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PRESS RELEASE

Ideas Competition Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts

– Check against original text in German –

The Ideas Competition for Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts at the Kulturforum in Berlin ended on Friday with the selection of ten winning designs.

The teams of architects and landscape architects that created the prize-winning designs have qualified for the Design Competition, which will begin in summer 2016. Each nomination has also received a prize of €26,000. Half of the winners come from outside Germany. For reasons of competition and to keep the ensuing process anonymous, the names of the prizewinning firms will not be attached to the designs until the conclusion of the entire competition. All 460 designs that were submitted to the competition are on display in the galleries for special exhibitions at the Kulturforum from February 26 until March 13, 2016.

Minister of State for Culture Monika Grütters, who also chairs the Foundation Board of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation), drew a favorable balance: “Competitions are barometers that measure where we stand. The Ideas Competition was valuable because we learned a lot from it. First of all, that the location is the right one. The whole world is watching this construction project. It will set the standard for the way Germany deals with architecture, which is a very public form of art. Urban planning, architecture, and the needs of museums will have to work together here. The masterpieces by Scharoun and Mies van der Rohe, St. Matthäus-Kirche, and the Gemäldegalerie require a type of mediator. After this phase of the competition, I am convinced that there will be imaginative designs with impressive urban planning and function.”

The **chairman of the jury, Arno Lederer**, praised the variety of submissions: “The submissions show that completely different concepts can lead to a solution. But they also underline how complex and difficult it will be to live up to the exclusive urban planning situation on the one hand, and the catalog of requirements on the other. After intense and concentrated work, the jury found ten submissions to be worthy of distinction. The submissions are considered to be ideas and not examples suitable for direct implementation, as the call for entries specified. But they also contain valuable information on how to describe the precise concept for the coming Design Competition.”

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INGOLF KERN
DR. STEFANIE HEINLEIN (Stv.)

Von-der-Heydt-Straße 16–18
10785 Berlin

Telefon: +49 30 266-41 14 40
Telefax: +49 30 266-41 28 21

pressestelle@hv.spk-berlin.de
www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de



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Hermann Parzinger, president of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz, also emphasized the location's appropriateness: "The designs clearly express the potential and challenges of this location. We have a unique opportunity to not only acquire a wonderful museum for twentieth-century art at this location, but at the same time to find the right urban planning answer to this special and yet unfinished place and to finally complete the Kulturforum."

Michael Eissenhauer, director-general of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin stated: "After a successful Ideas Competition we look forward to the detailed designs. The diverse requirements and challenges for the new building can be defined more precisely in the next step. We want a perfectly functioning museum for our co-workers and our visitors that will provide a magnificent experience of art and excellent services. The high quality of visits to the new museum will increase the experiential value of the entire Kulturforum."

Senate Building Director Regula Lüscher spoke for the State of Berlin: "I am very pleased that this outstanding architectural project in the heart of Berlin has created such great national and international resonance among architects."

The jury of thirteen procedural and expert members met for three days in Berlin. All 460 of the designs submitted were first presented in an informational tour. Several evaluation tours followed until the winners were determined. The expert members were architects Roger Diener (Basel), Heike Hanada (Berlin), Arno Lederer (Stuttgart, chairman of the jury), Hilde Léon (Berlin, vice chairwoman of the jury), Till Schneider (Frankfurt), Enrique Sobejano (Madrid), and the landscape architect Undine Giseke (Berlin). The procedural jury members included Minister of State Monika Grütters, Foundation President Hermann Parzinger, Director-General of Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Michael Eissenhauer, Senate Building Director Regula Lüscher, Bundestag Member Herlind Gundelach (CDU), and Petra Merkel, a former Bundestag member (SPD). Advisers to the competition included Marion Ackermann, director of Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, and Jörg Haspel, state conservator for Berlin.

The goal of the Ideas Competition was to acquire insights for the Design Competition, which will begin in the mid-2016 with forty to sixty participating offices. About the process: Along with the ten prizewinners of the



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Ideas Competition, eight to twelve other teams will be invited to participate. Other offices can qualify through an international competition. These three groups will make up the field of participants for the Design Competition. The results should be finalized by late 2016.