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Thursday, 13th October 2016

## Architects chosen for Lebanese museum design

**Hala Wardé and HW architecture have won an international competition to design Beirut Museum of Art in Lebanon.**

The whole project will feature a garden amphitheater, accessible public space and a tower designed to house exhibitions and artist residencies. It will be located in the Beirut centre in a symbolically-charged site that once marked the dividing lines in the Lebanese civil war — now to be transformed into a place of unification.

The winning design includes a 400-foot tower rising above the base of the museum. It will include space for workshops and performances, as well as artist's residences with expansive views of downtown Beirut.

In a statement announcing the winner, the Jury noted that the design was selected for

“the way it creates a succession of varied landscapes and spaces where art and society can come together. The connections between garden, amphitheater, exhibition spaces and roof garden have been well considered and offer a continuous visitor experience that lends itself to both exhibiting art and engaging with the community.”

The design also includes a public garden and landscaped promenade that will accommodate site-specific installations and artworks surrounded by lush vegetation, as well as an amphitheater for performing arts. The Museum is situated on a plot of land owned by Université Saint-Joseph (USJ) and the selected design reflects a careful consideration of connections to the campus and to the larger urban surroundings.

Hala Wardé commented:

“I am delighted and honoured to realise my first major project in the city of Beirut where I was born, on such an exceptional site.

This museum program, in connection with the university, will allow us to create a new cultural and social space with a garden and amphitheater, and will single out this artistic territory with a strong and recognisable urban beacon, which through its multiple expressions, will belong to the new urban landscape of the city.”

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