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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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APEAL ANNOUNCES SHORTLISTED ARCHITECTS FOR A NEW MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM SET TO OPEN IN 2020 IN BEIRUT, LEBANON

(Beirut/New York) The **Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon (APEAL)** announces a shortlist for the architectural design competition to build a new modern and contemporary art museum in the heart of Beirut, Lebanon. The 13 selected architects and design teams are invited to move on to the second stage of the competition, with a winner to be announced Fall 2016. Situated on a historic and symbolic site across from the National Museum in the center of Beirut, the yet-to-be-named museum is one of the most significant developments for Lebanese art and culture in a generation.

Stage one of the competition was open to architects of Lebanese origin from around the globe. Following a careful review of 66 submissions from 16 countries, an expert jury selected 13 firms that will proceed to stage two of the competition. Reflecting a highly accomplished selection of award-winning architects, the firms on the shortlist have collectively completed significant projects in Algeria, Austria, Canada, China, Egypt, Estonia, France, Gabon, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The shortlist includes the following firms, listed in alphabetical order:

109 Architectes s.a.r.l.
Bernard Khoury / DW5
Hashim Sarkis Studios, LLC
HW architecture
ibda design
IDC / Verner Johnson / ETEC SA
L.E.FT Architects
Lina Ghotmeh / DGT Architects
Najjar Najjar Architect
Raëd Abillama Architects / Nadim Khattar
WORK Architecture Company (WORKac)
Yatsu Chahal Architects (YCa) / Said Jazari Consulting Office (SJCO)
Youssef Tohme Architects and Associates (YTAA)



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“The submissions for stage one were strong and varied; we were impressed to see such remarkable and qualified talent engage with the concept of the museum. The finalist will be an exceptional architect who identifies with the project values and understands the significance of designing a cultural institution in the current urban, social, economic and political context of the country and region,” remarks Lord Peter Palumbo, chair of the competition’s jury.

The museum is envisioned as a multidisciplinary hub of art and design dedicated to showcasing modern and contemporary Lebanese culture. Set to open in 2020, its collections and program are being developed with the aim of bringing together diverse populations and narratives from the region and beyond. The site, which is owned by Université Saint-Joseph in Beirut, challenges the architect to consider how the museum’s design can actively integrate with the surrounding environment.

The competition’s independent jury of renowned international and regional experts is chaired by **Lord Peter Palumbo**, Chair of the Pritzker Prize, and included **Lord Richard Rogers, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Julia Peyton-Jones, Rodolphe Khoury, Lamia Joreige, Fares Al Dahdah** and **George Arbid**. Until her sudden recent passing **Zaha Hadid** was also an active member of the jury. Hadid was widely regarded as one of the world’s greatest contemporary architects, and her death marks a significant loss to the global architecture community. Honored to have worked with her for the past three months, APEAL aims to uphold her memory through the culmination of the project.

The shortlisted architects will be invited to envision strategies for the site and develop a functional and adaptable concept scheme design for the museum, along with technical and commercial elements. The jury, which also includes representatives from APEAL and Université Saint-Joseph, will select the winning proposal in Fall 2016.

In the coming months the museum will announce its official name, details about its collections and programming, and its curatorial staff. 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 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, the group 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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ABOUT THE SHORTLISTED ARCHITECTS (listed in alphabetic order)

109 Architectes s.a.r.l. – An expert in residential, office, education and tourist projects in Beirut, 109 Architectes' recent work includes the USJ Campus de L'Innovation et du Sport in Beirut and plans for the Istanbul Disaster Prevention and Education Center in Turkey.

Bernard Khoury / DW5 – Three-time winner of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, over the past fifteen years this Beirut-based firm has developed an international reputation and diverse portfolio of significant projects.

Hashim Sarkis Studios, LLC – Established in Cambridge, USA and Beirut, Lebanon in 1998, Hashim Sarkis Studios, LLC has created a broad spectrum of projects with an emphasis on integrating architecture with urban and landscape settings, exhibiting widely internationally, including the biennales of Venice, Rotterdam, and Hong Kong/Shenzhen.

HW architecture – Formed in collaboration with Ateliers Jean Nouvel (AJN), HW architecture projects have included winners of the RIBA Award, New City Architecture Award and MIPIM Future Project Award.

ibda design – A multi-disciplinary international architecture, urban and interior design practice based in Dubai, with collaboration offices in Beirut and Tokyo.

IDC / Verner Johnson / ETEC SA – A collaborative consortium proposed by three significant firms based in Los Angeles and Beirut, bridging specialization in Architecture, Planning and Interior Design, Industrial Design, Museum Architecture, and Engineering.

L.E.FT Architects – Based between Brooklyn and Beirut, L.E.FT partners have a strong background in museum projects, including Beirut Exhibition Center, Nelson Atkins Museum of Modern Art in Kansas and Museum of Natural History of Los Angeles County.

Lina Ghotmeh / DGT Architects – Based in Paris, Lina Ghotmeh's practice has been marked with numerous awards and extensive experience in cultural projects, including the Red Dot Award, the Milan Design Award, and DSA Gold Award.



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Najjar Najjar Architects – With offices in Vienna and Beirut, since 1999 Karim and Rames Najjar have been recognized for their innovative, visually striking designs. Najjar Najjar Architects’s projects range from residential, commercial and multi-purpose buildings, bridges, museums, interiors, and furniture, to buoyant structures and yacht design.

Raëd Abillama Architects / Nadim Khattar – Founded in 1997, Beirut-based Raëd Abillama Architects is working in collaboration with Nadim Khattar, a designer with 22 years of experience that includes founding architectural studios in London and Beirut; jointly their past experience have included Beirut Art Center, Ixsir Winery, Beirut National Museum extension, and the Orientalist Museum in Doha.

WORK Architecture Company (WORKac) – Based in New York City, WORKac has achieved international acclaim for projects such as the New Holland Island Cultural Center in St. Petersburg, Russia; Wieden+Kennedy offices in New York, USA; Blaffer Art Museum in Houston, USA; Conference Center in Libreville, Gabon; Children’s Museum of the Arts in New York, USA; as well as projects in Miami’s Design District, work with the Garage Moscow, The Clark Art Institute, Carnegie Museum of Art, and universities in Weifang, China.

Yatsu Chahal Architects (YCa) / Said Jazari Consulting Office (SJCO) – A collaboration between experienced architecture and urban design firms in Tokyo and Beirut, collective experience includes several projects across the Middle East, Asia and Europe.

Youssef Tohme Architects and Associates (YTAA) – A Beirut-based firm with extensive experience in international cultural, residential and urban projects, YTAA is known for its proven ability to conceive of powerful projects adapted to local cultures, context and construction methods.