



BCS Prize

Aimed to create excellent architectural asset and contribute to cultural progress and global environment preservation

The BCS Prize was founded in 1960 by the Building Contractors Society (BCS) which was established in 1959 to recognize excellent buildings. Toemon Takenaka, the first Chairperson of the BCS, had a belief that the excellence of building does not depend solely on the design, and construction technology which realizes the design is also an important element of the building. Accordingly he thought that BCS should aim for the improvement of construction industry and contribute to the development of Japanese culture by selecting superb buildings based on broader criteria which pay adequate attention to the construction process and awarding a prize to those buildings.

In other words, the prize was established in the belief that mutual understanding and collaboration among the building owner, designer and constructor is essential to create an excellent building and however the design looks good, the owner and users of the building cannot be satisfied without good construction.



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Since then, the BCS Prize has recognized the outstanding buildings in Japan every year while its guidelines have undergone revisions in accordance with the changes of the times. The 52nd BCS Prize was given in 2011 and 832 buildings have been awarded so far.

In April 2011, Japan Federation of Construction Contractors (JFCC), Japan Civil Engineering Contractors Association, Inc. (JCE) and BCS merged to form new JFCC (NIKKENREN) in order to enhance its functions as a construction industry organization and aggressively promote actions for the development of the industry. While launching the new initiatives, JFCC took over the BCS Prize as this cultural program has a history of more than 50 years and has been highly acclaimed in and out of the construction industry for its social significance.

One of the main features of the BCS Prize is that it is presented to the owners, designers and constructors of the buildings in service for more than one year. Therefore, the judges of the prize comprehensively evaluate the entire building process from the project planning to the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the building. It is rather rare, even by international standards, for the architectural award to be presented not only to the designer but also to the owner and the constructor, and it greatly contributes to the improvement of construction technology and the development of architectural culture.

Looking back on the history of the BCS prize, the prize went to the symbols of the country's rapid economic growth such as Tokyo Tower and the sites for the Tokyo Olympic Games at the beginning. In recent years, however, the selection of the projects to rebuild large buildings in downtown area and the renewal projects utilizing the existing buildings has been increasing notably.

Buildings have served as social assets supporting the people's livelihood and played an important role in urban formation and community creation. Therefore, these award-winning buildings can be said to represent the history of Japanese modern architecture which owners with strong attachment to their buildings, designers with profound creativity and constructors with great skill cooperatively built up, having been involved in the social and economic background of respective ages.



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