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Peter Palumbo, Zaha Hadid, Rodolphe Khoury among jurors for Beirut art museum competition

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The Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon (APEAL) launched a two-stage competition today for a new modern and contemporary art museum in Beirut, Lebanon. The museum, which is currently scheduled to open in 2020 in the Achrafieh district, is described as the city's largest cultural project in the last generation.

The jury features some notable names like Chair of the Pritzker Architecture Prize Peter Palumbo, who will be the competition jury chair. Other jurors include Zaha Hadid, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Julia Peyton-Jones, Rodolphe Khoury, Lamia Joreige, Fares Al Dahdah, and representatives from APEAL and Université St. Joseph.

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Stage One starts with a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) that is open to all Lebanese architects based in Lebanon or abroad. From the RFQ submissions, up to 10 architects will be shortlisted. The deadline for Stage One is January 4, 2016 at 6 p.m., Beirut Standard Time (GMT+2 hours). APEAL will provide the online application on its website soon.

In Stage Two, the shortlisted firms will propose site strategies and develop their concept schemes for the museum, in addition to technical and commercial elements.

As a cultural haven for Beirut, the winning proposal must embody the museum's core values of connecting the Lebanese community and diaspora. Located across the National Museum, the design must also relate to the country's current urban, social, economic, and political context. The winner will be announced in fall 2016.

To add to that, more about the museum will be revealed in the coming months. That includes its official name, collections and programming, and its curatorial staff. The search for the museum's founding director is currently underway.

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