



The Bayeux Tapestry

A British architectural practice wins the design competition for the project of the future museum

Bayeux, Thursday 25 May 2023

Press release

Launched by the City of Bayeux on August 26, 2021, the architectural competition for the redeployment of the Bayeux Tapestry Museum has reached the final phase. Following the jury's deliberations at the beginning of May, the RSHP (formerly ROGERS STIRK HARBOUR + PARTNERS) project was unanimously chosen from among four candidates. Winner of the competition, the British practice, with its international and multidisciplinary team, is now entering the negotiation phase with the City for the award of the contract.

Under the project management of the City of Bayeux, in close collaboration with the State, proprietor of the work, and with the strong involvement of the Normandy Region and the Department of Calvados, after the award of the public contract has been notified, the winning team will redesign of the Bayeux Tapestry Museum, located in the Grand Seminaire since 1983. Several objectives were clearly expressed in the architectural, technical and museographic program given to each candidate at the beginning of the competition: to optimize the conditions of conservation and presentation of the Bayeux Tapestry, to enrich the visitor experience while improving the reception conditions, to control the urban integration of the museum and its contemporary extension.

"We are delighted to have reached another important milestone for the project of the future Bayeux Tapestry Museum. The skills of RSHP have led it to carry out large-scale architectural projects such as the extension of the British Museum, the European Court of Human Rights and recently the Louvre Liévin Conservation Centre. All these beautiful references reassure us for the work on the project of our museum, certainly the most complex and ambitious ever carried out by the City of Bayeux (35 million euros)" adds Patrick Gomont, Mayor of Bayeux.

RSHP was ranked first by the jury for the quality of its architectural and heritage response to the site, the quality of its scenographic, multimedia and audiovisual response, its good functional and technical understanding of the building and outdoor facilities, and finally its consistency in terms of budget with the estimated budget and schedule (opening of the new museum is planned for 2027-2028). Chaired by Patrick Gomont, Mayor of Bayeux, the jury composed of 15 people, including institutional representatives and qualified personalities (historians, architects, landscapers, scenographers), who voted unanimously for the project led by RSHP.

"At the end of the vote, the revelation of the identity of the candidate was a nice surprise for us and the choice of a British architect is quite a symbol. We will indeed work together to highlight a universal work, emblematic of a history shared by the Normans and the English," says Loïc Jamin, elected in charge of museums, tourism, attractiveness and enhancement of heritage in Bayeux. *"The sketches of the future Bayeux Tapestry Museum will be unveiled to the public at the end of the summer. They will be visible in the chapel, in the information space dedicated to the project, a space with free access during the opening hours of the museum."*

Press contacts

The design team includes:

RSHP (Lead) – Lead Architect

Lympia – Heritage architect

Bassinot Turquin Paysage – Landscape architect

FL&Co – Museography/Conservation

Atelier Brückner – Exhibition design, graphics and signage

Create – Multimedia and Audiovisual design

Reflét – Lighting design

Ingérop – Structural, Mechanical and Electrical engineering

VPEAS – Cost consultants

Kahle acoustics – Acoustics

“We are absolutely thrilled to have been selected. It’s both a privilege, and a responsibility, to have been offered the opportunity to design the museum that will house this unique, fragile, emblematic object. As a British practice with a long history of working in France, there’s poetry in being able to contribute to a project that symbolizes the deep connections between our two countries, renewing these bonds and helping the next generations in their rediscovery of the tapestry, itself a unique embodiment of this shared past” says Stephen Barrett, Partner, RSHP.

About RSHP

RSHP is an award-winning, 180-strong architectural practice, operating globally. The practice’s architecture responds to social, environmental and economic challenges alike, shaping the way people engage with place and, in turn, the planet. RSHP’s design approach is rooted in thoughtfulness, problem-solving and ingenuity, always with adaptability in mind. Social responsibility is at the heart of RSHP, with over £20 million distributed through the practice’s charity to date.

RSHP is currently working on projects on 5 continents amongst which the Montparnasse masterplan in Paris, an extension to the British Library in London, UK and 5 new metro stations in Melbourne, Australia.

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