

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1643



Introduced by Hon. Christopher V.P. de Venecia

**A RESOLUTION LAUDING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF FILIPINO ARCHITECTS
AND DESIGNERS IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND URGING
SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED EXCELLENCE THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN
RIGOROUS GLOBAL DESIGN COMPETITIONS**

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives celebrates the significant accomplishments of Filipino architects in acclaimed 2023 international design competitions. The House of Representatives advocates ongoing support and encouragement for Filipino design professionals and students to participate in and excel at such esteemed events, thereby elevating the Philippines' standing in the global design community and inspiring future generations of Filipino designers;

WHEREAS, participation in international competitions by Filipino architects and designers fosters individual excellence, propels our nation's global standing in creativity and design, and nurtures the spirit of innovation within our future generations;

WHEREAS, the World Architecture Festival, from November 29 to December 1, 2023, at Marina Bay Sands Singapore; the Iconic Awards on October 4, 2023, at the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich; and the German Design Awards on January 30, 2024, at Frankfurt am Main represent pinnacle architecture and design events where Filipino architects have displayed their competitiveness and innovation on a global stage;

WHEREAS, the annual three-day World Architecture Festival (WAF) stands as a leading global architectural event, unique for its live jury presentation format that challenges finalists to defend their designs and articulate their vision in a dynamic, public forum, highlighting the festival's dedication to fostering a rich and interactive exchange of architectural ideas globally;

WHEREAS, the World Architecture Festival's Student Charette Program challenges student finalists further by introducing a novel element to their proposed design solutions at the commencement of the festival, compelling them to integrate this new aspect (in 2023, a water element), within a mere two days, thereby testing their adaptability, resourcefulness, and teamwork before their final presentation on the last day of the festival;

WHEREAS, the University of Northern Philippines (UNP), team, under the mentorship of John Derick R. Dasugo and comprising student members Marvin G. Bayle, Anthony C. Delgado, John Mark Niño C. Fabie, Jade G. Gacusan, Jaimeeh Khariz Paet, Gianne Paula A. Peralta, Raiven Ameri D. Ponce, and Trishia Mae P. Quiming, triumphed at the World

Architecture Festival Student Charette Program, demonstrating exemplary talent, innovative thinking, and collaboration on the global stage with their project, Balay Arapaap: An Inclusive Informal Learning Center for the Remote Island of Puro Caoayan;

WHEREAS, the jury praised the UNP team's effort, stating, "The winning team had a scale of ambition paired with a pragmatism and realism that gave us hope that young architects can make meaningful impact to communities and families," and described the design solution as "well resolved, beautiful, and wonderfully presented;"

WHEREAS, The Architecture Drawing Prize honors the art and skill of architectural drawing, an essential cornerstone of the architectural profession, which celebrates the depth and diversity of drawing in the digital era;

WHEREAS, Eldry Infante was bestowed with The Architecture Drawing Prize Hybrid Category, for his work "(Re)membering the See Monster," a piece recognized by Louise Stewart, Head of Exhibitions at Sir John Soane's Museum and Prize Judge: "We were impressed by this skillful and detailed drawing which has been digitally manipulated to create a very dynamic and varied composition. One of the drawing's particular strengths is the way in which it uses a variety of visual languages, all of which convey information about how buildings work;"

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2024, at the Sir John Soane's Museum in London, Eldry Infante was honored as Overall Winner, The Architecture Drawing Prize 2023 affirming his exceptional talent and mastery in the art form that is foundational to the architectural industry;

WHEREAS, the World Architecture Festival WAFX Prize commends the most forward-thinking architectural projects from WAF's Future Projects shortlist that address crucial global challenges and anticipate the needs of the future, handpicked by the WAFX jury for their progressive approach and commitment to social responsibility in architecture;

WHEREAS, Buensalido Architects led by principal architect Jason Buensalido and the project team comprising Nikki Boncan-Buensalido, Ems Eliseo, Cholo Ramirez, Aramis Corullo, Migs Razon, Lhouis Lanting, and Aaron Espiritu, have been honored with the WAFX Prize Ethics and Values Category for their Pangasinan Barangay Centers project, a testament to the firm's dedication to creating spaces that profoundly impact communities and exemplify the critical role of thoughtful architectural design in public works;

WHEREAS, the WAFX Prize recognition of the Barangay Centers project accentuates the vital necessity for design excellence in government projects, advocating for the integration of architects' expertise in the planning and execution of public infrastructures, thereby validating the agenda for elevating functional and inspirational communal spaces within the nation's framework for development;

WHEREAS, Buensalido Architects also garnered the Highly Commended Future Project Civic and Community Category citation for the Pangasinan Barangay Centers design solution, which was lauded for its innovative approach to marrying localization with standardization and its insightful exploration of placemaking that transcends physical location;

WHEREAS, Dominic Galicia Architects' Kilyawan Farm Resort has been recognized with the Highly Commended Built Project Hotel and Leisure Category citation for its transformation of

a former chicken farm into a site of profound architectural memory and placemaking, weaving the past into the present with structures that speak to the essence of locality, authenticity, and the communal spirit;

WHEREAS, the same project was shortlisted in the Best Use of Natural Light Category, an accolade that recognizes projects' "significant impact on human well-being," and underscores the resort's use of materials and forms "to create a tapestry of light and shadow, defining spaces with the ethereal play of daylight and creating a serene ambiance in harmony with the natural surroundings;

WHEREAS, WTA Architecture and Design Studio, under the leadership of William Ti, received the Highly Commended Built Project Sport Category citation for the Ferdinand E. Marcos Stadium, a venue that serves as a vibrant communal heart for Laoag City, ingeniously integrating an open amphitheater and expansive green space, reflecting the cultural fabric and enhancing the social vitality of Ilocos Norte;

WHEREAS, inclusion in the World Architecture Festival Shortlist is a commendable achievement by itself due to the event's massive scale, with thousands of entries submitted from around the globe and only a select few making the cut; a distinction that speaks to the caliber of the projects, the esteemed jury of respected architects, and the diversity of participants ranging from the largest and most prestigious firms to emerging talents in the field, making the shortlist a benchmark of excellence and a thrilling acknowledgment in the world of architecture;

WHEREAS, the following Filipino architects and firms have been shortlisted at the World Architecture Festival (WAF) 2023 and INSIDE World Festival of Interiors 2023, WAF's sister event for interior design: Alero Design Studio headed by Jesy and Jaemi Cruz, for Rebel Base under INSIDE's Small Workplace Category; Archion Architects led by Dan Lichauco, for the Manta Corporate Plaza in the Completed Building Office Category; Carlo Calma Consultancy headed by Carlo Calma, for the Hotel Elizabeth Resorts and Villas in the Completed Building Hotel and Leisure Category; DST Design + Build led by Dryan Suiza Tria, for Unfinished Basket, in the Completed Building Hotel and Leisure Category; JRS+Partners headed by John Ryan Santos, for St. Luke's Medical Center's New Hospital Building (NHB) under the Future Projects Healthcare Category; KJHP Design Group from Pampanga led by Kym Jaffna Henson Pineda, for La Terrain under the Future Project Leisure-led Development Category; Davao-based MLA At Home headed by Laurence Angeles, for Microhomes for Ancestral Domains in the Completed Building Housing Category; PDP Architects headed by Cathy Saldana, for the Damosa Diamond Tower in the Completed Building Office Category; and Visionarch led by Daniel Terence Yu, for the Carbon Cebu Trade and Expo Center, in the Future Project Commercial Mixed-Use Category;

WHEREAS, the Iconic Awards, organized by the venerable German Design Council, are celebrated for spotlighting ground-breaking achievements in a vast array of architectural and design fields, emphasizing the synergy of innovative buildings, products, and sustainable communications within the global industry;

WHEREAS, Jorge Yulo of Jorge Yulo Architects & Associates has been distinguished with two Iconic Awards 2023 for Innovative Architecture, one in the Holiday House Category for the 'Casa de Nipa' in Canlubang, Laguna, and the other in the Restaurant Category for the 'Culinary Treasure Box' or Mamou Prime restaurant, marking a series of six Iconic Award wins

after the four Yulo had received in 2016, 2017, and 2021, that signify the firm's ongoing excellence and creativity in architectural and design innovation;

WHEREAS, the German Design Awards, established by the German Bundestag and endorsed by the Federation of German Industries, are revered for honoring visionary design and architecture that set benchmarks for innovation and sustainability, with recipients of this esteemed award recognized as leaders in shaping the future of design worldwide;

WHEREAS, WTA Architecture and Design, under the leadership of William Ti, has been conferred with the Excellent Architecture German Design Award for the Ferdinand E. Marcos Stadium, rewarding the firm's prowess in marrying sustainability with community-centric design, continuing a commendable history of accolades that include Gold at the Urban Design & Architecture Design Awards 2022, Winner in Urban Planning/Landscape Architecture at the International Architecture Awards 2022, Best of the Best in Urban Planning at the Iconic Awards 2022, as well as Winner, WAFX Water Category, and WAFX Project of the Year at the World Architecture Festival 2021, reflecting the firm's steadfast commitment to its advocacies of social architecture and global architectural discourse;

RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives celebrates the significant accomplishments of Filipino architects in the acclaimed 2023 international design competitions, advocating ongoing support and encouragement for Filipino design professionals and students to participate in and excel at such esteemed events, thereby elevating the Philippines' standing in the global design community and inspiring future generations of Filipino designers;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to commend exemplary Filipino architects, the House of Representatives urges the pursuit of excellence in architectural endeavors and promoting participation in global competitions. Such accolade serves as a call upon professional organizations to actively support and promote participation in such competitions, nurturing the next wave of architectural and design talent;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that this Resolution inspires local governments, government organizations, businesses, and citizens to appreciate the transformative power of architecture and design, contributing to our society's progress and enriching our national identity.

Adopted,



HON. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE VENECIA