

PRESS RELEASE

Winner of First Place in the 'Swiss Embassy' competition in South Korea:

“Swiss Hanok” charms Seoul

Lausanne, 4 December 2012 – Burckhardt+Partner’s Lausanne-based office has won the First Prize and ranks First Place in the open competition for the new Swiss Embassy building in Seoul, South Korea. The jury has selected the “Swiss Hanok” entry ahead of 72 other competitors. The building, which is inspired by traditional South Korean architecture, is scheduled to be completed in 2014.

The project is a contemporary interpretation of the traditional Korean house, the “Hanok”, which nowadays has virtually disappeared from the city centre. The Swiss Embassy’s site resembles a veritable oasis in the heart of “New Town”, a part of the city that is undergoing rapid change. The new Embassy building, which is both modest and representative in its style, fits perfectly into this environment. The spiral shape of “Swiss Hanok” depicts integration and openness, native and foreign, as well as urban and consular space.

“We are delighted to have won the competition,” says Nicolas Vaucher, Associate Partner at Burckhardt+Partner. “It is the result of our dedicated team’s in-depth research into the urban development of Seoul and of South Korea. We also aim to become more active in Asia and by winning this competition, we have taken an additional step in the right direction”.

The competition was launched by the Federal Office for Construction and Logistics (OFCL) in May 2012 and the projects were judged in November 2012. The jury recommends the continuation and construction of the “Swiss Hanok” project by Burckhardt+Partner.

Burckhardt+Partner SA is one of the most famous architectural firms in Lausanne. The new Philip Morris International SA Research and Development Centre in Neuchatel, and the new Romande Energie SA Exploitation Centre in Rolle, are among its recent projects awarded within a competition. Another project in progress relates to three buildings in the Flon district of Lausanne of which one is for the High School of Music (HEMU).

The headquarters of this leading Swiss architecture and general planning company is in Basel, with branches in Berne, Geneva, Lausanne and Zurich. Burckhardt+Partner is active in all major business fields related to architecture and regularly participates in competitions. The service portfolio encompasses all of the SIA phases, as well as project development, investors research and project management.

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