



## INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

### 1.

#### **NOAARCHITECTEN/EM2N/SERGISON BATES WIN THE INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION**

Press release 22.03.2018

**The architectural project of the offices noAarchitecten (Brussels), EM2N (Zurich) and Sergison Bates architects (London) has been unanimously selected for the conversion of the former Citroën Yser garage into a new cultural hub which, under the name KANAL - Centre Pompidou, will bring together a Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, an architecture centre (CIVA Foundation) and public spaces devoted to culture, education and leisure. The jury of the international architecture competition praised a project that is 'exceptionally well integrated in its context'.**

Entitled 'A Stage for Brussels', the winning project highlights all the iconic elements of the existing architecture. The emptied and restructured showroom will become KANAL - Centre Pompidou's 'display window', home to installations, performances and concerts on the ground floor, and a restaurant on the third floor. The large white outdoor frieze will be extended so as to encircle the whole building in the form of an electronic display sign that can be used to communicate information or that can be integrated in an artistic project. Inside, a transverse 'street' will cross the site measuring 35,000 m<sup>2</sup>, giving access to three large 'boxes in the box', which will be inserted in the former workshops and will accommodate the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, the CIVA Foundation and a 400-seat auditorium. This solution will enable the team of international architects to control the climatic conditions of the different spaces, but it also reflects the team's desire to breathe life into all of the building's façades. The museum will benefit from exhibition spaces spread out over four floors of varying heights, making a range of configurations possible.

Work will begin in the autumn of 2019 and will be phased over several stages until the official opening in late 2022, enabling KANAL - Centre Pompidou to organize temporal cultural activities throughout the duration of the work.

The winning team has conceived the cultural hub as a 'welcoming, lively and dynamic place of exchange, a place that invites all Brussels residents to feel at home there'. The project stood out also through its collaborative approach: the architects engaged in wide-ranging concertation with the sociocultural scene, whether locally (among others, JES, Maison des cultures et de la cohésion sociale, several Brussels artists) or internationally (Tate Modern, Deutsches Architekturmuseum). The project also includes an extension of the Kaaithheater and a functional connection with neighbouring institutions.

The project fully integrates KANAL - Centre Pompidou in its urban context, among others thanks to openings in all the façades and a selection of activities (workshops, shops) that give out onto the surrounding urban axes, onto the canal and the Maximilien Park. The project stresses sustainability, heavily limiting the use of new materials and needs in terms of heating/cooling (there are different levels of climatic comfort depending on the spaces). Likewise, sources of heat and cooling come from the immediate environment (water from the canal, underground, roofs).



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Launched on 28 March 2017 by the Urban Development Corporation (SAU-MSI) of the Brussels-Capital Region, the owner of the former garage since 2015, later taken over by the Foundation KANAL, this international architecture competition is one of the most important ever to have been organized in Brussels (work budget: €125 million excl. VAT).

After an initial selection among the 92 projects submitted, 7 teams were invited to present a competition project to an international jury mandated by the Board of Administrators of the Foundation KANAL. Presided by the Swiss architect Roger Diener, this jury was composed of international experts, of the Chief Architect of the Brussels-Capital Region Kristiaan Borret and other administrative representatives of the Region, as well as of the president of the Centre Pompidou.

### **Key figures**

**Total surface area:** 39 100 m<sup>2</sup> (+ 2 500 m<sup>2</sup> parking space)

**Indoor public spaces:** 12 500 m<sup>2</sup>

**Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art:** 12 200 m<sup>2</sup> exhibition space

**CIVA Foundation:** 7 000 m<sup>2</sup> (incl. exhibition space: 1 800 m<sup>2</sup>)

**Shared spaces:** 7 400 m<sup>2</sup>

**Work budget:** €125 million excl. VAT

**2.****KANAL – CENTRE POMPIDOU  
A PREFIGURATIVE YEAR: 5 MAY 2018 > JUNE 2019  
OPENING 5 MAY 2018**

Press release 22.03.2018

**On 5 May 2018, KANAL – Centre Pompidou will open its doors in the former Citroën Yser garage in Brussels for a programme prefiguring the ‘Cultural city’ in the making, comprising among others the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art that is in development. During the 13 months preceding the start of the work, the public will be able to discover this mythical building in its raw state through several art and architecture exhibitions, large installations and ten brand-new creations by Brussels-based artists. There will also be shows produced in collaboration with cultural organizations from Brussels.**

KANAL - Centre Pompidou, an ambitious project driven by the Brussels-Capital Region, will provide Brussels with a multidisciplinary cultural hub worthy of the capital of Europe. In the context of a ten-year partnership with the Centre Pompidou, the site measuring 35,000 m<sup>2</sup> will not only be home to a Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art but also to the vast collections of the CIVA Foundation relating to architecture and urban planning. The remaining space will accommodate many public areas devoted to the arts – both formal and informal, including stages for the performing arts.

During the 13 prefigurative months, and on the basis of a radically experimental approach that will transform the former Citroën Yser garage into a platform open to reflection on the stakes for the museum of the future, a multidisciplinary programme will fill the vast spaces that were recently stripped of their functions and left in their current state. The many proposals will set out to echo the identity of the space – its unique aesthetic qualities, typical of 1930s industrial architecture, but also its human and social history, palpable in the various workshops and offices. Carried out with an eye to integrating the urban fabric and engaging in dialogue with the Brussels partners, this prefigurative year has been conceived under the supervision of **Bernard Blistène**, the director of the Centre Pompidou’s Musée national d’art moderne. It will enable a broad public to discover, in one and the same space, a wide-ranging and brand-new cultural offer.

KANAL - Centre Pompidou will also propose a performing-arts programme that will follow the Brussels cultural calendar, in partnership with Kunstenfestivaldesarts, BOZAR, Performatik festival and the Beursschouwburg, Flagey, Botanique, Kaaithheater, La Raffinerie (Charleroi danse) and Ancienne Belgique, among many more.

**Some key dates**

**Prefigurative year:** 5 May 2018 > June 2019

**Start of the work:** autumn 2019

**End of the work and opening of KANAL – Centre Pompidou:** late 2022