

From: Kristiansand Municipality, Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, The Tangen Collection and Kanalbyen AS

## **PRESS RELEASE: WINNER OF THE ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION ‘KUNSTSILO’**

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### **Barcelona architects win the Kunstsilo competition**

**Architects from Barcelona have drawn up plans for a new art museum in Kristiansand that aims to become one of the leading art museums in the Nordic countries. The concept SILOSAMLINGEN (‘The Silo Collection’) won the big architectural competition for designing the art museum and cultural quarter on the wharf Silokaia in Kristiansand. The architects MESTRES WÀGE ARQUITECTES and MX\_SI ARCHITECTURAL STUDIO from Barcelona have collaborated on the project. Today jury chairman and mayor Harald Furre publicly announced the winner, selected from 101 proposals.**

The winners were present at a formal event in Kilden Performing Arts Centre, just next to where the art museum will be built. Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, the Tangen Collection, Kanalbyen and Kristiansand Municipality joined together to launch the architectural competition for the art museum and cultural quarter to be built around the grain silo from 1935.

‘In the monumental silo from 1935, we plan to build one of the leading art museums in the Nordic countries, a landmark and cultural powerhouse in the region – and in the national context. We believe this must be one of Norway’s most exciting museum buildings’, says Mayor Harald Furre. ‘The building is to be an exhibition arena for the Tangen Collection and Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, the regional art museum for the counties of Aust-Agder and Vest-Agder. It’s also exciting that we have a winner from Barcelona, the home of the architect Antoni Gaudí’, Furre adds.

#### **THE ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION**

‘We received a total of 101 proposals for the architectural competition that was announced on 15 February 2016, in partnership with the National Association of Norwegian Architects (NAL). The jury has only had the names of the proposals and not known which architects were responsible for them.

The names of the architects have been stored in 101 sealed envelopes. In the last few days all the envelopes have been opened, and we can now announce that we received proposals from a total of 17 countries, including China, Japan, the USA, European countries and Norway', says Furre.

On 5 December the proposals which made it through to Part II of the competition were publicly announced. The six finalists were from Japan, France, Spain, Italy, England and Denmark.

'Today's announcement is a huge milestone. We've determined the basic design of a building and cultural quarter that will be of regional, national and international interest. The catalyst for this entire project is the art collector Nicolai Tangen's generous gift of the Tangen Collection to Kristiansand in April 2015. We are deeply grateful to Nicolai Tangen', underscores Mayor Harald Furre in his speech.

### **THE JURY'S CRITERIA**

In selecting the winner, the jury has made its evaluations according to criteria which include the following: The quality of the exhibition spaces; a good, exciting and new use of the landmark grain silo; a good strategy as regards urban planning; the ability to carry out the project, and environmentally responsible solutions.

### **THE JURY'S ARGUMENTATION**

#### **About the winning project SILOSAMLINGEN, the jury has this to say:**

With a simple and powerful strategy, the project demonstrates a crystal-clear combination of architectural self-assurance and humble respect for the silo building and its newly assigned task. The project balances elegantly between, on one hand, total loyalty to the silo building's qualities, and on the other, an imaginative attitude to the inherently sculptural and special experiences it affords. With a few uncompromising cuts into the silo's interior, a subdued yet monumental volume with controlled top-lighting opens up and gives the whole museum a strong and unique character.

### **JURY**

The jury has consisted of Harald Furre (mayor of Kristiansand and jury chairman), Nicolai Tangen (fund manager), Gro Bonesmo and Gudrun Molden (both architects and members of NAL, appointed to the jury by NAL), Leonard Rickhard (artist), Karin Hindsbø (director of KODE Art Museums of Bergen), Randi Jessen (chief administrator/functioning director of Sørlandets Kunstmuseum), Eivind Buckner (project manager for Kanalbyen), and Lin Skaufel (city planner and architect, member of the Danish Association of Architects, MAA). The project manager for the planning and design competition has been Erik Sandsmark (advisor and urban planner for Kristiansand's Department of Urban Development).

## **2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE IN THE ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION**

The proposal DREAM took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the architectural competition and was also represented at the event at Kilden. Its creator is the architectural firm LARA – Andrea Ravagnani Architecture Lab from Rome, Italy.

## **THE TANGEN COLLECTION**

The museum building will also house the Tangen Collection, perhaps one of the most important collections of Norwegian modernist art from the period 1930–1970. Nicolai Tangen has given his collection of over 1,000 works to Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, also allowing the museum the right to administer the collection for all time. The collection continues to expand through purchases of Nordic art from the same period.

## **SØRLANDETS KUNSTMUSEUM**

Sørlandets Kunstmuseum SKMU is the regional art museum for the counties of Aust-Agder and Vest-Agder. It was established in 1995 by the two counties, Kristiansand Municipality and the art society Christianssands Billedgalleri. Its mission is to collect, document, preserve and do research on art, as well as to facilitate the public's experience and engagement with art. Every year the museum organises and presents in-house exhibitions, touring exhibitions, events, activities, lectures, workshops and educational projects. At the core of the museum is the art collection of Christianssands Billedgalleri, consisting of approximately 900 works. SKMU has today about 1,500 works in its collection. It has also recently announced that it is seeking a new director.

## **STEERING GROUP AND PROJECT MANAGER**

The project's steering group consists of representatives from the counties of Aust-Agder and Vest-Agder, the Tangen Collection, Nicolai Tangen, Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, Kanalbyen and Kristiansand Municipality. Mayor Harald Furre is the leader of the steering group. Gunnar Thon Lossius has recently been hired as manager for the project's further development, after the architectural competition is ended. Lossius had a similar position during the building of Kilden Performing Arts Centre in Kristiansand. Kilden is located next to Kunstsiloen ('the Art Silo'), hence a cultural constellation will be established, and natural synergy will develop between Kilden and the Kunstsilo building.

## **THE ONGOING PROJECT**

The steering group is currently working on financing the building project and the operation of the new art museum. Local, regional and national actors are involved in this work. The ambition is to start the project planning for the building in 2017, and that the museum can be opened to the public in 2020.

## **A LANDMARK GRAIN SILO FROM 1935**

In 1935, a grain silo was built for A/S Christiansands Møller at Grim alongside Kristiansand's harbour. This silo was first and foremost necessary for ensuring the efficient and rational running of the grain mill, but it was even more than that. As an architectural edifice, it is one of the finest examples of Functionalism in Norway. Its first phase of construction was designed by the architects Aasland & Korsmo, with the company A/S Høyer-Ellefsen as the technical consultant. The building was featured in the architectural journal *Byggekunst* in 1937, and it won the prestigious A.C. Houen's Foundation Award in 1939. This is Norway's most important award for architecture.

The grain silo on Odderøya was one of the first in Norway to be constructed with cylindrical cells made of reinforced concrete. The harbour silo of the national grain company Statens Kornforretning at Vippetangen in Oslo was constructed only a few months earlier. When erected, it represented a technical revolution in construction in Norway, being the first concrete building in the country to be cast with the help of a 'sliding formwork' (moveable moulds on scaffolding).