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28 OCTOBER 2024

## KTP PRESIDENT CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO ENGAGE COMPETENT PROFESSIONALS TO HEAD PUBLIC ENTITIES

During Saturday's national architecture awards ceremony, the Premju Emanuele Luigi Galizia, the President of the Kamra tal-Periti called on the Government to ensure that public entities are headed by competent professional to ensure that quality in public space is upheld.

These remarks came after a "four-day celebration of the profession" during which twenty different architectural firms and public entities presented their projects to an international jury in public presentations. The event, which was held under the Distinguished Patronage of the President of the Republic of Malta, reached its climax on Saturday during the winners of the various categories were announced.

Pizzuto spoke about the "magic and power of good architecture" and how the difficulties faced by architects in Malta are more accentuated than in other parts of the world due to the very high population density raising the theme of over-development as a primary concern of the general public. Many finalists of the Premju Galizia were indeed focused on overcoming and addressing the theme of overdevelopment, demonstrating that the profession "is not only sensitive to this theme, but has actively pursued solutions to address this problem".

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He called on the Government to take ownership of the degradation of public space and recognise the impact this is having on well-being.

He was particularly critical of “public relations schemes” announced by Infrastructure Malta, which like the “predictable debacle of Project Green’s green walls” before, will only result in a waste of more public funds that will leave no tangible community benefits in the long-term.

Pizzuto also called on the Government to take heed of the public’s strong desire for the implementation the Msida Park project it had proposed in June to avoid the public’s resentment for what could have been. “It is never too late to do what is right,” Pizzuto remarked.

Pizzuto conclude by stating he is, however, optimistic for the future of the profession and the industry, pointing to fruitful and frequent meetings with various Ministers and senior public officials over recent months which he believes will result in higher standards in the industry and the elimination of unnecessary bureaucracy.

The KTP president also looked forward to the evening’s budget in the hope that the various proposals the chamber had been made over recent months will place the profession on a sounder footing and begin to restore the reputation of the construction industry.

The Kamra tal-Periti also gave an award for Architecture Leadership to Paul Buttigieg, Mayor of Qala for his unrelenting efforts to safeguard Hondoq ir-Rummien from unsustainable speculative development.

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Perit David Felice was also awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for the legacy his work has left on Malta's built environment through the work he has done through his firm AP Valletta, his role as former president of the Kamra tal-Periti, as well as his chairmanship of V18.

The ultimate prize of the evening, awarded to the best overall project among the finalists – the President's Award – was given to NIDUM for their project a City of a 1000 Gardens which envisions the transformation of Marsascala into a sustainable seaside village immersed in parks and gardens.

## PREMJU GALIZIA WINNERS

### **Design Excellence Award**

*Bothouse* by SON Architecture

### **Landscape Architecture Award**

*The Rehabilitation and Restoration of Wied Fulija Landfills* by DTR

### **Innovation Special Commendation**

*Aircraft MRO Hangar Facility* by EM Architects

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## **Community Impact Award**

*Dar Tereza* by Local Office for Architecture

## **Interior Architecture Award**

*Casa Ursula* by Openworkstudio

## **Heritage Preservation Award**

*Casa Gourgion* by MODEL Architects & CVC Architecture Studio

## **Architecture Vision Award**

*The Regenerative Multi-Modal Transport System* by Mizzi Studio

AND

*City of a 1000 Gardens* by NIDUM

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## **Architecture Vision Special Commendation for Sustainability**

*Help Malta Breathe* by Periti Studio

AND

*The Way We Live* by Valentino Architects

## **Emerging Practice Award**

SON Architecture

## **Architecture Leadership Award**

Mayor Paul Buttigieg

## **Lifetime Achievement Award**

Perit David Felice

## **Special Contribution to the Profession Award**

Mr Tony Cassar



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**President's Award** (the highest award of the night)

*City of a 1000 Gardens* by NIDUM

**END**

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127, Sliema Road  
Gzira GZR 1633  
Malta

t. +356 21314265  
e. [info@kamratalperiti.org](mailto:info@kamratalperiti.org)  
w. [kamratalperiti.org](http://kamratalperiti.org)

Kamra  
tal-Periti