

Press release

## **Decision taken in closed architectural competition for the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung, Berlin**

Berlin, 23 October 2015. The winner of the closed competition for the 'Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung, Berlin', announced in June 2015 by the Senate Administration for Urban Development and the Environment, has been decided following a two-day meeting of the jury on 21 and 22 October 2015. The jury has awarded the first prize to the design submitted by Berlin architect Volker Staab and has recommended that the design should be implemented.

**Senate Director of Urban Development Regula Lüscher:** 'Volker Staab has given us a design that will cause a sensation. It has an attractively modest quality and it will complete the landscape ensemble of the Villa von der Heydt and the Walter Gropius building. An open, flexible museum setting will be created that upholds the experimental quality of the Bauhaus idea. It will attract people to meet up there, exchange views and rediscover the many different aspects of the Bauhaus idea. A lantern shining in the night will be created, a glittering gem on the new square with a view opening onto the Landwehrkanal. The lower-lying courtyard will form the heart of the complex, enabling the existing building to enter into dialogue with the new one.'

The **Minister of State for Culture, Monika Grütters**, comments on the result: 'I am delighted that Volker Staab, who already has an established reputation in the field of museum architecture – in Bayreuth and Münster, for example – has now presented a convincing design for Berlin as well. The Bauhaus-Archiv will be receiving an exciting, appealing, experimental building that will meet the needs of a 21st-century museum. It leaves plenty of space open for creativity – a space that will be worthy of the world's most important Bauhaus collection.'

**Tim Renner, Secretary of State for Cultural Affairs:** 'The winning competition design means we have completed another important stage on the way to the renovation and extension of the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung jointly initiated by the Federal Government and the state of Berlin. I am very glad that we will be receiving a forward-looking and appropriate extension to the Bauhaus-Archiv. It will be an appealing, experimental, exciting building that will meet the needs of a 21st-century museum and will offer plenty of space for interaction, creativity, and the world's largest Bauhaus collection.'

**Dr. Annemarie Jaeggi, Director of the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung in Berlin:** 'After many years of effort we have finally reached our goal: on the occasion of the centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus, the Bauhaus-Archiv will be receiving the extension it needs. With Volker Staab, we will be gaining one of the most experienced architects in the field of museum building. His intelligent design will offer us a wealth of opportunities, both in museum terms and also in terms of communicative options, to extend our work into the urban space and into society. The whole Bauhaus-Archiv team is looking forward to working with him in the future.'

The Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung in Berlin holds the world's most extensive collection of materials on the history of the Bauhaus. The current building, designed by Walter Gropius and opened in 1979, has now become too small and is no longer able to do justice to today's increased demands on a museum that also serves as an archive. Visitor numbers have doubled during the last 10 years and reached 115,000 in 2014.

In the future, the functions of the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung in Berlin will be spread across two buildings. The existing building is intended to house the archive, while the extension building, with a gross floor area of around 6700 square meters, will be used for the Museum für Gestaltung.

The existing listed building is to be carefully renovated while preserving its architectural quality, its striking appearance and its historic substance, and it will be made more energy-efficient. The functional adjustments will be planned with full consideration for the building's high architectural value.

The Federal Government and the state of Berlin are each contributing up to € 28.1 million to the project, with each of these contributions representing half of the total cost of the renovation and extension project amounting to € 56.2 million. A total of € 21.5 million will be used for renovation of the existing listed building by Walter Gropius, and € 34.7 million will be used for the extension building.

It is intended that work will be completed in 2021.

A total of 50 architectural offices were invited to take part in the competition. Fifteen of the participants were set, and a further 35 were drawn by lots in a prior EU-wide competition procedure. Forty-one offices submitted designs.

The prize is worth € 190,000 (net).

The competition jury, made up of well-known specialists and chaired by the architect Hilde Léon, Berlin, decided as follows after detailed discussions:

**1st Prize – Work 1114**

Staab Architects Ltd., Berlin

**2nd Prize – Work 1115**

Bruno Fioretti Marquez Architects, Berlin

**3rd Prize – Work 1113**

ARGE Sinning Architects, Stinner Architects Ltd., Darmstadt

**4th Prize – Work 1102**

Dasch Zürn Architects, Stuttgart

**5th Prize – Work 1101**

EM2N Architects, Stuttgart

**Worth of mention – Work 1104**

F29 Architects Ltd., Dresden

**Worthy of mention – Work 1131**

AFF Architects, Berlin

**Worthy of mention – Work 1136**

Konermann Siegmund Architects, Hamburg

**Worthy of mention – Work 1140**

PPAG Architects, Vienna

**Extract from the jury's assessment report**

A delicate, almost frail five-storey glass tower in the centre of a platform and a one-storey block along Von-der-Heydt-Strasse are the only perceptible elements of the extension of the Bauhaus-Archiv. All of the exhibition areas will be arranged at a level below the completely newly designed open areas, arranged as a plateau with an inset courtyard.

The '*promenade architecturale*', which starts at the bridge ramp, will keep its effect as a free-standing compositional element within the extended ensemble and will also enter into dialogue with the new entrance tower. This will give the open space a new character.

The declared goal of the design – to enhance the existing buildings and at the same time create a perceptible, symbolic entrance to the lowered exhibition areas – is successfully achieved through this clear and well-conceived intervention.

At the same time, a clear response is given to the difficulties involved in creating a prestigious address and in orienting the site.

The aim of creating a unique new ensemble for the Bauhaus Archive in Berlin that can be experienced and used as a complete and coherent figure is convincingly implemented in this design.

Illustrations are available via the following link:

<http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/download/wettbewerbe/bauhaus/>

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