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Designing "The Place of the Swiss Abroad"

Competition for Swiss Architects Abroad

Swiss architects who live abroad will have the last word in the definitive design to be adopted for "The Place of the Swiss Abroad". The Foundation which is handling the preparations for the project has now issued an invitation to such persons to apply for inclusion in the group of candidates from whom the "short list" of contestants will be selected.

The assignment involves the formative and creative conversion and "translation" of the ideas of the far-flung community of Swiss living abroad, with special reference to their essence, content and meaning, combined with the objective of consolidating and deepening the relationships of expatriate Swiss citizens with one another and with their compatriots in the «home» country, as well as the furthering of their mutual understanding. In line with our motto "Get to know your own country, but understand other countries too", the twin concepts "home" and "abroad" will have to be expressed clearly and forcibly, with emphasis laid on their dialectical and smoothly-flowing character. The project for the construction of the "Place" on a peninsula in the Bay of Brunnen will be the main contribution of the "Fifth Switzerland" to the anniversary celebrations of the Swiss Confederation in 1991.

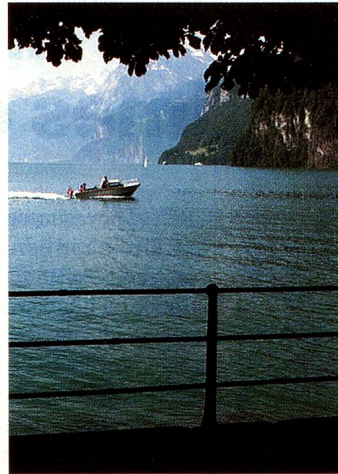
The conditions for the competition will be based on Ordinance 152 (1972 edition) of the SIA (Swiss Association of Engineers and Architects), which had been drafted in collaboration between the SIA and the BSA (Society of Swiss Architects) for regulating and defining the conditions for architectural contests.

Invitations to compete

Participation will be open to architects who are Swiss citizens who live and have their places of business abroad. Participation in the contest will be by invitation in accordance with Article 10 of the abovementioned SIA Ordinance 152/72. From the applications received, the jury will select seven candidates who will be officially invited to take part. There is thus no point in submitting suggested designs at this stage. A brief letter stating one's desire to participate in the contest will be sufficient.



Expatriate Swiss architects will be proposing designs for the treatment of this peninsula.



View from the "Place of the Swiss Abroad" across the Lake of Uri to the Rütli.

The prize-money

A sum of Sfr. 50,000 is at the disposal of the jury. Each candidate whose design has been accepted for assessment and appraisal will receive a lump-sum award of Sfr. 5,000. The balance of Sfr. 15,000 will remain at the disposal of the jury for the awarding of additional prizes and for purchases.

The prize-awarding jury

The jury consists of the following members: Dr. Eduard Amstad, former Federal judge, Beckenried; Hans Rudolf Billeter, Professor at the University of Visual Arts, Brunswick, Germany, member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA); Ilse Frei, Executive, Antwerp, Belgium, member of the CSA; Hedi Ruys, housewife, Ommen, Netherlands, member of the CSA; Niki Piazzoli, architect (BSA/SIA), director of Office for Federal Buildings, Berne; Ines Lamunière, architect (ETHZ), Carouge; Willi Egli, architect (BSA/SIA), Zurich; Roger Diener, architect (BSA/SIA), Basle; Paolo Fumagalli, architect (BSA/SIA), Lugano; Marcel Meili, architect (ETHZ), Zurich; Hansjörg Zentner, architect (BSA/SIA), Lausanne. Eduard Müller, Curator of Monuments, attends the meetings of the jury in his capacity of expert. Hans Gübelin, architect (BSA/SIA),

Lucerne, will attend as special adviser on competition procedure.

Deadlines

Distribution of documentation concerning the competition: 1.2.1990
Submission of questions about the programme: 1.4.1990
Answers to questions: 15.5.1990
Submission of design projects: 15.10.1990
Decision of the Jury: 15.12.1990
Announcement of the Decision: 20.12.1990
Prize awards, and opening of an exhibition of the design projects: 1991
Start of construction work: after 1991

Your applications, in writing, with brief details about yourself, your education and professional training and the main spheres of your activities should be sent not later than December 1, 1989 (with postmark showing place and date of mailing) to the following address:

Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Architectural Competition, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16

Fund-raising campaign continues

The main objective of the still continuing collection of funds is to ensure the availability of the financial means needed for the preliminary requirements for "Jubilee Year 1991". (We shall be informing you in our next issues about the situation on "Design 91" and progress made so far).

Account for your donations: Kantonalbank Schwyz, CH-6430 Schwyz

Account number: 203982-1951

Foundation for the "Place of the Swiss Abroad"