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Zukunft Kunst- museum Bern Press kit



Museum of Fine Arts Bern:

Start of the architectural competition for museum renovation – agreement signed with Hansjörg Wyss – Communal Parliament transfers building rights to important property

The architectural competition for the museum renovation project and new building is now starting. The jury unites international expertise and regional sensitivity. To facilitate the renovation of the Kunstmuseum, the Communal Parliament of the City of Bern has decided to transfer building rights for the building at Hodlerstrasse 6 to the Foundation of the Kunstmuseum Bern at no cost. The property plays a pivotal role in the museum renovation project.

The “Zukunft Kunstmuseum Bern” (Museum of Fine Arts Bern of the future) project will provide Bern with a modern, attractive museum of fine arts. The projects by the City of Bern to redesign Hodlerstrasse and upgrade both Bärenplatz and Waisenhausplatz will be fine-tuned to this project and offer a chance to link urban space to the new Kunstmuseum and help make the entire upper portion of the Old City more appealing.

The architectural competition for the Museum’s renovation is just being kicked off and is based on the basic “Zukunft Kunstmuseum Bern” concept, which was presented to the general public in 2021. The key elements of this concept include the building complex with the Stettler Building (as the main building), a new building (to replace the Atelier 5 building) and the building at Hodlerstrasse 6 (currently being used by the Cantonal Police) as well as work to upgrade Hodlerstrasse with a new traffic concept and to relocate the exit to the Metro-Parking car park. Replacing the Atelier 5 building instead of undertaking a costly renovation is the best solution – that was the new insight offered by a feasibility study carried out in 2018 following three failed projects. Thanks to efficient and resource-friendly operation, the renovated building complex will make it possible to keep operating costs stable even despite the fact that more space will be available for cultural offerings.

International competition

The architectural competition will be carried out in accordance with the rules of the Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA); a two-stage process preceded by a prequalification round is planned. The jury expects this to attract a diverse range of international participants comprised not only of established firms but up-and-coming teams, as well.

The teams of architects will provide evidence of their suitability for the task during the prequalification round. The jury will then use that as a basis for selecting the most highly qualified firms for admission to the actual project competition. These firms will first have to address the urban planning aspects of the project, show their approach to the buildings’ architectonic expression and provide evidence of rough functionality (Stage 1). The most suitable entries will then be selected for follow-up and further specification (Stage 2). This process will culminate in the selection of the winning project.

Expertise and regional roots

The jury is composed of experts who have amassed experience in a variety of different cities both in Switzerland and abroad designing new buildings both in a sensitive historical setting as well as with respect to sustainability and the urban climate. This knowledge is to be used to the benefit of Bern. At the same time, the jury also has regional roots: Hailing from the political arena at both the municipal and cantonal level as well as from the Kunstmuseum, these representatives are familiar with the conditions and requirements specific to this site, meaning they contribute another different perspective.

"I am very pleased that the basis for the next stage of the 'Zukunft Kunstmuseum Bern' project, the architectural competition, has been established. With two political representatives and two representatives from the Board of Trustees of the umbrella foundation the Canton of Bern is very well represented on the jury. The balanced composition of the jury ensures the professional and political support necessary for a building project of this dimension and relevance", says Christine Häsler, Director of Education and Culture of the Canton of Bern.

The body will be presided over by Thomas Hasler, professor at the Institute of Architecture and Design of TU Wien and managing director and partner of the Frauenfeld (CH) office of Stauer & Hasler Architekten. The firm was presented with the Prix Meret Oppenheim for his work in 2015. As a technical expert and member of the jury, Thomas Hasler has already assisted with numerous architectural competitions, studies and test planning projects.

"We opted in favour of a two-stage process to address both established architectural firms and young teams," says Thomas Hasler. *"By extending the perimeter of observation to Waisenhausplatz, we hope to guarantee that the construction project will be incorporated into the urban space in a way that does justice to the city's status as a UNESCO world heritage site."*

Focus on sustainability

All aspects of the museum's renovation are to be carried out in line with the sustainability strategies and goals of the Canton and City of Bern. A detailed list of criteria containing all relevant sustainability-related aspects shall serve as a guideline for the jury and will be incorporated into the competition.

To ensure that these targets are met, they will be tackled from several different directions: building shape, energy supply, construction materials, HVAC and lighting technology. With an eye to the planned demolition of the Atelier 5 building, it must still be clarified whether some structures can be left intact to save grey energy.

For Jonathan Gimmel, President of the Kunstmuseum Bern – Zentrum Paul Klee umbrella foundation, the matter is clear: *"This competition is designed to deliver architectural answers to urgent contemporary questions: art and encounters in accordance with climate protection and energy efficiency."*

Reasons for a new museum

The planned renovation will give the Kunstmuseum Bern new visitor-friendly exhibition and depot rooms that satisfy modern-day standards, open it up to the city and toward the hillside on the Aare while also offering new artistic experiences to a broader, more diverse public. Museums compete against one another for attractive loans and visitors' attention. Zurich, Basel and Lausanne have made enormous investments in attractive new buildings. Unless it improves its infrastructure, Bern will no longer be able to compete against these cities.

“Visitors can look forward to a Kunstmuseum of the future that offers open, well-light spaces for new experiences of the arts,” says Nina Zimmer, Director of Kunstmuseum Bern – Zentrum Paul Klee.

Communal Parliament approves building rights contract

The Communal Parliament of the City of Bern approved a building rights contract at its meeting of 29 June that governs the transfer of the portion of the building at Hodlerstrasse 6 to the Foundation of the Kunstmuseum Bern, which will enable the Museum to go ahead with the planned renovation. The property plays a pivotal role in the renovation project: The Kunstmuseum will gain a new administrative building in the immediate vicinity, meaning it will not have to build any additional expensive office spaces in the new replacement building planned.

As a result, Hodlerstrasse 6 is to be operationally separated from the existing group of buildings – currently being used by the Cantonal Police and classified as worthy of protection on the list of buildings maintained by the city’s Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments. At the same time, the Communal Parliament approved the key figures for the project competition including the upgrading of Hodlerstrasse. The City Council must still approve the building rights contract and is expected to address the matter in autumn.

The first stage of the project competition is expected to start in spring 2023. Due to the poor condition of some portions of the buildings, implementation must take place as early as possible. With an eye to minimising the overall amount of time needed for the process, the prequalification round will take place at the same time as the City Council’s deliberations on the matter. The amount of effort required by the teams for the prequalification round will be relatively minor, meaning that the main work will only take place following the City Council’s decision.

Upgrading of Hodlerstrasse

According to the City’s vision, pavement and greening through a row of trees will lend Hodlerstrasse an entirely new look. A reduction in road surface and relocation of the exit from the Metro-Parking car park will enable the Kunstmuseum and PROGR or the Turnhalle restaurant to open up outwards. Except for periods of peak traffic in the morning and early evening, the street will only be used for deliveries, emergency services and street cleaning going forward. The City of Bern is collaborating closely on the details of the project with the Kunstmuseum, Metro-Parking, residents and business associations.

The projects aimed at upgrading Hodlerstrasse and redesigning Bärenplatz and Waisenhausplatz, which the city is pursuing concurrently with the Museum’s renovation and are fine-tuned with one another, will make it possible to perform overall upgrades to a central perimeter that is important for the city centre. Accordingly, the goal of an upgraded Hodlerstrasse has been incorporated into the project competition for the new Kunstmuseum building.

Joint financing

The Museum’s renovation is to be financed through public sector funds, private sponsors and businesses. The overall costs amount to CHF 80 million (plus 10 million in risk cover). According to the financing plan, the Canton of Bern will only be charged an amount equal to the costs that would have been incurred anyway for the renovation of the Atelier 5 building, which amount to CHF 40 million. Museum patron Hansjörg Wyss is contributing CHF 25 million to the project through his generous commitment: CHF 20 million for the new building and 5 million for redesigning Hodlerstrasse. He will provide another

CHF 5 million subject to the condition that at least another CHF 7.5 million in private funds can be raised for the Museum's renovation.

The financing plan expects a total of CHF 15 million in contributions from private individuals, foundations and businesses. Initial discussions with private sponsors are going well. Actual negotiations with potential donors (foundations, Burgergemeinde Bern, etc.) can only take place once the competition has been concluded and the final project is available. Pledges have already been received from some individuals. Efforts are still in progress to quantify the cost of redesigning Hodlerstrasse and moving the Metro-Parking exit. It will be possible to make a statement on this once the results of the competition have come in.

Agreement signed with Hansjörg Wyss

The agreement between the Wyss Foundation and the Kunstmuseum Bern was signed in April 2022. In his capacity as a member of the jury for non-cash prizes, Wyss will continue his commitment to promoting an ambitious solution for Bern.

The agreement between the Wyss Foundation and the Foundation of the Kunstmuseum Bern is based on the basic "Zukunft Kunstmuseum Bern" concept from 2021, which was developed in a collaborative effort. The respective property developers will cover certain costs: The Foundation of the Kunstmuseum Bern will fund the Museum buildings with a cantonal contribution and the support of patron Hansjörg Wyss. The city will cover the costs for public spaces and streets with the exception of Hodlerstrasse 6, for which the city will transfer building and usage rights to the Museum at no charge. The Kunstmuseum will compensate the City of Bern for the cost of changes made to Metro-Parking and for upgrades made to Hodlerstrasse through a public infrastructure contract. The project can only be implemented if all partners make their contributions.

Simultaneous renovation of the Stettler Building enables synergies

The Stettler Building must be renovated regardless of the new building project. However, clarification work done in preparation for the project competition has shown that the greatest synergies can be expected from a simultaneous renovation of the Stettler Building and that this will minimise the burden on residents.

The previous cost estimate for the renovation was based on a condition analysis and calculation of investment costs from 2012. Since then, the maintenance backlog has continued to swell as many of the measures planned at the time were not carried out. Carrying out the integrated renovation of the Stettler Building at the same time as the new building will make it possible to create long-term added value. More extensive work is needed to ensure that the building, which was most recently renovated in 1999, is also up to date in terms of energy efficiency and that it can be operated for as long as possible without any further interruptions. The lower renovation cost estimate from 2012 will have to be adjusted to CHF 18.5 million as a result. In accordance with the Culture Promotion Act, the Canton of Bern facilitates the preservation and development of prominent cultural institutions, which also includes maintaining the properties of the Kunstmuseum Bern.

For more in-depth information and factsheets on individual aspects of the project as well as a list of "Questions and Answers", go to [zukunft.kunstmuseumbern.ch](https://www.zukunft.kunstmuseumbern.ch).

Expert jury

Sibylle Aubort Raderschall, Elisabeth Boesch, Tina Gregorič (substitute), Jean-Daniel Gross, Thomas Hasler (Chairman), Anna Jessen, Boris Podrecca, Annabelle Selldorf, Peter Zumthor

Jury for non-cash prizes

Alfons Bichsel, Jonathan Gimmel, Alec von Graffenried, Marieke Kruit, Benjamin Marti, Alex Wassmer (substitute), Hansjörg Wyss, Nina Zimmer

Overall project schedule

July 2022 – Beginning of 2024	International, 2-stage architectural competition with prequalification round for a new replacement building for the Kunstmuseum (incl. the building at Hodlerstrasse 6) 11 July – 30 September 2022: Prequalification round for the architectural competition End of 2022: Prequalification decision Spring 2023: Stage 1 of the international architectural competition Summer 2023: Stage 2 of the international architectural competition Beginning of 2024: Judging to determine the winning project
2024	Project loan
2024 at the earliest	Referendum on the implementation loan for the redesigning of Bärenplatz/Waisenhausplatz
2025–2026	Project planning, tendering, implementation loan
2026 at the earliest	Start of construction at Bärenplatz/Waisenhausplatz
2027–2029	Construction of new replacement building, renovation of Stettler Building
2030	Opening of renovated Museum of Fine Arts Bern

For further information please contact:

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Expert Jury



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Sibylle Aubort Raderschall

Sibylle Aubort Raderschall is the Managing Director and partner of the office of raderschallpartner ag landschaftsarchitekten, which has its head office in Meilen. She studied open space planning, landscaping and garden architecture at the University of Applied Sciences in Rapperswil and founded the landscaping office of Raderschall Landschaftsarchitekten together with Roland Raderschall in 1990. She was a visiting professor in the Architecture department of EPFL Lausanne from 2002–2003. She has spent the past 25 years actively involved in the competition system in Switzerland, was a member and part of the executive committee of the competition commissions of BSLA and SIA for many years and in her capacity as juror, she represents the landscape architecture view in various proceedings.



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Elisabeth Boesch

Elisabeth Boesch has been running an architectural firm in Zurich with Martin Boesch since 1982. The focus of their joint work is on design and construction work on existing buildings, at different scales, frequently for cultural and public uses. She is a member of the Nature and Homeland Conservation Commission (Natur- und Heimatschutzkommission) of the Canton of Zurich, of city planning committees in Switzerland and Germany (Lübeck) and a regular juror in competitions in the areas of architecture and urban development, the preservation of historical monuments, critical reconstruction and construction work on existing buildings.



© Miran Kambic

Tina Gregorič (substitute)

Tina Gregorič has been with the Vienna University of Technology since 2014, where she works as professor and head of the Section of Building Theory. She is architect and head of the Ljubljana-based Studio Dekleva Gregorič Architects, which she founded in 2003 together with Aljoša Dekleva. Her award-winning international projects include several sites in the EU and the US, and run the gamut of social residential buildings, a university campus and a museum up to and including a national pavilion at the Venice Biennale.



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Jean-Daniel Gross

Jean-Daniel Gross has been the Head of the Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments of the City of Bern since 2007. Prior to that, he had worked at architectural firms in Zurich and Germany, after which he joined the team of construction consultants of the Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments of the City of Zurich. Among other things, he works as a lecturer at the Chair for Art History of the University of Bern, is a member of the Berne Cathedral Foundation, the Cathedral Building Council of the Foundation for the Preservation of Historical Monuments in Bern (Münster-Baukollegium der Berner Denkmalpflege-Stiftung) and the Urban Planning Committee (Stadtbildkommission) of the City of Bern. Jean-Daniel Gross studied architecture at ETH Zurich, where he graduated in 1996 and later earned his MAS degree at the Chair for the Preservation of Historical Monuments and Construction Research. In 2006, he earned his doctorate at ETH Zurich with a dissertation on the history of the preservation of historical monuments.



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Thomas Hasler (Chairman)

Thomas Hasler, Architect ETH BSA SIA, is the managing director and partner of Stauffer & Hasler Architekten in Frauenfeld. The office stands for solid, high-quality construction projects that always take the immediate vicinity into consideration. Its most prominent buildings include the cantonal school in Wil, the media and administration building in Chur and the Federal Administrative Court in St. Gallen. The office was presented with the Prix Meret Oppenheim in 2015.

As a technical expert and member of the jury, Thomas Hasler has already assisted with a large number of architectural competitions, studies and test planning projects. He has a full professorship at the Institute of Architecture and Design of TU Wien.



© Nina Mann

Anna Jessen

Anna Jessen studied at ETH Zurich and attended Harvard University in Boston. She then worked at Diener & Diener in Basel. In 1999, she founded the jessenvollenweider architect's office together with Ingemar Vollenweider. From 2011–2017, she worked as a professor of design and interior design at TU Darmstadt. In 2016, she began designing the new ArchitekturWerkstatt OST St.Gallen, where she still teaches today. In 2018, Anna Jessen and Ingemar Vollenweider took over the Chair of Urban Design at TU Dortmund.



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Boris Podrecca

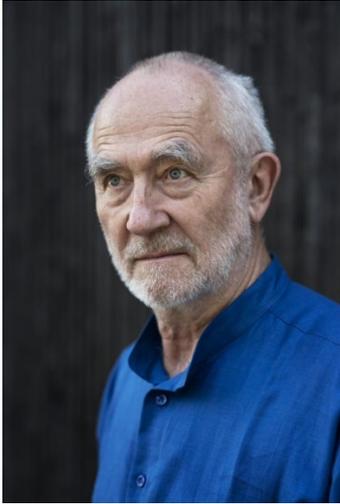
Boris Podrecca grew up in Trieste and currently lives in Vienna and Venice, the influences of which can be seen in the buildings and squares he has designed in eight different European countries. He has been a visiting professor in Lausanne, London, Paris, Venice, Vienna and at Harvard University in Boston-Cambridge, among other places, and was a full professor and director of the Institute for Interior Design and Design at the University of Stuttgart from 1988 onward. He was awarded numerous honours, including the title of doctor honoris causa from the universities in Maribor and Belgrade; he was also named an honorary member by three academies of sciences and arts and by the Association of German Architects.



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Annabelle Selldorf

Annabelle Selldorf is the Principal of Selldorf Architects, a 70-person architectural design practice that she founded in New York City in 1988. The firm creates public and private spaces that manifest a clear and modern sensibility to enduring impact. Selldorf Architects has worked on public and private projects that range from museums and libraries to a recycling facility; and at scales from the construction of new buildings to the restoration of historic interiors and exhibition design.



Peter Zumthor

Peter Zumthor is an architect of international renown. In his studio with around three dozen employees in Haldenstein, Switzerland, he designs original architectonic structures such as Kunsthaus Bregenz, the Thermal Baths in Vals, the Kolumba Museum in Cologne and the Steilneset Memorial in Vardø.

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Jury for non-cash prizes



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Alfons Bichsel

Alfons Bichsel has been a Member of the Cantonal Parliament of the Canton of Bern since 2020 and is a member of the Committee on Education and Culture. He previously served on the City Council of the Municipality of Sigriswil from 2010–2016 and was in charge of the Department of Education, Culture and Sport. In his capacity as a member of the City Council, he headed up the Department of Infrastructure from 2020 onward. His professional experience at RUAG spanned the range from technical maintenance to quality management to managing large-scale projects after completion of his certified training programme through the IPMA (International Project Management Association). Since he was a child, Alfons Bichsel has felt a close connection to the world of art through the art studio of his grandfather, Fritz Goppelsroder.



© Micha Riechsteiner

Jonathan Gimmel

Jonathan Gimmel has served as President of the Kunstmuseum Bern – Zentrum Paul Klee umbrella foundation since 2019. From 2007 until the umbrella foundation was established in 2015, he was a member and Vice-President of the Foundation of the Kunstmuseum Bern, where he represented the regional conference in his capacity as a member of the City Council of Worb. Jonathan Gimmel also holds several positions of leadership in a variety of different institutions. As an economist (EMBA with a focus on public leadership), his professional responsibilities include the resources of the mayor's office and the digital strategy of the City of Bern.



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Alec von Graffenried

Alec von Graffenried was elected Mayor of Bern in 2017. From 2000-2007 he served as a government official of the administrative district of Bern and then as director of the Losinger Marazzi AG construction company. He also represented the Green Free List on the National Council from 2007–2015. Alec von Graffenried studied law at the University of Bern. As Section President, he is actively involved both in the New Helvetic Society and in the European movement.



© Béatrice Devènes

Marieke Kruit

Marieke Kruit has served on the Executive Council of the City of Bern since 2021 and heads up the Directorate of Civil Engineering, Transport and Green Spaces. Prior to her election, she held positions of leadership at the psychiatric services of the regional hospitals of Thun and Oberaargau and, before that, at regional radio stations and a regional TV station. Marieke Kruit has a licentiate in psychology and psychotherapy.



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Benjamin Marti

Benjamin Marti has been a Member of the Cantonal Parliament of the Canton of Bern since 2022. Since 2017, he has held a full-time position as Mayor of Belp, a conurbation municipality of Bern. At the regional conference of Bern-Mittelland, he chairs the Committee for Culture. On the side, he is also involved with the authorities of the Siloah Group in Gümligen. Benjamin Marti's first education was a diploma as master agriculturalist. Following 17 years as a self-employed farmer, he then attended an occupational re-training for a degree as a Business Economist HF.



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Alex Wassmer (substitute)

Alex Wassmer is the owner, Chairman and Delegate of the Board of Directors of KIBAG Holding AG, a Swiss leader in the areas of construction materials, construction services, environmental issues and waste disposal with more than 2,000 employees. From 2002–2020, he served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Kunsthalle Bern Foundation and has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Kunstmuseum Bern – Zentrum Paul Klee umbrella foundation since 2015. Alex Wassmer holds a degree in law from the University of Bern.



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Hansjörg Wyss

Hansjörg Wyss is a philanthropist dedicated to helping save the world's last remaining wild places, to encouraging breakthroughs in medicine and science, and to protecting and empowering the most vulnerable in society. He launched the Wyss Foundation and established the Wyss Academy in Bern, the Wyss Center in Geneva, the Wyss Zurich Translational Center, and the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University. Hansjörg Wyss has committed to giving at least half his wealth to charitable causes.



Foto: Monika Flückiger
© Kunstmuseum Bern

Nina Zimmer

Nina Zimmer has served as the Director of the Kunstmuseum Bern and Zentrum Paul Klee since 2016. Previously, she had been the curator for 19th Century / Classical Modernism collections at Kunstmuseum Basel, where she also served as its Vice-Director starting in 2014 and played an active role in the construction of an extension to Kunstmuseum Basel. Nina Zimmer studied art history, Romance studies and media science in Bordeaux and Göttingen. She was a visiting professor at the University of Chicago in 2002 and at the Korean National University of Art in Seoul, South Korea, in 2005. In 2013, she became the first European graduate of the CCL (Center for Curatorial Leadership) in collaboration with Columbia Business School in New York and the Getty Leadership Institute in Los Angeles.

