

Commendation of the Jury on the Awarding of the Julius Posener Prize to Kenneth Frampton

Kenneth Frampton is one of the world's great contemporary critics and historians of architecture. Trained as an architect himself, he has led a brilliant academic career that took him from the Architectural Association in London to Columbia University in New York, in the course of which thousands of students have benefitted from his knowledge and his personality. As an architect, he has made an important mark with his buildings. But most of all, he has radically changed and broadened our view of the immediate past by his books, including *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*, deeply influencing contemporary architectural practice with his concept of critical regionalism.

Frampton's stupendous erudition and immense overview have never misled him into a portraying historic and present-day architecture in uncritical breadth and scope. On the contrary, from his vast overview he has repeatedly taken independent, radical positions and defended them with clarity and courage. As a result, he has not infrequently come into conflict with the currents of fashion. Frampton grappled with those currents, but never yielded in his defence and cultivation of modern architecture, reinterpreting but not repudiating it.

Again and again, Frampton has not been content to maintain his knowledge and his position in the ivory tower of academia, but has brought them into the public sphere, writing in journals and newspapers, giving lectures, conducting debates. He has advocated his considered, never sensational, always lucid positions with extraordinary integrity and conviction.

In view of these achievements, we find Kenneth Frampton to be the ideal first recipient of the Julius Posener Prize.

Berlin, 10 October, 2016.

Theresia Enzensberger

Claudia Kromrei

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Alan Posener

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Sophie Wolfrum