Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem
International Architecture Competition
2006 Ongoing

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See the link: https://goo.gl/AyZWpe for full description

Excerpts of the competition brief follow:

Introduction
The name of Bezalel is synonymous with 100 years of Israeli art, innovation and quality. Established in 1906 as the “Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts”, it is currently Israel’s leading academy in its field, incorporating traditional crafts and state-of-the-art technologies. Today, the Academy is spread over three campuses - Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, the Historic Building of Bezalel in Jerusalem City Center, and the Bezalel Gallery in Tel Aviv. It is home to 1,765 students, 400 teachers and another 100 employees and hopes to grow in numbers by an estimated 25% in the future.

The relocation of the campus to the city center of Jerusalem presents not merely a physical move, but a cultural shift through which Bezalel aims to participate in the life of the city and to bring the academy closer to the general public, who will have easy access to exhibitions and events conducted on campus, as well as informal meetings with the students and teachers. It is hoped that the new campus will provide a stimulating environment where the multi-disciplinary approach of the Academy will be optimized. This will be achieved, in part, by
offering not only functional education facilities but also places for leisure and any services that may be required to ensure that users can spend most of their day on the campus. Bezalel aspires to generate ongoing discourse between artists and designers both from within and outside the Academy by being an interface and meeting place. The Academy therefore has to negotiate between the more private spaces for work and contemplation, and public spaces that encourage interaction.

In addition to housing its current academic curriculum, Bezalel aims to create place for the development of new departments and growth in numbers of students and teachers, for a variety of extra-curricular and external courses, and an infrastructure that will allow the Academy to extend its resources to the public and pursue its ongoing workshop programmes promoting education.

The Site Context
The vacant building site is approximately 9,182 m2 (as shown in the image above) and is in the center of the City of Jerusalem, about 300m from the historic Old City and within the area referred to as the ‘Russian Compound’. It sits on the small hill located on a prominent North-South ridge, with Northern and Eastern Views overlooking the city. The Holy Trinity Cathedral [1] was built in 1872 as the centerpiece of the compound.

Today, the Holy Trinity Cathedral remains in use. The center of the Russian Mission is now on the Mount of Olives, directly eastward of the Compound. The government center has undergone rehabilitation and preservation developments, and the entire center is being developed as the new business, culture and public district of the city. The site, although undeveloped and currently used for parking, is central to the rehabilitation of the compound.

Objectives of the Competition

A New Urban Campus
The design should enhance the Academy’s opportunity to host events and activities that include public participation, to stimulate increased communication between student, designers and the community at large, and to engender a culture of diffusion that encourages spontaneous exhibits of student’s works, display galleries, cultural events, communal activities and student performances.

Barrier-Free Design
The campus should be conceived in accordance with internationally accepted principles of barrier free design. Emphasis is placed on spaces that are clearly visible, safe and easily accessible.
**Sustainable Development**
The design of the campus should encourage user-friendly, energy efficient structures that optimise microclimate, taking into consideration the principles of sustainable development and balancing social, economic and environmental needs.

**Consideration of Historic Buildings**
Six historic buildings are adjacent to the site. Under the current zoning plan, these are designated for preservation, indicating that minimal alterations to their facades will be permitted, and their historical character is to be respected and protected. These buildings include:

1. The Holy Trinity Cathedral
2. Sergei House, currently home to the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel
3. The Hospice for Men, currently the Jerusalem Police Headquarters
4. The Russian Mission, currently the Magistrate’s Courts
5. The Russian Hospital, currently used for Municipal offices
6. The Hospice for Women, currently the Museum of the Underground Resistance

**Building Program** *(Total net: 19,057 sq. mt. or 205127.841 sq. ft.)*

Bezalel Academy requires 2 types of teaching facilities:
Spaces for instruction, lectures and courses that require no use of materials for production, assemblage, manufacturing, etc:

i. Auditorium
   A large and multi-functional hall to cater to conferences, film screenings, performances, and other, and will be available to the different departments for their own purposes.

ii. Class, Lecture and Tutorial Rooms
   Spaces for lectures and other theoretical courses are to be dispersed around the campus for facilitated access from workshop and studio spaces of the different departments. These could also be used as screening rooms or presentation and gallery spaces (aside from each department’s own gallery space).

iii. Computer Laboratories
   These will cater to the different CAD, multi-media and animation requirements and be used for teaching and for students to use at their convenience.

iv. Television, Photography and Recording Studios

The Bezalel library hosts 70,000 books, periodicals and a variety of media sources. It requires comfortable reading and workspaces, computer stations, efficient scanning and photography services, and a place where bags and equipment can be safely stored by the entrance. Spaces with special requirements including workshops, studios and multipurpose areas for study and practical work using materials for production, assemblage and manufacturing, such as sculpting and drawing classes, workshops with machinery for carpentry and metalworking, etc:
v. Drawing Rooms
Used for drawing classes with models and still life.

vi. Workshops
The workshops provide tools and machinery for students to use in the production of their projects, and are often used prior to studio courses, thus proximity to studio spaces is important.

vii. Studios
It is in the studios that the students spend the majority of their time working on their projects and receiving both personal and round-table critiques. It is important for the studio to be able to serve as a presentation and gallery space. It is recommended that studios have an easy access to outdoor or balcony spaces.

i. Sports Facilities
Open to all students, faculty and staff, the sports facilities should house a gym and basketball courts. The showers and dressing rooms will be open 24 hours and accessible to anyone whether they use the sports facilities or not.

ii. Smoking Areas
Although most of the campus will be have a non-smoking regulation as by law, in order to be considerate of smokers in the building, it is important to have outdoor smoking areas.

iii. Canteen
Since the school will be open 24 hours a day, it is important to house meeting places to rest and purchase food. Vending machines for snacks and soft drinks will be dispersed around the campus.

iv. Coffee Shop
The coffee shop will be easily accessible to the general public to facilitate informal meetings.

v. Shop
To give students a place and opportunity to expose their work and sell it to the general public if they so wish.

vi. Bezalel Academy requires both formal and informal meeting places. These spaces will be used for study objectives and student activities (eg. exhibitions and a yearly book fair), for artists and designers of all sectors and for lecturers, students, visitors and guests of the Academy.

vii. Departmental and inter-departmental meeting places will be provided. They should be well illuminated, inviting and comfortable.

viii. One central meeting place will be provided as part of the building’s main circulation system (recommended, at the main entrance). The Academy’s location in the city center will enable easy access into the school and an entrance area on street level which should be welcoming and representative of the activities carried on there, with the possibility of using it as a gallery.

Ventilation & Natural Light
The design should maximize the use of natural light, especially for work rooms and studios, which should be in proximity to balconies where possible in order to allow for natural ventilation. It should be noted that there are some rooms whose function requires darkness.