

**BRIT
INSURANCE
DESIGNS
OF THE
YEAR
2009**



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OF THE
YEAR**

Credits

Curator

Nina Due

Assistant Curator

Margaret Cabbage

Exhibition Design

Amos Marchant

Exhibition Build

One-or-More

Graphic Design

Esterson Associates

Intern Assistant Curators

Heather Booth, Sarah Mullins

The Design Museum would like to give special thanks to all our nominators and to the nominees, for working with the Design Museum in order to deliver Brit Insurance Designs of the Year 2009.

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designmuseum.org
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Following the tremendous success of the inaugural Brit Insurance Design Awards in 2008, we are delighted to return for the second year of our partnership with the Design Museum. While the world is now a much different place than a year ago, the role of good, intelligent design in helping to reduce risk remains just as important; all the projects showcased at the 2009 Brit Insurance Designs of the Year clearly demonstrate the growing emphasis on sustainability and efficiency.

In 2008, One Laptop per Child emerged as the overall design of the year from an exceptional range of nominees. This year's shortlist is just as varied and the seven category winners who the judges will select to vie for the ultimate Award will represent the culmination of another year of innovative, interesting and forward-looking design with which we are proud to be associated.

Dane Douetil CBE
Chief Executive, Brit Insurance

**Eight Inscribed
Houses
and Three
Courtyards,
Canary
Islands, Spain**

**Romera y Ruiz
Arquitectos**

Client: Canary
Islands Housing
Institute

Nominated by
Francesca
Ferguson

Intended to work as a mini-environment interspersed with the three courtyards, the Eight Houses are an example of a social housing development within a controlled, limited site. The term 'inscribed', borrowed from geometry, relates to the sculptural quality of the architecture, which enables the design to take on a visual language that equally embraces negative and positive space. The origami-like façade, formed from the coloured shutters, transforms the overall appearance when the shutters are open or closed.

The architects have constructed a microcosm within a spatially limited site and for a limited budget. The limited boundaries and spatial confinements led the architects to create compact forms and controlled spaces so that one navigates inner courtyards, corridors and pathways between them where natural light heightens the effect of each monochromatic inner region. The window shutters of subtle pastel tones have been customised to fit each spatial fold, and the design makes maximum use of natural ventilation. The architects have found a formal solution for the boundaries dictated by the site that allows for an experiential fusion of light, colour and introverted space.
Francesca Ferguson

romerayruiz.com



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