

TISKOVÁ ZPRÁVA

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AFRY became the general designer of the building of the century – the Vltava Philharmonic

Prague/Copenhagen – The Danish studio Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), which designed the future form of the new Prague concert building, chose AFRY CZ to play the role of general designer and local architect. The Vltava Philharmonic will function as a national cultural center not only for fans of classical music, but also for the general public.

The design of the Danish architects won the international architectural competition, which was launched last year by the capital city of Prague. The project does not only work with the design of the concert building, but also brings a unique solution to the public space - it is calculated by making the Vltava embankment accessible and opens the outdoor terraces of the Philharmonic, including the roof.

"We are very appreciative of the fact that BIG, which is a world leader in the field, has chosen us as the main partner to collaborate on the preparation of a modern architectural symbol of Czech music. The construction of the Vltava Philharmonic is being talked about as the project of the century," says AFRY CZ director Ivo Šimek.

"Working alongside one of the world's best ateliers, moreover, on such an important building, is very inspiring for us. After more than 100 years, it will provide Prague with the first concert hall designed for symphonic music, and at the same time it will start the

transformation of this neglected part of Holešovice into a modern district," adds Petr Zeman, director of the civil engineering and architecture segment at AFRY CZ&SK

"Any metropolis, whether it's Paris or New York, must maintain a vibrant city center. It is important that Prague, too, further develops its richness and colour, which are musical in nature, and allows another layer to be brought into it in the form of modern architecture. We are honored to be able to contribute to this," says BIG.

In addition to the creation of an architectural gem, the surroundings will also be transformed

The project to build the Vltava Philharmonic does not only concern the design of the concert building itself. Hand in hand with this proposal, work is being done on a demanding transport solution for the entire complex location near the metro station C Vltavská, freeing up the embankment and making it accessible to the public.

Almost all modes of transport will operate in the locality. AFRY designers are therefore preparing a solution that allows for transportation by subway, trams, cars, buses, taxis, bicycles, river ferry and train.

In addition, the proposal for the philharmonic hall foreshadows the development of an extensive brownfield in the vicinity of the building, where a new modern and climate-neutral district of Bubny-Zátory is to be created.

Top experts from all over the world are working on the study

The BIG international team is now finalizing a detailed architectural study in cooperation with architects and designers from AFRY and other top specialists from around the world and the Czech Republic. This will be the starting point for processing project documentation and obtaining the necessary permits in the following years.

Next year, the teams will work on project documentation to obtain a building permit, a year later they will prepare documentation for construction. It is expected to start in 2027 and to be completed in 2032.

Philharmonic open to all

The design of the Vltava Philharmonic with its geometry rising from the Vltava to the Prague skyline includes a series of public spaces, sloping colonnades and accessible terraces leading from the river bank to the roof. Thanks to them, the concert center will be accessible to all visitors, not just listeners. Everyone will be able to use the multi-level public space, which will make it possible to enter the Philharmonic from several places.

The terraces that surround the base of the building are inspired by the meanders of the Vltava river from Šumava to Prague. Pioneering elements of the design are also the 23-meter-high columns that support them, or the huge panes of curved glass that will form the facade of the building," says Ondřej Uhlárik, chief engineer of the project.

The project envisages the construction of three music halls and several rehearsal rooms, with the largest of them – the main hall – accommodating up to 1,800

spectators. The heart of the building will form the largest hall in the middle, to which the main foyer will adjoin. And the acoustics in the main hall of the new concert building will be at the best world level. The renowned studio Nagata Acoustics is behind the acoustic solution, according to whose designs the music halls of dozens of philharmonics around the world were created.

The Vltava Philharmonic will be home to two orchestras – the Czech Philharmonic and the Prague Symphony Orchestra FOK. Both orchestras will find residential premises and facilities for their educational programs for the public here. The building will also house the music department and creative hub of the Municipal Library in Prague. Visitors can also look forward to a café or a rooftop restaurant.

The project is not unknown to AFRY. In the role of a local architect, the company already participated in an architectural competition for the design of the Vltava Philharmonic. At that time, alongside the Norwegian and world-renowned studio Snøhetta. Their joint proposal came in 5th place.

About AFRY CZ

AFRY CZ, s.r.o. is an architectural, project-engineering and consulting company with more than 550 employees operating mainly on the Czech and Slovak markets in the field of providing innovative project services. It has a unique range of portfolios, covering the areas of architecture, construction, transport, industry, energy, infrastructure, water management and the environment. It belongs to the strong international

AFRY group founded in 1895, headquartered in Stockholm, with more than 19,000 experts in 40 countries and projects in more than a hundred countries of the world.

About Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG)

The architectural studio Bjarke Ingels Group, with branches all over the world, employs experts from the ranks of architects, designers, engineers, but also theorists who deal with architecture, urban planning, research and development of buildings. The studio was founded in 2005 in Copenhagen under the leadership of the Danish architect Bjarke Ingels. Many designs are unique through the use of pioneering technologies and often stand out by defying traditional conventions and dimensions. This is the case with Amager Bakke, a modern waste incinerator in Copenhagen, which also functions as a ski slope, the LEGO House in the Danish city of Billund, which resembles the blocks of a well-known building block, at the Méca building in Bordeaux, France, and others.

Visualization here:

<https://big.openasset.com/Page/Download?code=e1673d2d6bda63a1db9c9e6ea7db62ae>

Source: Bjarke Ingels Group