

Norman Foster Foundation

RIBA Travelling Scholarship

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RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Fellow will look at the adaptation of urban wildlife to mega-cities



By [Mackenzie Goldberg](#)

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'Sanzhi Pod City', a dilapidated city, home to five new species of orchid, that 2018 Norman Foster Travelling Scholar Steven Hutt will investigate during his travels.

The [Royal Institute of British Architecture](#), alongside [Norman Foster](#), has announced the winner of their twelfth [Travelling Scholarship](#). After receiving the highest number of entries of any year thus far, the annual, £7,000 prize has been awarded to Steven Hutt of [University of Greenwich](#) for his proposal, 'East of Eden.'

Travelling to Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, South Korea and Japan, Steven will investigate how urban wildlife has adapted to the rapid rise of densely populated mega-cities in the far east of Asia. Some of the urban environments Hutt will be looking include the 'Sanzhi Pod City'—a dilapidated city that has become a breeding ground for five new species of orchid—and the wider Pearl River Delta—a rapidly growing concrete jungle with conditions that has also allowed other species to thrive—among others.

Norman Foster, whose Foundation helps support the program, said: "In the end, we all felt the winning proposal dealt with a topic that was extremely relevant given the accelerating pace of urbanization in Asia and the rest of the world. The relationship between nature and the city will be a key aspect, as we seek to develop the sustainable cities of the future, and I look forward to seeing the findings of Steven Hutt's research that he will carry out during his journey through China, South Korea and Japan."

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7000 POUND TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO INVESTIGATE INCREASING URBANISATION OF ASIA



The twelfth annual RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship 2018 has been awarded to Steven Hutt from the University of Greenwich for his project titled “East of Eden”. The £7000 scholarship is awarded to a student of architecture to complete international research on a topic and location of their choice with a focus relating to the survival of our towns and cities. Hutt’s project will take him into the mega-cities of East Asia where he will study urban and natural environmental interactions for the building of more sustainable cities in the future. His trip will begin in Taiwan at the **Sanzhi Pod City** (otherwise known as UFO houses) where the dilapidated resort town has allowed the flourishing of five new species of orchid mantis. He will continue through China’s Pearl River Delta, into Shanghai, Beijing, and South Korea to investigate local infrastructure and cultural attitudes to urban wildlife in these areas. Hutt’s last leg of the trip will be to cycle from Fukuoka to Tokyo in Japan

This year saw the highest quantity of entries to the scholarship, which made choosing from the extremely high standard difficult. Hutt's entry was chosen for its relevance to the increasing urbanisation of Asia and the globe as the necessity of study into the cohabitation of humans and urban wildlife correspondingly increases. The jury was chaired by Lord Foster and comprised Ben Derbyshire, RIBA President, Farshid Moussavi, Founder of Farshid Moussavi Architecture, Yemi Aladerun, Associate at Barbara Weiss Architects and Spencer de Grey and Narinder Sagoo of Foster + Partners.

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