

The Prague Congress Centre (KCP) presents the plan for the new exhibition hall and Pankrácové náměstí

The international architectural and urban-planning competition 'New KCP' has its winner, and as of today the public can see what the winning design will look like. The subject of the competition was the addition of a new exhibition hall to the building of the Congress Centre, and its changes to the immediate surroundings. As such, it is the public announcement of the names of the winners, and the form of the winning design.

'The Congress Centre is not able, over the long term, to keep up with the high demand for exhibition and congress space, so it urgently needs the new hall. But no less important is the design for the surroundings and the entire area around the Congress Centre, so that it can serve the public better than it now does. Many designs came in, and I'm personally glad that so many of them were so good; I'm convinced that in the end we really did pick the best', said Prague Mayor Adriana Krnáčová.

The first prize was awarded to the young studio OCA – Marc Subirana, Hernano Lleida Ruiz, Biel Susanna and Bernardo Garcia – from Barcelona. Regarding their participation in the competition, they commented: *'We created our studio with the idea that we'd like to extend our work and opportunities beyond the local context of Barcelona or Catalonia. In this instance, it was particularly motivating that we could contribute to a building of such importance, in such a historic city as Prague. It was a real awakening when we realised how complex the challenge was, and how we needed not only to address the functioning of the building, but also create an intensive public space. This was key for our design.'* The second prize was given to the team of Francisco Jorquera from Palma de Mallorca.

The eleven-member jury, chaired by architect Petr Hlaváček, made its selections out of fierce competition in two rounds, all completely anonymous up until the final decision. The competition was open to participants from the entire world: designs were submitted by 76 teams from 23 countries. Such a quantity of participation represents the work of at least four hundred architects, urban planners, engineers and other experts.

All of the competition designs can be viewed from tomorrow until early October in the Prague Congress Centre (13. – 19. 9. and 23. 9. – 5. 10. 2017, KCP South Foyer, entrance 10 CZK, open daily 12 p.m. – 7 p.m.).

The jury included representatives of the KCP – Prague Mayor and deputy chair of the board of governors Adriana Krnáčová, board chair Radim Haluza, general director Roman Ray Straub, supported by Marek Kopeć from IPR and councillor for Prague 4 Alžběta Rejchrtová. The architectural profession was represented by Petr Hlaváček and Ivan Kroupa, along with Elia Zenghelis from Greece, Mathias Müller from Switzerland, and alternates Viktorie Součková and Tomáš Koumar. Their collective efforts were summed up by Petr Hlaváček: *'Excellent international jurors, wonderful young alternates, enthusiastic investor representatives and politicians. Despite the great diversity of approaches for individual jurors, we mostly worked in agreement. I can assume that if such a varied jury can agree on the selection of the design, it must have the potential to address the public and other participants in the overall process.'*

Elia Zenghelis, co-founder of the renowned studio OMA and currently a professor at the Yale School of Architecture, added with reference to the winning team after the competition conclusion: *'The original building of the Congress Centre has to deal with its identity as an imposingly constructed monument to the Communist era that needs to be reformulated for the contemporary age. This includes a new appearance, a new*

position towards the city, and connections to a complicated traffic situation. This complexity is what the authors of the winning design handled with mastery.'

Of the mentioned 76 designs, the jury selected the best six in March, which the authors then worked on in greater detail in the second round. The authors of the winning designs will receive, along with financial awards, invitations to the subsequent non-public negotiations in which the decision will be made for awarding the competition. The other four teams, which did not receive prizes, will be given compensation for their work in participating in the second round. Since no third prize was awarded, the financial sum was equally divided among all the finalists.

1st prize:

OCA / Bernardo García, Marc Subirana, Biel Susanna, Hernan Lleida; assistance: Joaquim Sellas, Play-Time architectonic image, Anabel Lazaro, Josep Ramon Rius, Silvia Juventeny, Simona Sulcová, Alfambra copisteria and Francesc Villena (Barcelona, Spain)

2nd prize:

Francisco Jorquera; assistance: Catalina Riera, Sebastiano Rossi, Juan Jorquera, Cubic consultors (Palma de Mallorca, Spain)

Other finalists:

TAKENAKA EUROPE / Peter Mulík, Václav Sobolík, Haruka Fuji, Adam Huleja, Peter Chládek, Ivana Jedrzejková, Tomáš Jelínek, Eliška Křížová, Lenka Marečková, Tomáš Palkovský, Martin Šťastný; assistance: Vladislav Bureš, Václav Mach, Jiří Petlach, Aranka Vondráčková (Prague, Czech Republic)

Szymon Rozwałka, Rudolf Müller, Martin Křivánek; assistance: Anna Glajc, Barbora Jurčíková, Oliver Kažimír, Petra Krajčová, Matúš Peklanský; technická spolupráce: Eva Fajkusová, Pavel Hladík, Jiří Janoušek, Stanislav Král, Ondřej Navrátil, Albert Novák, Petr Preininger, Luboš Zbranek (Brno, Czech Republic)

Office of Adrian Phiffer / Dimitrios Karopoulos, Saarinen Balagengatharadilak, Diana Franco Camacho, Michael DeGirolamo, Chloe Leung, Liusaidh Macdonald, Duc Anh Nguyen; assistance: Silman Structural Engineers / Nat Oppenheimer, Aniket Zarekar; Transsolar / Linda Lam; Lam & Associates / Alex Tan, Patrick Lam; Propos Liberec; Martin Hejl (Toronto, Canada)

FAR frohn & rojas / Marc Frohn; assistance: Treibhaus Landschaftsarchitektur Berlin / Deniz Dizici; Wetzel & von Seht / David Fuentes Abolafio, Wolfgang Keen; pin planende ingenieure / Norbert Müller; ARGUS Stadt und Verkehr / Christoph Ludwig (Berlin, Deutschland)

Prague 12. 9. 2017

Adriana Krnáčová – Mayor of the City of Prague (party affiliation: ANO)

Elected 26. 11. 2014. Active in the areas of legislation, public administration, anti-corruption measures, outside relations, international relations, informatics, science, research and innovation.

The official press release in Czech can be found here at
http://www.praha.eu/jnp/cz/home/magistrat/tiskovy_servis