

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

A COMPETITION FOR ARCHITECTURAL IDEAS

Re-designing the New Headquarters of the Supreme Court and the School of Magistrates
Tirana, Albania

Phase I: 30 September 2015

Requirements: Team Composition Statement, Key Staff CVs, Methodology, and Vision Statement



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Promoters

Atelier Albania, at the request of the Minister of Justice, Ministry of Education and Sports and mandated by the Office of the Prime Minister, is announcing a competition for architecture design proposals, through which, it is searching for best design solutions for the rehabilitation and the adaptation of an existing building site that will become the new headquarter site of the Supreme Court and the School of Magistrates.

Manifesto

A judiciary system facing time challenges

The jubilee of the democracy underlines its presence through the importance of jurisdiction by the means of architecture...

Albania, as a recent Candidate Country for EU membership, is making great efforts on its path towards the European Integration. It is a crucial moment for the judiciary system that is facing several challenges, not only in terms of integration, but primarily and above all due to the utmost urge to improve its public services, to protect the interests of citizens, to consolidate the fragile democracy and reinforce the rule of law in Albania. The development dynamics of the country during the last 25 years, the profound socio-economic transformations, the lengthy and complex process of the transition from a more than half a century long dictatorship to democracy, imposes the continuation of reforms in the field of justice, aiming to achieve the standards of western democracy. In this context, not only new premises are required, but it is also necessary to bring into focus the proximity of the highest juridical authorities with the academic environment.

the Court

The Supreme Court, which is the highest judicial power in the Republic of Albania, has its premises located in Tirana. In the realm of these rapid changes in the juridical system, the actual building no longer responds to the needs of the court to deliver high standard services, hence this program will be relocated in the competition site. In this context, the competition arises out of an utmost-urge as a response to the presented necessities of the Supreme Court for new spaces to host the institution, to improve the efficiency and the quality of the services in accordance with the European standards.

the School

This happens simultaneously with the need of the School of Magistrates- already being hosted from the existing building- which on the other hand, needs to be extended in the emerge of the ongoing growth in responsibilities regarding trainings of judges and prosecutors in charge. In the prevailing condition, the School of Magistrates shares its spaces with the Faculty building of Geology and Mines, part of the Polytechnic University, in Tirana. This last one will be replaced in a more appropriate academic environment. In the framework of the implementation of the “National Plan of European Integration” and its participation in the Intersectorial Strategy of the Judiciary System, the school has a number of prerequisites among which, the extension of its premise spaces is an essential demand for hosting its required activities.

the Heritage

The historical values this site inherits makes it an authentic competition site, claiming for a meticulous approach that respects its historical and cultural context. The building that will host the Supreme Court is of italian rational planning architecture style of 1940s, with influences from organic architecture, enclosed in a facade that reflects vernicular motifs. Possesing the status of a culture monument of the 2nd category, the architectural vision and intervention in this building shall comply with the respective legislation. As such, this object is protected under the Law 9048, dt.07.04.2003 “On cultural heritage”, as amended, Section 27, “Cultural Monuments of IInd Category are objects with distinguished values, mainly on their exterior appearance.

At these circumstances the competition challenge is threefold: functional/ institutional, urban and heritage/ cultural.

Beneficiaries

The competition for re-designing the New Headquarters of the Supreme Court and the School of Magistrates will search for best design solution for the accommodation of these two functions/ institutions by improving the current conditions of the existing site and optimizing the institutional operation.

The two institutions – Supreme Court and School of Magistrates – are direct beneficiaries of the initiative, while the citizens of Albania will benefit through the improved function of the juridical system.

Contracting Authority

National Territorial Planning Agency is the contracting authority in this process, on behalf of the Albanian Government.

Objective

The outcome of the competition will be design solutions for the new headquarters of the Supreme Court and the School of Magistrates and its setting.

Short-listed competitors are required to work to achieve, as follows:

- Study the area of the competition and its surroundings;
- Architecture design proposals for the New Headquarters of the Supreme Court and the School of Magistrates;
- Search for the mutual programs and activities of the Supreme Court and the School of Magistrates;
- Study the way extensions (if needed) in the existing building could be designed as harmoniously as possible, referring to the existing historical context;
- Search for ways of integrating the open space of the competition site with the existing park landscape, without disturbing the institutional privacy;
- Search for “green concepts” to be implemented in the renovation and adoption of the existing site;
- Preliminary estimation of the costs of the proposals;
- Proposal of an action plan.

Any solution should seek high creativity, respect the Albanian legislation in force regarding Monuments of Culture IInd Category, while being adjusted to the local context and set high design standards.

Area of Competition

The site includes the existing buildings of the Faculty of Geology and the School of Magistrates and the area surrounding the complex as marked in the functional zoning map.

Scope of Competition / Competition Question

Competition will built on these three tasks:

1. The site plan and landscape design proposal for the competition site pertaining to the open area/park- school- court- city interconnection.
2. An architecture design proposal for the New Headquarters of the Supreme Court.
3. An architecture design proposal for the School of Magistrates.

The detailed design brief that will guide competitors during the second stage of the competition to provide answers to the competition questions will be given only to short-listed competitors. To discuss the design brief and its requirements, a workshop will be organized in Tirana with all the involved stakeholders. The workshop date is given in the competition calendar.

Methodology

Atelier Albania is a unit of the National Territorial Planning Agency, mandated to identify alternative solutions and enrich architecture and planning by thinking beyond the typical planning framework. In this context, we stimulate and support the participation and collaboration of local and international professionals who will work in tandem with each other. We believe that this team-based collaboration will improve the way projects and research is informed with all the appropriate local knowledge as well as an international level of design expertise. Moreover, it is of high importance to look at competitions as co-creative processes, where designers and local actors are involved in an interactive selection process.

Expected Results

PHASE 1: at this stage of short – listing, the candidates present themselves to illustrate their capabilities, methodology and visions to the subject of the competition. Each submission will be reviewed carefully by members of the jury and the teams will be selected based on qualification criteria and evaluation referred to Phase 1.

The jury will short - list the teams that comply with the qualification criteria. These teams will be called to work for a second phase, for a concept in fulfilment of the competition objective and questions. Second phase or stage will be based on elaborate information and brief that the short-listed competitors will receive from the organisers.

PHASE 2: at the stage of “Design proposals”, each group of applicants will be carefully reviewed by members of the jury and, based on the criteria of evaluation of Phase 2, a winning team will be selected.

Teams of local and foreign professionals

Every international team is encouraged by the organizers to partner with a local team and each local team is encouraged to partner with an international counterpart. The client believes that such cooperation can increase the impact of the proposal and improve implementation. In applying for the first phase it is not a pre-selection criterion to have a local or international partner; having a partnership at this stage however is positive and can help to create a more coherent and contextualized vision which of course might boost the teams' chances of selection.

Suitability

The competition is open to all professional architects or landscape architects, who are able to meet the following requirements.

1. Be registered or recognized by an official accreditation body in the country of origin of the applicant; or
2. Where recognition or registration law does not apply, the applicant is a member of a professional institution, the country of origin.

All applicants must provide proof of the validity of professional registration, recognition or membership in the Team Composition Declaration.

Each team of Phase 1 should be composed of at least, an architect, landscape architect, construction engineer, cultural heritage expert and an estimator. All team members must be identified in the Declaration of Team Composition.

Details about suitability are given at addendum nr.6 of the Standard Tender Document. STD can be downloaded at www.app.gov.al.

Functional Zoning

The site includes the existing buildings of the Faculty of Geology and Mines and the School of Magistrates located at the Southern area of Tirana.



General data

Existing Buildings Area: 7 952 m²

Required surface from the program: 9 132 m²

New area to be built: 1 180 m²

Application documents

Entrants must submit a number of documents, in order to be in compliance with the requirements of the competition for the first and second phase of the contest. These documents are of a legal and informative character. Any details regarding the documentation that needs to be submitted in order to be eligible for the competition will be given in addendum 6 of the Standard Tendering Document (STD). The list below is only informative; please refer to the above-mentioned document for the formal requirements.

Documents Phase 1:

- Declaration of Team Composition,
- Primary Staff CV,
- Methodology of work,
- Vision Statement
- All other documents relevant to application according to the Agency for Public Procurements

Documents Phase 2:

- Design Proposal

Qualification Criteria

The jury will evaluate the applicants that will be selected for the first phase based on these initial qualification criteria:

- Clarity and fulfilment of required documents for Phase 1
- Professional composition of the team (architect, landscape architect, construction engineer, architecture heritage specialist)
- Similar experience of the studio and its main collaborators
- Clarity and efficiency of the proposed Methodology
- Relevance of what is proposed in the Vision Statement to the scope of the competition and issues of the site

Details about suitability are given at addendum nr.6 of the STD.

Evaluation Criteria

The jury will evaluate the applications of Phase 2 based on the following criteria:

- Creativity
- Suitability of the design proposal to the required functions
- High implementation factor
- Links and impact of the proposal to the context
- The cost-impact ratio (low cost, high impact)

Final Product

The competition will end with the selection of a well-equipped team, who will be able to engage in the post-competition process.

The winning team will be engaged in the next phase, which consists in the preparation of tender documents for the implementation of the New Headquarters of the Supreme Court and the School of Magistrates. The post-competition process will be determined through a negotiation process between the winning team and the client.

Post - Competition Process

To coordinate better the work between the winning team and the client of the project, organizers anticipate the first meeting between the team, the client and local stakeholders during the process of elaborating the design proposal. The underlying reason is to bring together the design team and all the stakeholders and to share among them ideas, proposals and suggestions at the curatorial stewardship of the members of the Jury and other specialized institutions. This meeting will be conducted in Tirana.

Competition Awards

The winning team will begin contract negotiations with the Client for an agreement to prepare the tender documents for the implementation of the New Headquarters of the Supreme Court and the School of Magistrates.

Competition Platform

Competition Type:	Design Competition with a Shortlist
Phase 1:	Open Call for Interest
Phase 1 Requirement:	AS PER Addendum Nr.6 of the Standard Tendering Documents.
Advantage Criteria:	Local-Foreign Architecture studio partnerships
Jury Evaluation:	Short Listed Teams
Phase 2:	Design Proposal
Phase 2 Requirements:	Submission of design proposal illustrations
In-between Phase:	Site visit and workshop with local stakeholders.
Jury Evaluation:	Best Design and fulfilment of criteria
Prizes:	Prize of the winner: 15,000 Euro and Contract Negotiation for the Detailed Design

Competition Calendar 2015

Open call for interest:	7 September
Phase 1 Deadline:	30 September, 10.00 (local time)
Short-listing:	1-2 October
Design Proposal Competition Invitation:	9 October
Preparation of Design Proposal:	9 October-15 November
Workshop in TIRANA:	19 October
Finalization of Brief and any further planning:	9 October
Phase 2 Deadline:	15 November, 18.00 (local time)
Public Presentations:	16 November
Jury Evaluation:	16 November
Announcement of Results:	16-17 November

Post Competition 2015

Contract Negotiation	November-December 2015
Contract Signing for Implementation Design:	December 2015
Implementation Design:	2016
Meetings with AA/Jury and Stakeholders:	December 2015- January 2016
Implementation Design Submission:	2016

PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

Short listing phase will be conducted via electronic system to website:
www.app.gov.al

Tender documents may be obtained electronically in the same website:
www.app.gov.al

Foreign competitors, in order to use electronic procurement system should register on-line as an economic operator website:
<https://www.app.gov.al/ep/Registration.aspx>

Further instructions for international competitors may be obtained from the user manual "EPS user manual - Economic Operators", which can be downloaded from the webpage www.app.gov.al

FURTHER INFORMATION

Each of the Terms of Reference can be found on the official website of the organizer of the competition:
<http://www.planifikimi.gov.al>

Or, in the pages dedicated to these competitions:
<http://competitions.planifikimi.gov.al/supremecourt/>
You can also contact us at:
berat.island@planifikimi.gov.al

Information regarding procurement procedure should be asked through electronic procurement system.



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