the surrounding Ontario landscape. The home features a dual personality dictated by these materials. Toward the exterior public approach, the house presents a more solid, protected, and private presence. However, toward the inner courtyard, large glazed openings dissolve the envelope's boundaries, allowing the interior spaces to fully engage with the natural elements outside.



The House and The Tree is defined not only by its geometric form, but by the physical and emotional experience of moving through it. It unfolds as a continuous, flowing sequence where architecture, light, and landscape merge—and the central tree remains a constant, grounding presence.

“After weighing the site and the architect’s intent, we find the residents and designer guilty of a rare act—the surrender of ego—having allowed a living tree to dictate the architecture, transforming the home into a shared territory where nature is no longer framed but inhabited; I therefore sentence them to a life of constant awareness, where seasons unfold at the core of their living space, where every decision must respect a presence older than the structure itself, and where ownership gives way to coexistence, turning the house into a quiet, enduring dialogue between shelter and life.”

Jury Citation



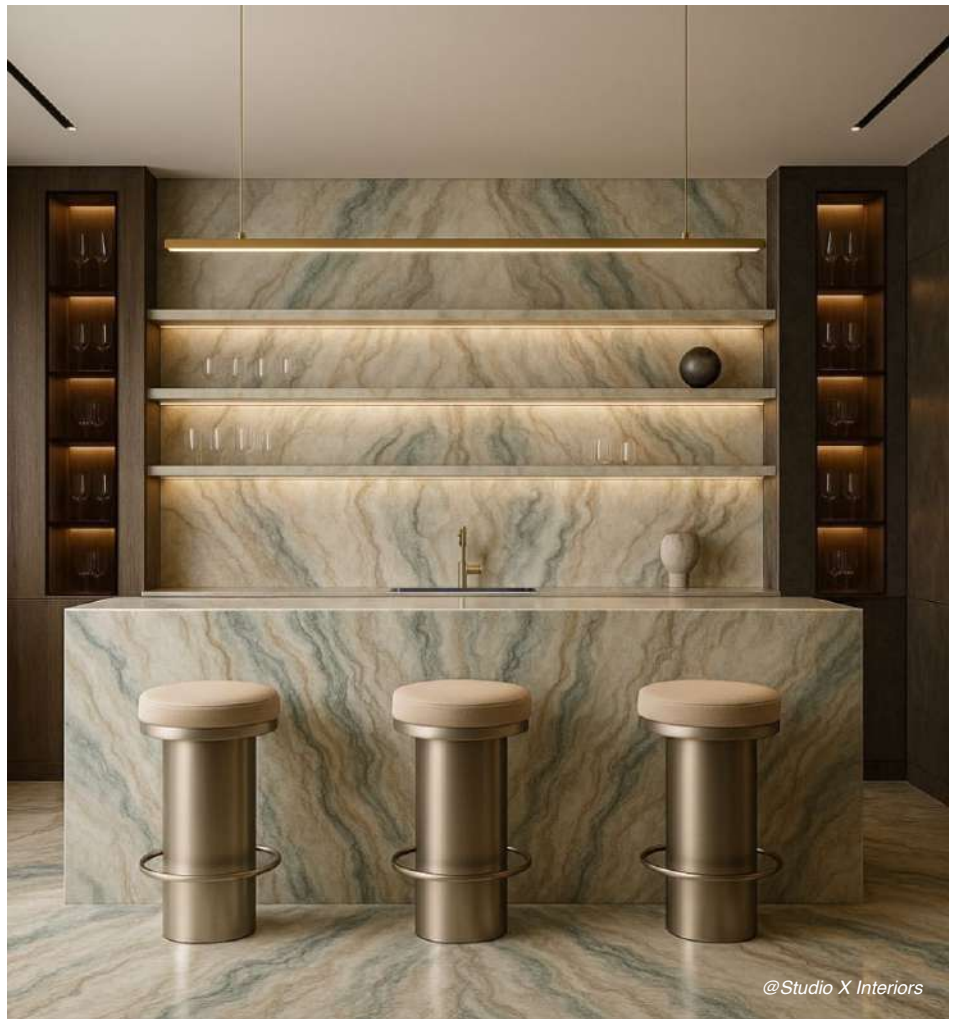
Project Kleinburg:
Where Sculptural Expression Meets Monumental Minimalism

Project by Studio X Interiors

In the lush, affluent enclave of Kleinburg, Ontario, a new standard for contemporary residential design is quietly taking shape. Project Kleinburg, a 5,000-square-foot custom residence designed by Studio X Interiors, stands as a masterclass in spatial orchestration.

Under the creative direction of co-founder Rojin Aval, the home is a physical manifestation of the studio's guiding philosophy: Monumental Minimalism X.

Rather than subscribing to the austere, subtractive tendencies often associated with minimalism, Project Kleinburg explores a delicate, dynamic balance between disciplined restraint and bold sculptural expression.



This elevated experience is achieved through the meticulous integration of functional elements:

Clean Linear Forms: The architecture relies on crisp, uninterrupted lines that guide the eye naturally through the home.

Bespoke Millwork: Custom cabinetry and architectural woodwork are tailored to the exact proportions of the rooms, ensuring a flawless fit and finish.

Concealed Storage: By seamlessly integrating storage solutions into the home's framework, everyday clutter is entirely removed from the visual landscape.



To counterbalance the ethereal quality of the acrylic installation and the crispness of the millwork, the design relies heavily on material authenticity to anchor the home.

Natural stone surfaces serve as the grounding force of the material palette. In the kitchen, striking stone slabs provide a tactile contrast to the smooth, linear cabinetry. This celebration of organic texture continues into the basement bar, where the stone introduces a moodier, subterranean luxury to the entertainment space.

Project Kleinburg is a testament to the power of deliberate design.



“Project Kleinburg stands convicted of Architectural Arrogance, a chillingly precise monolith that abandons the messy reality of “home” to exist as a temple of “Monumental Minimalism,” where every surgically clean limestone edge acts as a declaration of war against the mundane, colonizing the landscape and forcing the very sky to reorganize around its ruthless, diamond-cold aesthetic; and so, for the crime of making luxury look like a cluttered toy box, I sentence this sculptural masterpiece to eternal observation—condemning it to remain a terrifyingly beautiful challenge that refuses to hug the inhabitant, demanding instead that they stand straighter within a space designed not for the domesticity of spilling coffee, but for the sheer, unmitigated gall of existing as a testament to a future civilization, proving that while one might not be “cool” enough to survive its living room, one cannot help but respect a vision so perfect it treats human presence as a smudge on its stone.”

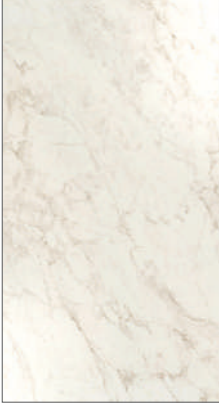
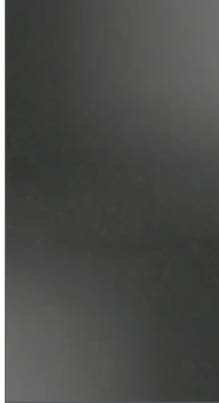
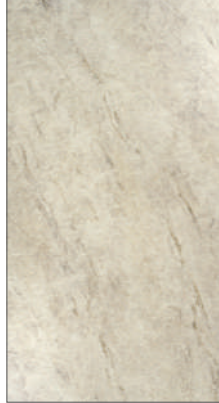
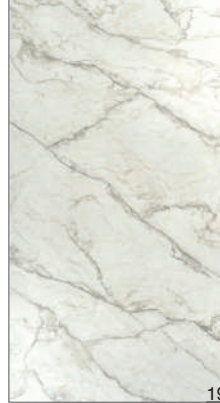
Jury Citation

Cosentino Éclos®: The Future Inlayr® Technology



@Cosentino Group

Éclos® introduces a new category of mineral surfaces with zero crystalline silica, a high proportion of recycled material, and a breakthrough layered design system enabled by Inlayr® Technology. The innovation is the result of extensive research and testing, including 28,000 hours of R&D and over 1,500 hours of product testing by Cosentino’s Research, Development, and Product teams.

I V O R A	L A N D R	L E G N D	P H A N T O M E	T A J N A R	W O N D R
Cream canvas with thin, organic gray and beige veins.	Gold veins on white offer minimalist, luxurious elegance.	Earthy brown tones and lightning veins flow elegantly.	Bold black with soft green tones and copper veins.	Light beige with delicate veins and organic depth.	Striking gray and blue veins on luminous white.
					

Designing Joy: An Interactive Flower Wall at South Norfolk's Pop-Up Park

The AIA Coastal Virginia Pop-Up Park at the ForKids Landmark Center in South Norfolk is a temporary, community-driven urban intervention designed to support families experiencing homelessness through trauma-informed design. The initiative demonstrates how small-scale, temporary design interventions can foster meaningful social impact and community connection.



@Mariya Anwar

Team & Credits

Core Pop-Up Park Team

- Community Engagement & Coordination: Bernadette Keplinger, Jonathan Hiser, Sharon Manana
- Production Leads: Lorin Schwartz, Gary Bright, Brendon Glover
- Event Visuals: Mario Gandia, Steven Griffin

Collaborator: Zoque Wahid

Organizations: AIA Coastal Virginia (AIACoVA)ForKids

Awards: AIA Coastal Virginia Design Award 2025 Gallery

The project is inspired by a simple idea: the Butterfly Garden. It reflects change, growth, and hope—just like the mission of ForKids, helping families move forward and thrive. Four elements shape the space: Caterpillar Bench, Chrysalis Canopy, Flower Wall, and Butterfly Sculpture. Together, they create one clear and engaging experience.

This side area was once empty and uninviting, even though many people pass through it every day. It didn't welcome visitors or offer anything to children and families. The challenge was to bring everyone on board with a new vision. Through clear ideas and ongoing feedback, the space slowly took shape. Today, it feels open, warm, and alive—a place where people can stop, interact, and feel part of a community.

The design focuses on play and discovery. Bright colors, simple shapes, and hands-on elements invite people to engage. The main feature is the Flower Wall, turning a plain surface into something lively and fun. Around them, smaller moving flowers, butterflies, clouds, and a sun create a playful scene full of energy. The sidewalk becomes part of the experience, with games that make arrival more fun and interactive.



“Flower of Emotion helps kids understand and express feelings.”

“Flower of Kindness encourages positive actions.”



@Mariya Anwar



The project uses durable, affordable materials suited for outdoor use, with painted brick and protective coatings ensuring longevity. Designed for simple assembly, it was built with the help of volunteers, making the process both efficient and meaningful. Sustainability drives the approach: existing walls and structures were reused to reduce waste, while local, low-impact materials minimize environmental impact. Flexible and able to evolve, the space is shaped by its community—fostering a strong sense of ownership and transforming it into a shared, vibrant place.

“We find this project quietly powerful. What stands out is not only the design, but its intention: transforming a forgotten space into something open, alive, and shared. Like the Flower Wall in South Norfolk’s pop-up park, it uses color, play, and simple gestures to spark real joy and human connection.

There is an honesty in its clarity. Nothing feels excessive, yet every element has meaning. The interactive features invite children in, while also speaking to deeper values—emotion, kindness, and belonging. It is rare to see design become such an immediate, universal language, accessible to all without explanation and able to connect across ages.

What resonates most is the atmosphere it creates. It doesn’t impose; it welcomes. It turns everyday movement into a moment of discovery and engagement. Equally meaningful is the decision to involve the community in its making—an act that transforms the project from a simple intervention into a collective achievement, rooted in care, pride, and shared ownership, leaving a lasting and positive impact on how the space is experienced and remembered.”

Jury Citation

Blueprint of a Life: Rojin Aval

INTERIOR DESIGNER

“A well-designed space isn’t just seen—it’s felt. It creates a moment where people recognize themselves within it.”

There is a rare kind of designer who does not simply create spaces, garments, or objects—but instead shapes emotional landscapes. Rojin Aval belongs unmistakably to this category.

Her work exists in that delicate tension between instinct and discipline, where intuition leads but is never left unrefined. It is not about decoration, nor even about aesthetics alone. It is about resonance—how a space, a texture, or a silhouette can hold meaning long after the first impression fades.



From the beginning, creation was instinctive—a natural extension of thought. What started as impulse has evolved into a more intentional, refined practice.

Aval approaches design with clarity: she listens rather than imposes. Each project begins with context—cultural, emotional, human—unfolding as an inquiry rather than a statement.

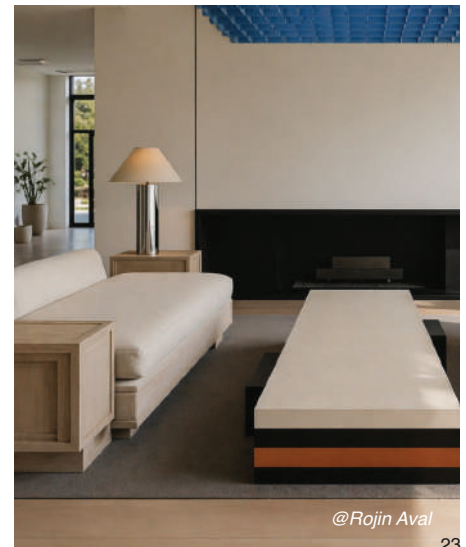
Working across Aval The Label and Studio X Interiors, she moves fluidly between fashion and space, guided by a consistent idea: design must be felt before it is understood.

Materiality is central. Surfaces carry memory, light shapes atmosphere, and absence becomes part of the composition. Here, restraint is precision.



At its core lies a commitment to meaning—exploring identity, belonging, and how we live. Her work does not answer, but creates space to reflect.

What defines Rojin Aval is not style, but sensitivity—an approach where true luxury is found in intention, not excess.





The Kitchen as Topography: CRA and Veneta Cucine Unveil 'OLTRE'

@CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati

At Eurocucina 2026, CRA & Veneta Cucine unveil OLTRE: a river-like domestic infrastructure designed to dissolve the boundaries of home and nature.

Presented at Eurocucina 2026, OLTRE by CRA and Veneta Cucine is a provocative domestic infrastructure designed to dissolve the boundaries between home and nature. More than mere furniture, it is an evolving, fluid system that moves through the landscape like a river, merging conditioned interiors with the raw, unfiltered beauty of the exterior world.



@CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati

Born from a dialogue initiated at the 19th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, the project investigates the convergence of natural and artificial intelligence. Eliminating the wall as an organizing principle, the kitchen becomes a continuous spatial experience, one that responds to the terrain's logic rather than floor plan orthodoxy.

The heart of the design is a system of modular adaptability. OLTRE is a continuous form capable of negotiating complex topographies through intelligent gestures. Its fluid curves wind around site features—trees, boulders, or ruins—while adapting to shifts in elevation and uneven ground.

A defining element is its accordion-like skin, a movable outer layer that peels back like bark to reveal the functional workspace beneath. When closed, the kitchen recedes into the landscape as a silent sculptural presence; when opened, it transforms into a fully operational domestic environment.

A floating countertop acts as the primary workspace, seamlessly integrating high-performance cooking and washing appliances into the organic form.



In this way, OLTRE becomes almost chameleonic — capable of mirroring the scorched tones of a desert setting as easily as the dense shadows of a forest floor.

The project marks the latest chapter in CRA's ongoing exploration of biophilic infrastructure, following previous works such as the studio's 3D-scanned Alpine bivouacs and the floating AquaPraça platform at COP30. For Daniela Archiutti, Art Director at Veneta Cucine, OLTRE is ultimately an exercise in fluidity: a reimagining of the kitchen not as a fixed room, but as an adaptive, living system that extends beyond architecture itself.





Inside the Living Luxe Design Show 2026: Welcome to the Epicentre of Elegance

As the editorial voice behind Forma The Magazine, industry events are part of our rhythm—yet too often they dissolve into a predictable landscape of uninspired booths. The Living Luxe Design Show 2026 defied that expectation entirely.

Opening night unfolded as a vibrant, sold-out celebration: over 4,000 guests, live music, exceptional cuisine, and a dynamic gathering of leading designers, architects, and creative thinkers. The atmosphere was charged with energy and intention. For anyone attuned to the language of luxury design, this is not an event to overlook.



Returning the following morning, we stepped in ahead of the public opening—intent on experiencing the show through the lens of our readers. What emerged was a curated journey, guided by monumental suspended installations—a striking blue jay and a luminous prismatic butterfly—marking a path through a landscape where the conventional booth no longer exists. Each space reveals itself as an immersive, thematic composition, pushing the boundaries of design expression.



Slabs, Tile & Floor: The Material Narrative

At the CAVA installation, craftsmanship reached sculptural extremes: a life-sized motorcycle, meticulously carved from solid grey marble, positioned beside a bespoke marble cigar lounge. A statement not only of skill, but of vision.

Cosentino, in contrast, anchored its presence through restraint and depth—centering the space around a monumental forest-green stone island, elevated by cascading floral compositions. Across the exhibition, natural stone emerges not as surface, but as narrative—an enduring canvas for contemporary luxury.



Kitchen: The Social Core

The kitchen has evolved beyond function into a refined social stage. JennAir redefines the typology with luminous backlit onyx islands, seamlessly integrated downdraft systems, and refrigeration concealed behind monogrammed leather panels.

Elsewhere, a more atmospheric interpretation unfolds: deep burgundy floral walls set against matte black cabinetry and warm copper accents. From playful artificial landscapes to grand illuminated stone backdrops, the kitchen is reimagined as an environment of presence and identity.



Bath: Ritual and Atmosphere

The contemporary bathroom shifts toward a deeply personal wellness experience. Kohler explores this direction through multi-sensory digital showers, heated intelligent fixtures, and sculptural cold plunge installations designed for residential integration. Equally compelling is the visual language: textured walls composed of rhythmic, protruding spheres frame a terracotta-toned freestanding tub—an interplay of minimalism, tactility, and quiet luxury.



Furniture: Precision and Comfort

Furniture here speaks in a language of balance—where sophistication meets purpose. Dark-toned built-in systems merge seamlessly with soft, enveloping seating, creating environments that transition effortlessly between productivity and repose. The aesthetic is deliberate, refined, and confidently understated.



Outdoor: Continuity of Living

Outdoor spaces dissolve the boundary between interior and exterior living. Installations by Stonelife and Life Living articulate this shift through curated landscapes, architectural bars, and technologically integrated furnishings. Solar-powered tables and digitally enhanced surfaces introduce a new dimension—where innovation quietly supports experience without disrupting it.



The Designers: Emerging Voices

Among the most compelling moments is the presence of emerging talent. Lawrence Park Development presents a cohesive showcase inspired by Rome, offering young designers a platform to construct immersive spatial narratives. The result is both confident and exploratory—an indication that the future of luxury design is not only secure, but evolving with clarity and ambition.

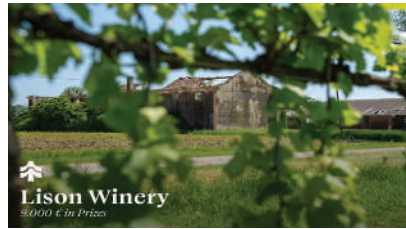


“What strikes us most is not simply the spectacle of the Living Luxe Design Show 2026, but the way this article captures its deeper shift—from exhibition to experience—revealing a vision of luxury that is no longer defined by objects alone, but by emotion, narrative, and human connection, a perspective that resonates with where contemporary design is undeniably heading forward, with clarity, purpose, and lasting cultural impact.”

Jury Citation



The **Water Tower** competition invites designers to repurpose an iconic industrial structure into a vibrant cultural hub. Participants must balance heritage preservation with modern functionality. The contest offers a **€16,000 prize** fund, and the **final submission is April 30, 2026**.



The **Lison Winery** competition invites designers to transform a historic Venetian farm into a contemporary boutique winery. Participants must integrate hospitality and tasting spaces while respecting the site's rural heritage. The contest offers a **€9,000 prize** fund, and the **final submission is June 26, 2026**.



The **Milan Design Loft** competition tasks designers with rethinking a double-height apartment in Città Studi for an architecture student. The project focuses on flexible layouts for studying and socializing. The contest offers a **€8,000 prize** fund, and the **final submission is July 3, 2026**.



The **Urban Toilets** competition invites designers to reimagine public restrooms as innovative, sustainable icons for the modern city. Participants must balance hygiene, accessibility, and architectural quality to enhance the urban fabric. The contest offers an **€8,000 prize** fund, and the **final submission is July 10, 2026**.



The **Nido de Agua** competition invites designers to create a floating shelter on Lake Atitlán that harmoniously integrates with the environment. Participants must focus on modularity and water conservation for a unique experience. The contest offers an **€8,000 prize** fund, and the **final submission is September 11, 2026**.

Looking for a **design challenge**? The clock is ticking! Every month, we round up exciting **TERRAVIVA COMPETITIONS** with approaching deadlines. What are you waiting for? Grab your sketchbook and register before time runs out!

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Meet the Duan Family Center: Boston University's Fossil-Fuel-Free Masterpiece

Project by KPMB Architects



Rising 19 stories above the banks of the Charles River, Boston University's Duan Family Center for Computing & Data Sciences is nothing short of a new architectural landmark. Its striking silhouette—a dramatic composition of cantilevered volumes resembling a monumental stack of books—has decisively reshaped the Boston skyline, announcing a bold new era for academic design.



Yet the building's power extends far beyond its sculptural presence. Since opening in 2022 and receiving its new name in late 2024, the 345,000-square-foot tower has emerged as one of the most progressive educational environments in the United States: a vertical ecosystem where mathematics, computer science, and data science converge beneath one remarkably sustainable roof.

Designed to house more than 3,000 students, faculty, and researchers, the Center reimagines the university campus not as a horizontal sprawl, but as a dynamic, layered destination for exchange, innovation, and discovery.

At the heart of the project is the idea of a “vertical campus”—a concept that transforms circulation into intellectual choreography. Rather than isolating disciplines, the building encourages them to intersect.

Perhaps its most iconic interior gesture is the sweeping, ribbon-like staircase that threads through 13 floors. More than a means of movement, it acts as an architectural catalyst—a sculptural promenade designed to encourage chance encounters, spontaneous conversations, and the kind of serendipity from which transformative ideas often emerge.

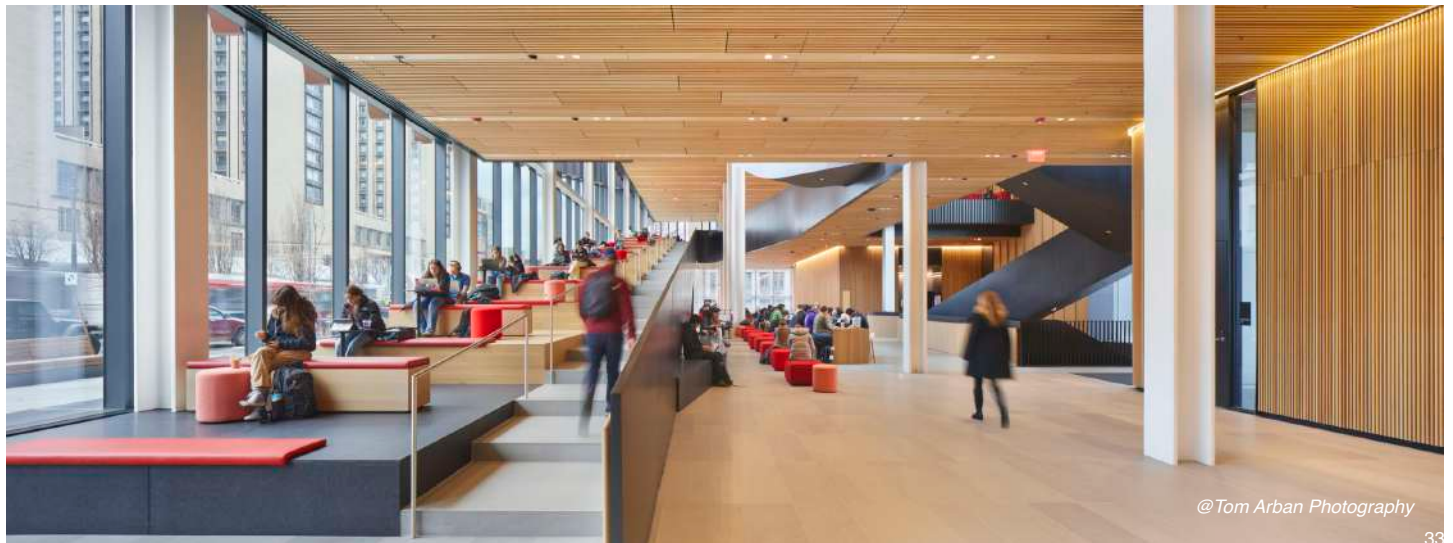
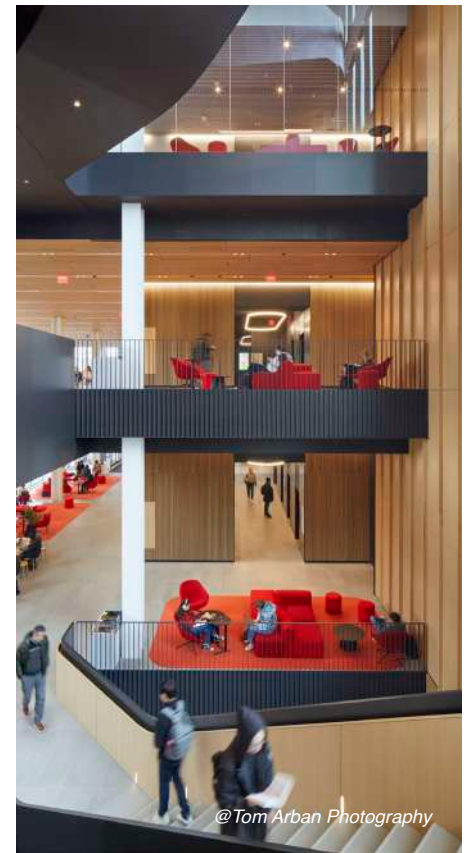


Throughout the tower, design and functionality move in perfect alignment. Twelve classrooms, advanced computer labs, innovation hubs, and a vibrant ground-floor café create a rich spatial rhythm, while expansive whiteboard-lined walls turn corridors into impromptu studios for thought. Floor-to-ceiling triple-glazed windows bathe the interiors in natural light, framing panoramic views of the Charles River and infusing the digital focus of the building with a constant dialogue with the landscape beyond.

As Boston's largest sustainable, operationally fossil-fuel-free building, it stands as a landmark in climate-conscious architecture and has rightfully earned LEED Platinum certification. Here, sustainability is not an afterthought but a defining principle.

The building operates without a single gas line, relying entirely on electric systems—including its culinary facilities. Beneath the surface, a sophisticated closed-loop geothermal network, anchored by 31 boreholes drilled 1,500 feet into the earth, provides heating and cooling with extraordinary efficiency.

Its distinctive mirrored sawtooth façades and diagonal louvres lend the tower its unmistakable visual identity, but they are equally performative, reducing solar heat gain in summer while preserving warmth in winter. The result is an estimated 30 percent reduction in energy consumption.



Given its proximity to the river, resilience was equally central to the design. The structure is elevated five feet above Boston's sea-level-rise guidelines, addressing the realities of climate change with elegant foresight. Meanwhile, eight outdoor terraces planted with native species soften the building's urban presence, mitigate heat island effects, and offer moments of respite high above the city.

It now serves as a nexus connecting technology with the arts, business, law, and engineering, reinforcing the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of contemporary education. The building has already helped attract millions in research grants and has hosted civic initiatives and hackathons aimed at tackling urgent global issues, from climate resilience to social justice. Beyond its academic function, it has become a dynamic meeting point for collaboration, innovation, and public dialogue, fostering partnerships between students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders while shaping forward-thinking solutions for the challenges of tomorrow.



Since its debut, the Center has already become what its architecture promised: a powerful crossroads for research, culture, and community. Perhaps most compelling is its role in shaping a more inclusive future for the technology sector, with women now representing 40 percent of incoming students in Boston University's data science programs, underscoring its broader cultural and educational impact.



Project Credits & Details

Location: 665 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, MA

Client: Boston University

Architect: KPMB Architects

Design Team Lead: Bruce Kuwabara, Marianne McKenna, Luigi LaRocca, Paulo Rocha

Landscape Architect: Richard Burck Associates Inc.

General Contractor: Suffolk Construction

Size: 345,000 square feet (19 stories)

Completion: December 2022 (Renamed Duan Family Center in 2024)

Sustainability: LEED Platinum Certified, 100% Fossil-Fuel Free

The Duan Family Center is far more than an academic building. It is a statement—one that demonstrates how visionary architecture, human-centred design, and environmental responsibility can converge to define the next generation of learning. It stands as a symbol of ambition and progress, where innovation and intellectual exchange are brought together in a space designed to inspire future leaders and transformative ideas.



“After considering all that stands before us, we find the Duan Family Center guilty of something extraordinary: redefining the future of architecture.

This is not merely a 19-story tower rising above the Charles River; it is a manifesto in glass, steel, and vision. Its bold, stacked form transforms the Boston skyline, but its true power lies deeper—in the way it brings people, ideas, and disciplines together.

What strikes us most is its humanity. The sweeping staircase, flooded with light, invites movement, conversation, and chance encounters. It is a space designed not only for learning, but for connection. Every floor seems to encourage dialogue, creativity, and the unexpected spark of innovation.

Yet beyond its beauty lies its moral force. A fossil-fuel-free building of this scale is not simply impressive—it is responsible. It stands as a rare example of architecture with conscience, proving that ambition and sustainability can coexist with grace.

Our verdict is clear: the Duan Family Center is more than a building. It is a symbol of what our future should aspire to be—bold, intelligent, and profoundly human.”

Jury Citation

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