

## **Acclaimed Australian architect awarded Dreyer Foundation Prize of Honor '09**

**The Dreyer Foundation Prize of Honor 2009 has been awarded to architect Richard Leplastrier for his understanding of the true meaning of sustainability, based on a philosophy best summed up by the motto: 'Let's cultivate less!'**

How little do we need? The winner of The Dreyer Foundation Prize of Honor '09, Richard Leplastrier, has asked himself this question many times in his long career. Richard Leplastrier is renowned and recognized for only using resources close by in an endeavor to minimize the impact on the environment as much as possible. His favorite material is wood—preferably recycled and veneer—and in principle, many of his designs can be taken apart and used again and again. In the words of architect and Dreyer Foundation board member Lene Tranberg, his architecture is an "Ode to nature."

In her summary, Lene Tranberg explains her reasons for awarding The Dreyer Foundation Prize of Honor '09 to Richard Leplastrier:

"The legacies of Jørn Utzon, Kenzo Tange, and the classic Japanese building tradition are continued in the most beautiful way – creating human experiences of exceptional elegance and simplicity. Within the realm of architecture, he has imbued the term 'sustainability' with a deeper meaning through the ideas expressed in 'Let's cultivate less!'"

### **About Richard Leplastrier**

Born in Melbourne, Australia, Richard Leplastrier studied architecture at the University of Sydney. From 1964 to 1966, he worked closely with Jorn Utzon on the Sydney Opera House. After working at Utzon's studio, he spent 18 months in Kyoto, where he studied traditional Japanese architecture with Professor Masuda Tomoya and worked at Professor Kenzo Tange's studio while studying. In 1970 he returned to Australia and opened his own studio in Sydney.

Richard Leplastrier has won a number of distinguished awards in Australia—including the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) gold medal in 1999—for his very personal and outstanding interpretation of sustainability. In 2004, he received The

International Spirit of Nature Wood Architecture Award in Finland, which is only awarded to the most prestigious architects in sustainable design.

Richard Lepastrier was awarded The Dreyer Foundation Prize of Honor at a function in Copenhagen on Thursday 22 October. On Friday 23 October he delivered a lecture on his work at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts School of Architecture.

Read more on <http://www.karch.dk/>

### **About the Dreyer Foundation and Dreyer Foundation Prize of Honor**

The Dreyer Foundation supports projects and initiatives to promote architectural and legal development and interaction with society. Priority areas are business development, further education and communication.

Each year in October, The Dreyer Foundation Prize of Honor awards DKK 400,000 to an architect and a lawyer who has distinguished themselves through an especially valuable contribution within their field. The prize was first awarded in 1982.

In 2009 the foundation chose to focus on climate and sustainability in their choice of prize recipients.

Read more about The Dreyer Foundation on <http://www.dreyersfond.dk/uk>