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Competition for the renovation of the COAC facade

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Object of the competition

The object of the competition, presented at the Association headquarters on January 14th, is to select the best tender for the facade renovation, which must follow certain criteria when reinterpreting the look and materials used in the original 1962 project by Xavier Busquets, while simultaneously improving on building performance in terms of environmental and energy efficiency, insulation, noise control and ease of maintenance.

The competition is open to all Association members with legal capacity to practice the profession, and it will consist of two phases. The winner will receive €4,500 (VAT excluded) in fees and will be commissioned with drawing up the basic and executive report and carrying out the health and safety assessment and the preliminary study, including scaffolding assembly as well as works management.

Composition of the Jury

For the first phase of the competition, three types of participation have been established: based on the amount of proven experience (categories A and B) or based on ideas, proposals

and reflections on the object of the tender (category C). Based on the documentation presented by the participants, the Jury will select four finalists for category A, four for category B and four for category C.

The Jury will be chaired by Lluís Comerón, dean of the Association. The other members will be Rafael Moneo Vallés, architect; Carme Pigem Barceló, architect; Elisabeth Capdeferro Pla, architect; Albert Cuchí Burgos, architect; Carlos Ferrater Lambarri, architect, President of the Barcelona Urban Habitat Council; Anna Tostoes, architect, President of DOCOMOMO International; Fernando Marzá, architect, member of the COAC Governing Board; Manuel Ruisánchez, architect, member of the COAC Governing Board; Enric Mir, architect, member of the COAC Governing Board; and Assumpció Puig, Secretary of the COAC, acting as Secretary, who will be a member but will not vote.

Presentation ceremony

Over two hundred architects attended the presentation ceremony, at which the dean of the Architects' Association of Catalonia, Lluís Comerón, stated that there is no better time than now to renovate the Plaça Nova headquarters, in order to highlight the repositioning of the architects' work. He also emphasised the collective duty to maintain and rehabilitate architectural heritage, providing solutions that were not available 50 years ago, due to lack of technology.

Also present at the event was Rafael Moneo, who asserted that 'a competition is necessary in order to figure out what to do. It is the best way to tackle a project'. Meanwhile, Carlos Ferrater stressed that we 'must go to the essence of a building and respect the ideas of the original project, the photos and the original plans, which will surely help'. This idea was reiterated by Ana Tostoes, who emphasised the symbolic value of Busquets' building. Finally, Xavier Monteys stated that 'the renovation of the facade is also an opportunity to renew and promote the union of Culture and Politics'.

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