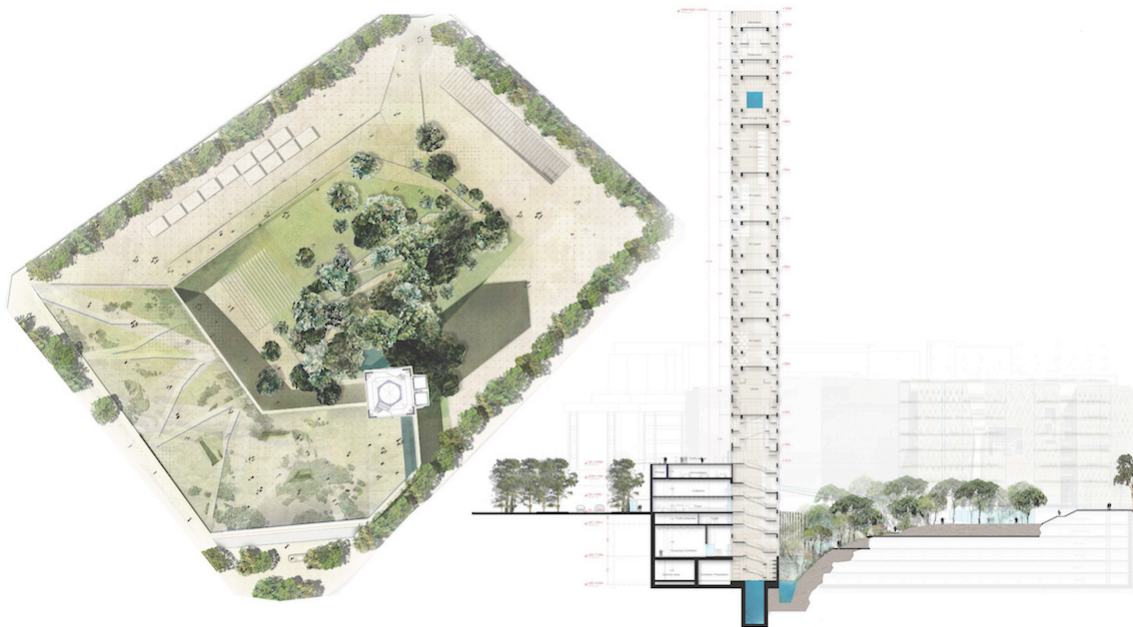


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WINNING DESIGN ANNOUNCED FOR NEW ART MUSEUM IN BEIRUT, LEBANON

International jury selects Hala Wardé and HW architecture to design BeMA: Beirut Museum of Art. The new museum features a garden amphitheater, accessible public space and a tower designed to house exhibitions and artist residencies



(Beirut, Lebanon) – An international jury, chaired by **Lord Peter Palumbo**, Chairman of The Pritzker Prize for Architecture, has selected the winning design for the competition to design Beirut’s newest art museum, **BeMA: Beirut Museum of Art**. The firm **HW architecture**, led by Lebanese/French architect **Hala Wardé**, was selected from a shortlist of 13 design teams. The new museum will be centrally located in the heart of the Beirut positioned on a symbolically-charged site in Beirut that once marked the dividing lines in the Lebanese civil war — now to be transformed into a site of unification. The museum’s permanent collection will include modern and contemporary artworks from Lebanon, the Lebanese diaspora and the wider region.

The jury also included curators **Hans Ulrich Obrist** and **Dame Julia Peyton-Jones**; architects **George Arbid**, **Dr. Farès el-Dahdah**, **Dr. Rodolphe El-Khoury**, **Rem Koolhaas**, and **Lord Richard Rogers**; artist **Lamia Joreige**; and APEAL president **Henrietta Nammour**. The late **Zaha Hadid**, who was active on the jury until her unfortunate passing in 2015, remains an honorary member of the jury.

The winning design features a central campanile tower that will rise high nearly 400 feet above the base of the museum to act as a cultural beacon for the entire city. The campanile will include space for workshops and performances, as well as artist's residences with expansive views of downtown Beirut. The design also includes a public garden and landscaped promenade that will accommodate site-specific installations and artworks surrounded by lush vegetation, as well as an amphitheater for performing arts. The Museum is situated on a plot of land owned by Université Saint-Joseph (USJ) and the selected design reflects a careful consideration of connections to the campus and to the larger urban surroundings.

In a statement announcing the winner, the Jury noted that the design was selected for "the way it creates a succession of varied landscapes and spaces where art and society can come together. The connections between garden, amphitheater, exhibition spaces and roof garden have been well considered and offer a continuous visitor experience that lends itself to both exhibiting art and engaging with the community."

Hala Wardé, winner of the competition spoke of her excitement, "I am delighted and honored to realize my first major project in the city of Beirut where I was born, on such an exceptional site. This museum program, in connection with the university, will allow us to create a new cultural and social space with a garden and amphitheater, and will single out this artistic territory with a strong and recognizable urban beacon, which through its multiple expressions, will belong to the new urban landscape of the city. It is a moving coincidence to receive this news as the architectural world is gathered in London to honor Zaha Hadid, an inspiration to women and architects worldwide, who was originally a member of this competition's jury. I am thinking of her today with great affection."

The jury noted the high standard of submissions throughout the process and thanked all participants for their creative submissions, which have contributed to further understanding the potential of the site and the museum. A special mention was also conferred to WORK Architecture Company, New York City, led by Columbia University of Architecture Dean Amale Andraos. The architecture competition began in October 2015.

One of the most significant developments for Lebanese art and culture in a generation, BeMA is set to open in 2020, and is envisioned as a multidisciplinary hub of art and design dedicated to showcasing modern and contemporary Lebanese culture. The formation of **BeMA: Beirut Museum of Art** is spearheaded by The **Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon** (APEAL), a non-profit organization dedicated to international quality programs that support art from Lebanon and the global art scene.

In the coming months the museum will announce further details about its collections and programming. The search for the museum's founding director is currently underway.

For further information on the project visit www.amuseuminthemaking.com

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Notes to Editors:

ABOUT BeMA: BEIRUT MUSEUM OF ART

BeMA: Beirut Museum of Art is a new museum set to launch in Beirut in 2020. A new cultural hub highlighting modern and contemporary art from Lebanon and from the region, the museum will be privileging Lebanese and Lebanese Diaspora artistic creation, while also introducing regional and international artistic traditions and production. BeMA will engage with diverse communities and host cultural and educational programs, in the service of building a committed civil society. In addition to housing a collection of modern and contemporary works, the museum will also create opportunities for the production of new artistic work. BeMA will bring together different narratives, foster conversation, in connection with cultural organizations and partners across the region and globally.

In the lead up to opening its doors, BeMA is already engaging audiences through a series of evolving programs, including the launch of an artist-in-residence program, a series of commissioned artist interventions, and a collaboration with community arts organizations across Lebanon. Future programming includes artist publications, research and education initiatives, an online archive, and ongoing new commissions developed in collaboration with key local, regional and international partners.

ABOUT HALA WARDÉ AND HW ARCHITECTURE

HW architecture is an architectural practice created in 2008 by Hala Wardé. HW architecture's multi-disciplinary team of creative individuals has gained expertise in designing and delivering large scale projects such as museums and mixed-use centres as well as small scale projects such as art galleries and private houses. The studio has in-house architects, graphists, designers and model makers supplemented by an external network of specialized consultants including scenographers, museologists, lighting specialists, signage and graphic design specialists, architectural historians, landscape and public realm designers.

Hala Wardé has collaborated for over 26 years with Jean Nouvel. Projects developed by HW architecture in association with Ateliers Jean Nouvel are regulated by a privileged partnership. In the framework of this partnership, Hala Wardé was recently in charge of the One New Change office and retail centre in London, delivered in 2010, and the Landmark project, a mixed-use complex in the city centre of Beirut. Hala Wardé is currently leading the Louvre Abu Dhabi project, which she has been overseeing since its inception in 2006. The Paris-based office has a dedicated team for the development and site supervision of this project in Abu Dhabi.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION AND EXHIBITION OF THE ARTS IN LEBANON (APEAL)

The Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon (APEAL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to showcasing and encouraging Lebanese artists by projecting their artwork beyond conventional borders and onto a larger screen. One of APEAL's goals is to

create a common platform and magnet for creativity by presenting eclectic collections gathered from a universe of gifted visual, literary or performing artists. APEAL strives to be a point of connection in vital cultural conversations between civilizations.

Composed of Lebanese and international members from around the world, APEAL envisions launching exchange programs between artists from the Lebanese scene and counterparts elsewhere, from universities and art academies. It is dedicated to granting scholarships to promising talent, and contributing to the formation of trained curators and professionals to help put them on a par with their peers the world over. By creating this window, APEAL is helping nurture the seeds of Lebanon's artistic potential and preserving its cultural fabric in a vibrant, forward-looking post-conflict society. <http://www.apeal-lb.org>

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