

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION FOR A DESIGN

NEW TOWN HALL FOR PRAGUE 7

www.novaradnicepraha7.cz

The district government of Prague 7 announced as of Friday, 19 February 2016, an international architectural competition for the design of its new town hall. The aim of the competition is to find a partner or partners to transform and reconstruct the extant building at the address U Průhonu 38, Prague 7, Holesovice, into the new city hall for the district of Prague 7.

The participating architects are asked to design a contemporary, sustainable and user-friendly city hall, and to offer to citizens and public administrators the best possible built environment for addressing everyday administrative matters.

The competition for the new Prague 7 town hall provides one innovation for the participating architects – a more rapid and less demanding first round. The preparation time will be only one month, and at the end only one panel of A2 format and one portfolio of A4 format are to be submitted. From this first round, an international jury will select 8 designs to enter into the second round. The deadline for submission of competition designs (Round I) is in 4 weeks; i.e. proposals should reach the mailroom of the Municipal Office of Prague 7 no later than by 16 March 2016 by 6:00 pm CET.

The unusually brief time of response is balanced by the reduction of the requested materials in Round I to one A2 board and one portfolio of A4 texts with additions. The date of 10 March 2016 by midnight CET is the final deadline for submission of any questions (Round I). Because of the short time, we will answer all questions within 4 working days.

The jury will contain architects with extensive experience in both practicing architecture and competing: Silvia Brandí (IAAC, MIAS Architecture, Barcelona), Jörn Aram Bihain (V+, Brusel), Kamil Mrva (KMA, Kopřivnice and Prague), Lukáš Kordík (gutgut, Bratislava) and Lukáš Kohl (architect and developer, Prague). The alternate for the independent part of the jury will be Magdalena Rochová (Jaroušek Rochová architekti, Prague). On the part of Prague 7, the participants in the design selection will be mayor Jan Čížinský and councillor Lenka Burgerová, with the alternate as councillor Pavel Zelenka.

“For the district of Prague 7, this is a historic step. Our district will finally acquire a town hall worthy of the 21st century. We want to give our citizens an open, effective, and smoothly functioning public building, and our employees a dignified setting for their daily work. Public

buildings need to be the result of open competitions, and at the same time this will meet our obligation from the referendum of 2013,” said district mayor Jan Čížinský.

“In the winning design, we expect a building with a modern appearance, operational effectiveness and sensitivity in the preparation of details of interior organisation, one that would meet the demands for quality in a functional office both for the public and for the employees. We are aware of the demands of the task, since we have to operate within the limits of the possibilities set by the reconstruction, size and shape of an extant building, and of course a limited budget,” added councillor Pavel Zelenka.

Goal of the Competition

The goal of the competition is to reconstruct an extant building into a representative and modern public office – a town hall where mutual understanding, respect and trust among residents and employees will be self-evident.

The design should provide an energy-efficient structure that would not burden the district government with excessive operating costs and would be able to age gracefully in terms of its conception as well as the materials used.

A major task in the competition is the creation of good-quality relations inside a limited space with an already-set volume. Key to the success is the design of the interior, which should aid in forming a sense of transparency and honest communication, allow for flows of large numbers of people, and in its basic concept take into account the need of storage areas for official purposes.

The competition for the new Prague 7 Town Hall will include one innovation for the participating architects – a more rapid and less demanding first round. For the organisers, the situation is described by Igor Kovačević: “I greatly admire the decision of the representatives of Prague 7 to organise an architectural competition for reconstruction of a public building, which in the Czech setting is an almost unique event. I am firmly convinced that the competition will attract entrants: in the first round, there should be a presentation of the concept of the building in minimalist format – a poster of A2 size and a portfolio of the design. From this conceptual phase, the international jury will select 8 authors to develop the design into greater detail in the second round of the competition. This reduction in the amount of submitted material is in reaction to the requests of architects to avoid having to invest excessive energy into the uncertain outcome of a competition.”

Prizes will be awarded to the three best designs. These prizes are set at 550 000 CZK for first place, 350 000 CZK for second place, and 250 000 CZK for third place. Work reimbursements for the 5 remaining designs that do not win any prizes will be 350 000 CZK in total.

For more information see:

<https://www.cka.cz/cs/souteze/pripravovane/nova-radnice-pro-prahu-7>

Soon to be launched:

www.novaradnicepraha7.cz

Announcer of the design competition

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