

URBAN DESIGN COMPETITION

THE FUTURE OF BRNO CENTRE

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Brno 7 Sept. 2015 – The City of Brno today declares the opening of a two-round international urban design competition. The subject of the competition is the urban planning and transport solution for a new main rail station in Brno, situated in the locality below Petrov Hill, and simultaneously the formulation of a strategy for the emergence of a well-rounded urban district.

The international urban design competition “The Future of Brno Centre” has been set with the intention of finding a solution for one of the most complicated yet at the same time one of the most interesting sections of the metropolis of South Moravia – the area in the vicinity of the main rail station.

Through this competition, we would like to address architects, urban planners and other experts in the field to ensure that this centrally positioned locality is not overwhelmed by invasive generic real estate, but instead becomes an integral component of the urban structure, representing Brno as a creative and self-confident city. *“For Brno, the competition has two levels. The first one is pragmatic – seeing an answer to the question of how to handle the area under consideration, and in what way to work with it in the event that the national government decides, in its ruling on the rail junction, to have the station below Petrov hill. The second level is connected with the much broader long-term vision of the city that we would like to bring to reality through this competition: Brno emerging in the public mind as a modern and youthful city, offering a wide range of educational possibilities. We want to develop the city so that it is not only aesthetically pleasing, but above all functional for its residents,”* the mayor of Brno, Ing. Petr Vokřál, comments in relation to the city’s position.

Thanks to a professional approach and a great many stimulating discussions held with representatives of the city and its Department of Land-Use Planning and Development, we would like to present the competition participants with an inspiring and open assignment. Part of the task at hand is to provide not only an urban conception, but equally a method, strategy and implements for its successful realisation. Brno is hoping for a design for the entire process – a design that would lead to the emergence of a new neighbourhood with contemporary social and cultural infrastructure, and one that would allow the city to strengthen its role in the given locality.

Mgr. Martin Ander, Ph.D., deputy mayor of Brno for urban development, adds the following clarification: *“Our vision for this area is of a living, compact city, the basis of which should be housing and its associated services – whether cafes, shops, nursery schools or worthwhile public areas, parks or sports grounds. What should over time emerge here is a living city, as we know it from other*

neighbourhoods adjoining Brno's centre. We would like to work our way towards good solutions, and know that it is a long process of many phases”.

This competition approaches the development-ready area in the centre of Brno as an opportunity for re-imagining the city – for something beyond the pragmatic installation of large-scale built objects or formulation of an internal periphery. Its goal is to find a solution that will be adaptable, sustainable, and of high quality, equally in terms of its architecture, urban plan and transport accessibility, and will lead to the creation of a valid and integral part of a modern European city.

Together with representatives of the Brno city government, the designs will be judged by architects with extensive experience from practice and similar competitions. The chair of the jury is the German architect Roger Riewe, whose office designed, on the basis of its own competition victory, the main rail station in Innsbruck. Other members of the jury include Silja Tillner from Austria, whose studio has been working for several years on the Viennese project Urbion, an extensive urban revitalisation closely linked to railways and the legacy of Otto Wagner. From abroad, the other jurors consist of Sándor Finta, the chief architect of the city of Budapest, and Jiří Oplatek, a Brno-born architect working in Basle, Switzerland.

In addition, the expert section of the jury is formed by the second deputy chair, Ivan Plicka – chair of the Czech Chamber of Architects, Jan Pavlíček – transport engineer, Jaroslav Wertig from the Prague studio A69 architekti, representative of the younger generation of Brno architects Ondřej Chybík from the atelier Chybík+Kristof, leading Czech architectural historian and theoretician Vladimír Šlapeta and Ivan Lejčar from the studio Alej – author of the study ‘Station in the Centre’.

Involved jurors are the Mayor of Brno, Petr Vokřál (party affiliation: ANO), who was elected the first deputy chair of the jury, along with deputy mayors Martin Ander (Green Party) and Matěj Hollan (Living Brno) and council member and deputy district mayor of Brno-North, Petr Hladík (Christian Democrat). Completing the jury are two other council members, Jana Drápalová (Green Party) and Petr Bořecký (ANO).

The deadline for submitting the designs in the first round is set at **18 December 2015**. The competition will be open, public, anonymous, with two rounds, and announced in both Czech and English. For proceeding to the second round, we assume the selection of 8 designs, for which the authors will have time for further revisions up to the deadline of **15 April 2016**. The competition results should then be officially announced, as well as publicly exhibited, with sufficient time before the planned referendum on the positioning of the rail station and the development of the city's south centre.

Prizes will be awarded to the three best designs. Financial compensation is set at 1,800,000 CZK for first prize, 1,200,000 CZK for second prize, and 750,000 CZK for third prize. For those designs that succeed in proceeding to the second round but do not receive any prize, it is planned to divide a total sum of 1,250,000 CZK among all participants.

All information for the media will be invariably made public as well on the competition website:
budoucnostcentrabrna.cz

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