Steven Holl Architects win Mumbai City Museum competition

Exceptional shortlist revealed

• Steven Holl Architects chosen from an exceptional shortlist of eight teams
• First time international architectural competition is held for a public building in Mumbai
• Eminent Jury was chaired by Mumbai’s Municipal Commissioner Mr Sitaram Kunte

An international team led by Steven Holl has won the Mumbai City Museum North Wing Design Competition. The Mumbai City Museum, also known as the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, is one of India’s leading cultural institutions and is in the process of creating a dynamic new identity for itself as a cultural hub in Mumbai.

The Municipal Commissioner of Mumbai and Co-Chairman and Trustee of the Museum, Mr Sitaram Kunte, chaired the eleven-person Jury, notable for its array of leading international figures from the museum world, academia and the business community. The Jury met over a three-day period in Mumbai in December 2014.

Eight teams were shortlisted for the 275 crore project for new permanent and temporary galleries and facilities. The Jury assessed design submissions, presentations and interviews and unanimously selected New York-based practice Steven Holl Architects who collaborated with Mumbai-based Opolis Architects.
The winning design was distinctive for its sculptural and calligraphic qualities. It proposes a simple volume, which is enlivened by deep subtracting cuts, creating dramatic effects of light and shade. Its central feature is a reflecting pool in a new garden courtyard between the old and new buildings. The scheme will establish a cultural campus around the Museum in this growing district within Mumbai.

**The Jury Chair Sitaram Kunte said:**

‘The selection of Steven Holl Architects marks an important moment for the Museum, for Mumbai and for India – this is the first time a design team has been selected through an international design competition for a public building and this initiative will now set a benchmark for other institutions in the region.’

‘The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad is one of the best-loved and oldest Museums in India. We are delighted that it will now have a world-class addition by a very gifted team.’

**Tasneem Mehta, Managing Trustee and Honorary Director of the Museum said:**

‘We have been incredibly impressed by the hard work, commitment and creativity shown by all eight shortlisted teams. However, the winning team produced an outstanding, iconic design, which captivated the Jury. This building will change the cultural conversation in Mumbai and in the wider museum world. The scheme integrates sustainability into the design and is ambitious to set new standards of environmental performance and energy conservation. The campus concept in a growing part of Mumbai will make a real contribution to urban life here.’

‘This announcement comes nearly 170 years after the Museum was founded and this decision to appoint Steven Holl Architects promises a great step forward for the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad, it will transform the Museum and the visitor experience.’

**Malcolm Reading, Competition Organiser and Chairman of Malcolm Reading Consultants said:**

‘This was an exceptional shortlist – the Museum should be congratulated on the quality of responses it drew from the architectural community.

‘We would like to thank the shortlisted teams for their patience while the competition programme was extended and also the Jury for their insights and indefatigability.

‘In Steven Holl Architects we have a team ready to meet the challenges of the brief, giving the Museum exciting and memorable spaces, which will allow it to renew its mission, engage with new audiences and sparkle as one of the key cultural destinations in Mumbai.’
Noah Yaffe, Partner at Steven Holl Architects said:

‘It is an incredible honour to be the winners and we’re very excited about the next steps on the project.’

Steven Holl is one of the world’s leading contemporary architects, his practice is famous for projects such as the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas, the Herning Museum of Contemporary Art in Denmark and the Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki. Current work includes the Center for Creative and Performing Arts at Princeton University, USA, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Expansion in Washington DC, USA and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA.

The Jury also awarded an honourable mention to UK-based practice AL_A, led by Amanda Levete.

The new addition to the existing Museum is expected to be 8,000 to 10,000 m2 (85,000 – 110,000 sq ft), providing new galleries and facilities including, an interpretation centre, a library, an archive, conservation facilities and a new museum shop and café.

At the heart of the new wing will be a permanent gallery to showcase contemporary Mumbai, focusing on important milestones in the city’s development and highlighting its cultural achievements as well as temporary exhibition space to international standards capable of taking major touring exhibitions.

In alphabetical order the eight finalists were (lead consultants in bold)

- **AL_A** with PK Das, Arup, Turner & Townsend, GROSS. MAX and Superflux
- **Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos** with Malik Architecture, Arup and Empty
- **OMA** + S&K with Meinhardt India, Houtman + Sander, GMD Consultants and Langdon Seah
- **Pei Cobb Freed & Partners Architects** with Christopher Charles Benninger Architects (CCBA), Leslie E. Robertson Associates International (LERA), Buro Happold, WORKSHOP: Ken Smith Landscape Architect and George Sexton Associates
- **Steven Holl Architects** with Opolis Architects, Guy Nordenson and Associates, AECOM, Dongre Project Management Consultants, Transsolar and L’Observatoire
- **Studio Mumbai Architecture** + Edifice Consultants with Sterling Engineering Consultancy Services and Eskayem Consultants
- **wHY** with Ganti + Associates, Sterling Engineering, Sterling and Wilson, Magnusson Klemencic Associates, Buro Happold, Local Projects and QuanSoft India
- **Zaha Hadid Architects** with Sameep Padora Associates (sP+a), AKT II, Max Fordham, Dan Pearson Studio and AECOM
At the first stage of the competition, 104 Expressions of Interest were received from architects all over the world.

The Jury comprised:

- **Mr Sitaram Kunte** – Chair of Jury, the Municipal Commissioner of Mumbai and Co-Chairman, Trustee of the Museum
- **Mrs Tasneem Mehta** – Deputy Chair of Jury, the Managing Trustee & Honorary Director of the Museum
- **Mrs Minal Bajaj**, a Director of Bajaj Auto Ltd. and a Donor Trustee of the Museum
- **Mr Shyam Benegal**, a Trustee of the Museum and a prolific filmmaker
- **Dr Homi Bhabha**, Director of the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard as well as the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities in the Department of English
- **Dr Vishakha Desai**, the Special Advisor for Global Affairs and Professor of Professional Practice in the Faculty of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University
- **Mr Rajiv Jalota**, the Additional Municipal Commissioner, Projects, M.C.G.M., and Trustee of the Museum
- **Mr Sen Kapadia**, founder of Sen Kapadia Associates
- **Mr Anand Mahindra**, Chairman and Managing Director of the Mahindra Group
- **Dr Martin Roth**, the Director of the V&A Museum in London
- **Dr Aroon Tikekar**, the former President of the Asiatic Society in Mumbai, a prolific author, journalist and authority on Mumbai

(See biographies in notes below.)

Malcolm Reading Consultants organised the competition on behalf of the Museum, combining international standards for architectural competitions with Council of Architecture (India) guidelines. Further details of the project are available on the dedicated competition microsite: http://competitions.malcolmreading.co.uk/mumbai

Steven Holl Architects will start work shortly on the design development with the Museum; construction is expected to begin in 2015.
The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum is a sister museum to the V&A in London. Its original building, now beautifully restored, dates from the late 19th Century and is considered a masterpiece – a rare combination within India of Palladian architecture with high Victorian interiors.

Media enquiries regarding the museum to Mr Himanshu Kadam: hkadam@bdlmuseum.org copied to Ms Gargi Mashruwala: gmashruwala@bdlmuseum.org

All competition-related media enquiries to Catherine Reading by email at catherine.reading@malcolmreading.co.uk or to Jayne Broomhall + 44 (0)207 8312 998 or by email: jayne.broomhall@malcolmreading.co.uk

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NOTES TO EDITORS

• The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad, Mumbai City Museum, is Mumbai’s oldest museum and showcases the history and culture of the city. It was intensively restored between 2003 and 2008 and won the 2005 UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Conservation Award of Excellence, the highest international award in this field. The Citation comments, ‘The building stands as a unique testimony to the development of Victorian architecture in the context of the hybrid building and crafts traditions of 19th Century India, as well as to the civic traditions embodied in one of the country’s earliest museums.’

• Jury Biographies

**Mr. Sitaram Kunte** – Chair of Jury is the Municipal Commissioner of Mumbai and Co-Chairman Trustee of the Museum. A graduate of Delhi University and the Delhi School of Economics, he has previously held the positions of the Principal Secretary (Planning Department) and Development Commissioner within the Government of Maharashtra.

**Mrs. Tasneem Mehta** – Deputy Chair of Jury is the Managing Trustee & Hon. Director of the Museum. She studied at the JJ School of Art in Mumbai, at Columbia University in New York and Delhi University. She is the vice chairman of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). She is also a member of the International Council of the MoMA in New York.

**Mrs. Minal Bajaj**

Mrs. Minal Bajaj is a Director of Bajaj Auto Ltd. and a Donor Trustee of the Museum. She is involved in numerous philanthropic efforts within the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation and Hamarra Sapna, an NGO she founded in 2011.

**Mr. Shyam Benegal**

Mr. Shyam Benegal is a Trustee of the Museum and a prolific filmmaker. He has been awarded the Padma Bhushan, as well as the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for lifetime achievement in Indian Cinema in 2005.

**Dr. Homi Bhabha**

Dr Homi Bhabha is the Director of the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard as well as the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities in the Department of English. A graduate of the University of Mumbai and Christ Church, Oxford University he is also an acclaimed author of numerous works.
Dr. Vishakha Desai
Dr. Vishakha Desai is the Special Advisor for Global Affairs and Professor of Professional Practice in the Faculty of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. She is also a senior advisor for Global Programs to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation and has previously served as President and CEO of the Asia Society and Curator and Head of Public Programs and Academic Affairs at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. She is a graduate of Bombay University and the University of Michigan.

Mr. Rajiv Jalota
Mr. Rajiv Jalota is the Additional Municipal Commissioner, Projects, M.C.G.M. and Trustee of the Museum. A graduate of Duke University, he was previously the Managing Director of SICOM, the CEO of Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation and the CEO of Zilha Parishad, Osmanabad.

Mr. Sen Kapadia
Mr. Sen Kapadia is an architect at Sen Kapadia Associates. He has worked with Louis Kahn in Philadelphia and Space Management office in New York and was the founding director of the Kamala Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Conceptual Architecture in Mumbai. He has lectured at multiple universities, both in India and abroad.

Mr. Anand Mahindra
Mr. Anand Mahindra is Chairman and Managing Director of the Mahindra Group. A graduate of Harvard Business School he is chairman of the Indian Design Council and the National Institute of Design. He has been listed on Fortune Magazine’s 2014 list of The World’s 50 Greatest Leaders.

Dr. Martin Roth
Dr. Martin Roth is the director of the V&A Museum in London. Previously he has been Director General of the Dresden State Art Collections and a member of senior management of the Expo 2000 in Hanover and Director of Thematic Exhibitions. He studied at the Eberhard Karls University in Tuebingen.

Dr. Aroon Tikekar
Dr. Aroon Tikekar is the former president of the Asiatic Society in Mumbai, a prolific author, journalist and authority on Mumbai. He has been Editor of the Marathi newspaper Loksatta, Archival Research Chief of the Times of India and Senior Assistant Editor with the Maharashtra Times.
• Shortlisted team websites are: www.ala.uk.com; www.edifice.co.in; www.nietosobejano.com; www.oma.eu; wwwpcf-p.com; www.stevenholl.com; www.why-site.com; www.zaha-hadid.com

• Malcolm Reading Consultants (MRC) is a strategic architectural consultancy which specialises in the selection of contemporary designers. MRC believes in the power of design to create new perceptions and act as an inspiration – whether at the local level, or internationally.

The consultancy offers a service to find the very best designers for clients with new building projects, whether through open-international, or private-invited competitions. Recent work in this area includes competitions for Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park’s Culture & Education Quarter, the Natural History Museum, the UK Pavilion at Milan Expo 2015, New College, Oxford, the Cadogan Estate, Marlborough College, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, Aberdeen City Garden project, the Victoria and Albert Museum’s Exhibition Road project, the UK Pavilion for the Shanghai Expo and the Glasgow School of Art.

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