The Architecture of Competitions

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Architectural design competition

An **architectural design competition** is a type of competition in which an organization or government body that plans to construct a new building invites architects to submit a design proposal.

The winning design is usually chosen by an independent panel of design professionals and stakeholders (such as government and local representatives).

This procedure is often used to generate new ideas for the building design, to stimulate public debate, to generate publicity for the project, and to allow emerging designers the opportunity to gain exposure.

Architecture competitions are often used to award commissions for public buildings
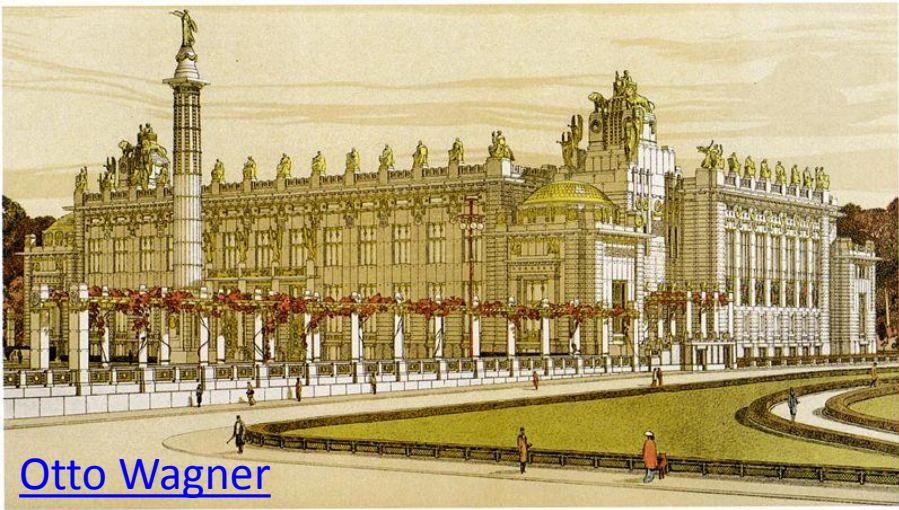
Architecture competitions History

Architecture competitions have a more than 2,500-year-old history.

The Acropolis in Athens was a result of an architectural competition, as were several cathedrals in the Middle Ages.

During the Renaissance, many projects initiated by the church have been decided through design competition.

Examples are the Spanish Stairs in Rome or in 1419, a competition was held to design the dome of the Florence Cathedral, which was won by Filippo Brunelleschi.

Open competitions were held in the late 18th century in several countries including the United States, Great Britain, Ireland, France and Sweden.
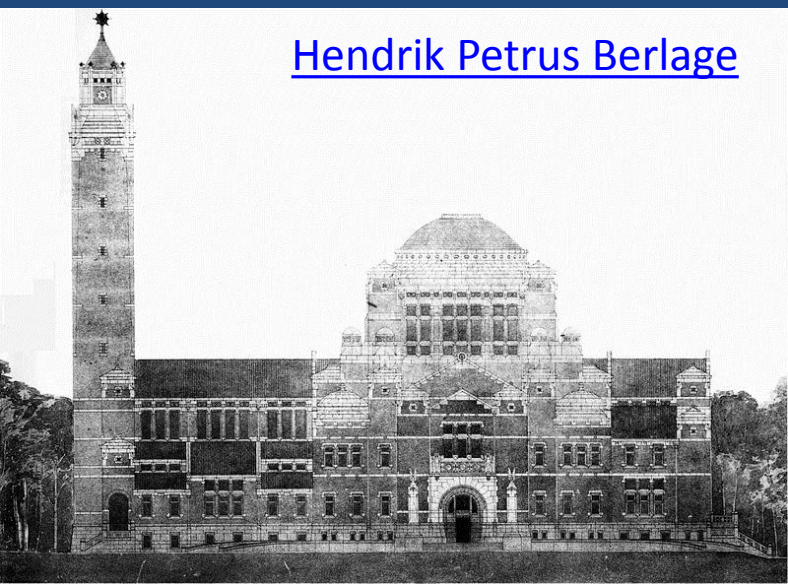
Otto Wagner

Franz Heinrich Schwechten

Competition for the design of the **Peace Palace** in *Den Haag,* 1905 **Netherlands**

Hendrik Petrus Berlage

built design by Louis M. Cordonnier

History of Architecture Competitions rules

In 19th century England and Ireland there have been over 2,500 competitions in five decades, with 362 in London alone.
The Institute of British Architectsdrafted a first set of rules in 1839, and a set of formal regulations in 1872. The German Regulations were introduced in 1867.
In the same period in the Netherlands an association for the advancement of architecture started organizing conceptual competitions with the aim of stimulating architects' creativity.[3]

Competition types

There are a variety of competition types resulting from the combination of following options:

Open **competitions** (international, national or regional)

Non-open" competitions, depending on who is allowed to participate

Open pre-qualification

Project **competitions**

Ideas **competitions,**

depending on whether the aim is to build the project or to generate new ideas only;

One stage

Two stage **competitions**

depending on the scale and complexity of the competition;

In France design competitions are compulsory for all public buildings exceeding a certain cost

Competition Rules

The rules of each competition are defined by the **organizer,** however these often follow the guidelines provided by the **International Union of Architects** respectively the relevant national or regional architecture organization.

Competition guidelines define roles, responsibilities, processes, and procedures within a competition and provide guidance on possible competition types, eligibility criteria, jury composition, participation conditions, payments, prizes, publication of results and other aspects.
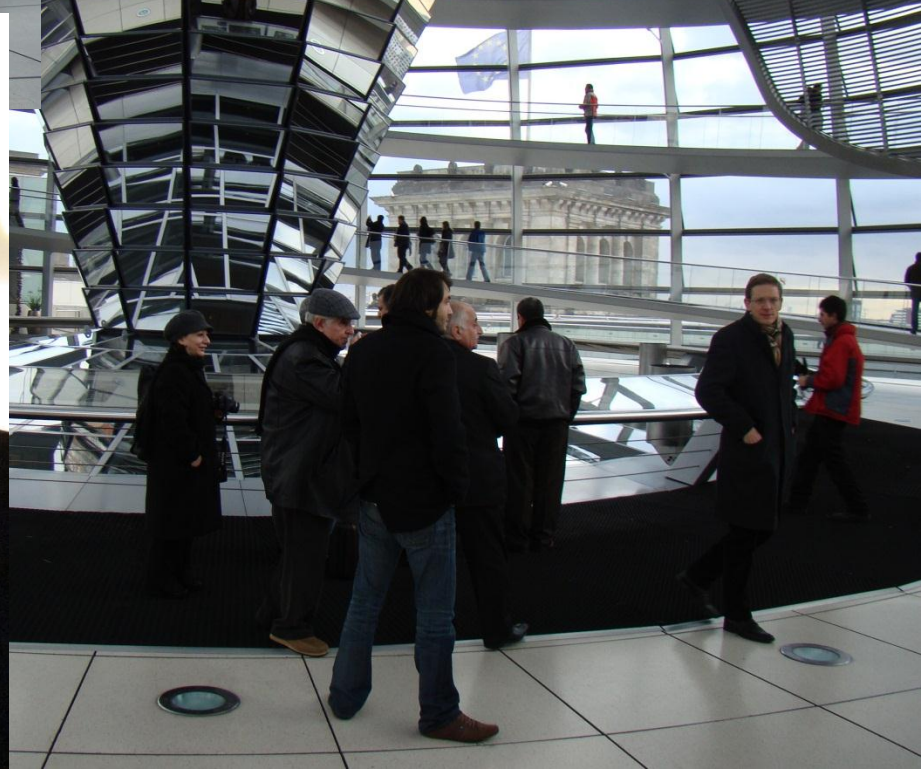
competition management

The core activities of [phase eins]. concern the preparation and coordination of competition procedures - undertaking the role of the competition manager of "professional advisor", according to the German RPW 2013 or the UNESCO regulations for international competitions in architecture and town planning:

phase eins Office

Benjamin Hossbach, Dipl. Ing. Architect BDA
Director

born in 1966, Darmstadt
1990-1995 National Contact Germany of the European Architecture Students Assembly (EASA): conception of annual international student workshops, each with approx. 500 participants
1995 graduated in architecture at Technical University of Berlin
Since 1995 independent architect
Since 1995 pre-examinator in various competition procedures
1996-1998 online editor of "Bauwelt", Germany's leading architecture journal
Since 1996 publications, lectures and teaching activities (i.a. ETH Zurich, Harvard GSD, Lund TH, Bauhaus University Weimar and UNESCO Habitat conference Tripoli)
1998 founding partner of [phase eins].
Since 2000 member of the Architects Chamber Berlin (No. 09759)
Since 2000 member of the BDA Berlin (Federation of German Architects)
Since 2009 Deputy spokesman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs in the BDA Germany
2011-2013 Member of the board for competitions (LWA) at the Berlin Chamber of Architects
languages: German, English, French, Swedish

Christian Lehmhaus, Dipl. Ing. Architect VBI
Director

born in 1963, Bielefeld
1993 graduated in architecture at Technical University of Berlin
1993-1996 employed as an architect
1996-2001 project developer and project controler
since 1996 publications, teaching activities and lectures
since 2001 partner in [phase eins].
since 2002 member of the Berlin Architects' Chamber (No. 10545)
2008-2010 Professor at Bochum University of Applied Sciences
member of the German Association of Consulting Engineers (VBI)
languages: German, English

Christine Eichelmann, Dipl. Ing. Architect
General Manager

born in 1959 in Werneck
1986 graduated in architecture at Technical University of Berlin
1980-87 collaborator at International Building Exhibition Berlin (IBA) under J.P. Kleihues
since 1986 examiner in over 50 competition procedures, i.a. Federal Chancellery Berlin, Foreign Office Berlin, German Embassy Chile, BMW Factory Leipzig, BND HQ Berlin
since 1987 employed as project manager at various architectural practices, i.a. ELW, BJSS, Karen van Lengen (New York), OMA (London), Daniel Libeskind (1991-1994/2001-2002)
since 1988 member of the Berlin Chamber of Architects
1991–1992 research assistant and teacher at TU Berlin
1994–1997 principal of own architectural practice
1998–1999 employee of GePro – Gesellschaft für Projektsteuerung, a project control firm
since 1999 on the staff of [phase eins].
since 2008 General Manager at [phase eins].
languages: German, English, French

data pool

The [phase eins]. data pool is comprised of the pieces of information stored in our databank that concern architects, urban planners, landscape architects and specialist engineers.

The data stored are company addresses, names of contact persons, details about reference projects (project name, place, client, project type, etc.) plus prizes and awards won by the practice and titles of publications about the practice. As it is the practices themselves who enter the data online, it is them who are responsible for both content and topicality.

At present, this databank is comprised of *5814 data sets* about practices from *70 countries*

Competition Management Procedures

1-Consultancy to the sponsor: continued counselling of the sponsor in view of all decisions to be taken during the course of the procedure and his representation in the quality of a fiduciary.

2-Procedural options: counselling in view of the decision on the procedure deemed appropriate to the project at hand. Elements to be considered are duration, costs, objective, and response from the public, all of which are heavily dependent on the chosen type of procedure.

3-Administration management: coordination, with the public authorities and the Architects' Chamber, of the procedure, the task and their participation in the procedure.

4-Parties involved: counselling in view of the selection of the jurors and experts, the admission of guests and the commissioning of third parties (preliminary examiners, model makers, photographers, printers, caterers, etc.).

5-Selection of participants: counselling and coordination in view of the selection of participants in the competition - either by direct nomination, public application procedure or the announcement of an open competition.

Invitation to tender: material and artistic preparation of the Invitation To Tender documentation (brochure, CD-ROM), comprising the development and presentation of the task, description of the present situation of the site, and explanation of the rules governing the procedure.

Internet: continued accompaniment of the project on a homepage of its own that constitutes both a medium of information and a platform for communication.

Meetings: preparation, coordination and chairing of all meetings held within the framework of the procedure - internal workshops and coordinative conversations in view of the preparation of the procedure, the jury's colloquium prior to the distribution of the documentation, colloquia and workshops with the participants, meeting(s) of the jurors, press conference - as well as preparation of their minutes.

Preliminary examination: design, organisation and implementation of the preliminary examination of all entries by an experienced team. Preparation of an impartial, concise examination report applying a consistent pattern to the assessment of each entry's merits.

Public relations: announcement of the procedure in official gazettes, trade journals and on the Internet, holding of meetings in view of citizens' participation, preparation of documents, putting on of exhibitions.

Office history & infrastructure:

Office

Since 1999, our main office has been located in the EGKS experimental all-steel building on the banks of the Spree (architect Jochen Brandi, competition 1967, built 1973–1978). Our premises occupy an overall floor area of 360 sq m. A subsidiary office in Vienna caters to the Austrian market.

Equipment

- 35 computer workplaces Apple Macintosh and Windows
- Online-supported data base with over 5.000 records -address, profile and references- of architects from many countries
- MS Office, MS Project, PowerPoint, Acrobat, Vectorworks, Filemaker, Photo-shop, Illustrator, Indesign, etc.
- AppleXserve based network

Questions

1- Is there any need for competition architecture?
2- Is there any need for competition body?
3-Is there any need for competition rules?
4-Can College of engineering consultancy office take the role of firm like phase eins as competition organizer?
5-Can Kurdistan Engineers Union adopt rules of RIBA or UIA and implement it to organize local competitions?

References:
1- www.wekipedia.com\ architecture competition
2-phase eins \ official web site

THANKS