

## *La Cité du Lignon* has been distinguished with the Europa Nostra and SIA Awards

The Re-Use research on the Housing Complex of Lignon (Switzerland, Geneva) has been awarded with the Europa Nostra Prize for Research in 2013. The project, published in **docomomo** Journal 44 (2011/1), has been developed by the EPFL's Laboratory of Techniques and Preservation of Modern Architecture (TSAM), under the leadership of Franz Graf and Giulia Marino, **docomomo** Switzerland members. "The problem of energy efficiency affects all buildings and particularly social housing of the post-war period. The case becomes one of great significance when we consider the *Cité du Lignon*, which has been recognized, since its inception, as an icon of modern architecture, and therefore of international interest. The challenge is the need to introduce new materials for comfort and insulation into structures designed from the start as streamlined and minimalist. The Jury was fascinated by the problem when applied to this particular site. The rigor of the methodology and the exemplary thorough-

ness of the conclusions of this research left out an award beyond doubt. "*The Cité du Lignon* near Geneva (1963–1971) is the most ambitious and large-scale of all housing projects in Switzerland. Its heritage value was recognized in 2009 by the adoption of a site plan, giving protection on an urban scale and recommending the preservation of the whole site and its remarkable outdoor areas. Faced with new energy use regulations — a priority in Switzerland — a reduction in energy consumption in the *Cité* was unavoidable. Hoping to provide a framework for future interventions, the research conducted by the TSAM laboratory between 2008 and 2011 had a twofold objective: conservation of the existing fabric and at the same time a reduction in fuel consumption. In the wider context of the energy consumption problem throughout the canton of Geneva, this pilot research has been the means to develop an evaluation method, embodying several different relevant criteria, which could define the most appro-

priate forms of intervention. This initiative, given its encouraging early results, introduces a conservation tool which can be applied to a great range of buildings from all periods. Recently the research *La Cité du Lignon* (1963–1971). *Étude Architecturale et Stratégies d'Intervention* has been also distinguished with the SIA (*Société Suisse des Ingénieurs et des Architectes*) Award. The JURY stated that "the strategies for the improvement of the *Cité du Lignon* striking in their pragmatism, their targeting objectives and interdisciplinary roots. Through a concerted commitment involving authorities and owners over the long term, the allegedly conflicting demands have been optimally aligned and a series of housing have been already restored successfully. Respectful of cultural and architectural values of existing buildings, this approach represents a valuable reference whose scope far exceeds the Swiss context, for a wider approach for the rehabilitation of large ensembles from the 1960s and 70s". ■

### Sources

<http://www.sia.ch/fr/actuel/regards/distinctions/strategies-dintervention-pour-la-cite-du-lignon/>  
<http://www.europanostra.org/awards/113/>  
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