

ARCHITECTURE SARASOTA

Architecture Sarasota names British architect Lord Norman Foster as the recipient of its second annual Philip Hanson Hiss Award

(Sarasota, Florida — November 30, 2023) — **Architecture Sarasota** is pleased to announce the recipient of its second annual **Philip Hanson Hiss Award**: Norman Foster, one of the world's most eminent and influential living architects, known for his technological and ecological innovations in large scale architecture.

The annual award was established to honor today's pioneers of innovative design within the built environment, and to celebrate the contributions of **Philip Hanson Hiss III** (1910-1988), the primary catalyst, impresario and promoter of the **Sarasota School of Architecture** — a modern architecture movement that addressed the distinct geographic, climatic, and socio-cultural context of South Florida's Gulf Coast region. The Hiss Award is the non-profit organization's largest annual fundraising event. On **Friday, March 22nd**, Lord Norman Foster will give a lecture at the Art Ovation Hotel before being honored the following evening, on **Saturday, March 23rd**, at an award ceremony and benefit gala held on the grounds of the Paul Rudolph and Ralph Twitchell-designed Revere Quality House (1948).

Philip Hanson Hiss, "the man who made Sarasota Modern", is responsible for the emergence of the Sarasota School of Architecture, as the foremost champion of a group of young practitioners he met and championed upon arriving in Sarasota after World War II. Among the first of his charges was Paul Rudolph, a figurehead of the movement, whom in 1953 he commissioned what would become known as the Umbrella House—the residence that became an exemplar of Lido Shores - a residential enclave of innovative modernist architecture of Lido Shores that became one of the city's most famed historical landmarks. With the support of Hiss, Rudolph and his peers enacted principles of site-responsiveness in their work, designing with the environment in which they practiced.

Having earned widespread renown with the work he had done in Sarasota, Rudolph's practice and ideas spread beyond the city. In 1958, Rudolph assumed the chairmanship of the Yale Department of Architecture, where he mentored the next generation of architectural luminaries, Norman Foster among them. Foster, who grew up working-class in Manchester, ended up at Yale in 1961 after being awarded the prestigious Henry Fellowship. Today, Norman Foster is celebrated for pioneering innovative and sustainable architecture using appropriate technology. Playing a vital role in defining the architectural aesthetic of 'supermodernity', Foster has spent his career working extending principles of sustainable design, such as those promoted by the Sarasota School of Architecture, onto a mega-sized urban scale, creating a blueprint for ethically expanding skylines. Foster's buildings represent revolutionary propositions in how urban life can be organized and facilitated.

One of his earliest major commissions was the **Willis Faber & Dumas headquarters** in Ipswich, England (1975)—a modular open-plan design responding to the clients desire to restore a sense of community in the workplace, long before open-plan offices became the norm. In 1991 he designed London's **Stansted Airport**, where he inverted the traditional terminal layouts by placing all services underground, instead of the roof, thus maximizing natural lighting; the building was awarded the Mies Van Der Rohe Award and is recognized as a landmark of High Tech architecture. The **Hongkong and Shanghai Bank** in Hong Kong, completed in 1986, represents a further development in the harnessing of natural light for energy efficiency, with a bank of giant mirrors placed at the top of the atrium, reflecting sunlight which fills all 47 floors of the

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building. **30 St Mary Axe**, more commonly referred to as 'The Gherkin', completed in 2004, employs gaps in each floor to create six shafts that serve as a natural ventilation system for the entire building, allowing it to use only half the power a skyscraper of its scale typically would.

"In 1961, it was the presence of Paul Rudolph as the Chair of the School of Architecture that was the main reason I chose to take up a Henry Fellowship at Yale. Perhaps the strongest common thread that linked Paul Rudolph the architect and Paul Rudolph the teacher was a sense of absolute commitment, a moral imperative in which no effort was spared, however late in the process, to improve the quality of architecture, whether in his own buildings or, by inspiration in the work of his students. It is an example that will live on in all of those who shared his influence."

Lord Norman Foster

"Lord Norman Foster is an unparalleled innovator in contemporary architecture globally. I often think about the Hearst Tower, which, at its staggering scale, became the first commercial building to receive LEED acknowledgment from the U.S. Green Building Council.. It's at the Hearst Tower that we held the reception, when Lord Foster helped launch the World Monuments Fund's *Modernism at Risk* program in 2006—a program I participated in creating—with a lecture at MoMA. He's a committed steward of modernist architecture—he also wrote a letter of support for Rduolph's Riverview High School, which regrettably was demolished in 2009," **says President of Architecture Sarasota Morris (Marty) Hylton III.**"Norman Foster's career has been a testament to the universality of the Sarasota School's influence and enduring legacy. To welcome him in Sarasota is an honor and a privilege."

ABOUT ARCHITECTURE SARASOTA:

Founded in 2021 with the coming together of the Center for Architecture Sarasota and the Sarasota Architecture Foundation, Architecture Sarasota is dedicated to stewarding the legacy of the Sarasota School, and providing a forum for the education, advocacy and celebration of good design in the global built environment.

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