

Press release 2014 02 18

## PES-ARCHITECTS WIN INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION IN CHINA

City of Fuzhou arranged an architecture competition for a site on the shore of the South China Sea, for the design of the *Strait Culture and Art Centre*. Five of China's top design institutes were invited to participate: ECADI, Beijing Architectural Design Institute, Tongji University, CCDI, and China Construction Engineering Design Group CCEDGC.

The competition organiser required each participant, in turn, to invite an internationally known architecture office with experience in designing large theatre buildings. CCEDGC invited PES-Architects, led by Pekka Salminen, to join as main designer.

The competition shortlist included, in addition to PES-Architects, the firm of British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid and the German company Gerkan, Marg & Partner (GMP), a company which has already built three large theatres in China.

Other participants included Canadian architect Carlos Ott, designer of the Paris Opera House and Hangzhou Grand Theatre in China.

On Chinese New Year's Eve, 30 January 2014, the Finnish team learned that it had won the competition. The Fuzhou culture centre comprises an opera with 1,660 seats, a multi-purpose theatre with 600 seats, a concert hall with 800 seats, an art museum, a film centre, and commercial premises in connection with a metro station. The total floor area of the culture centre is 128,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

The winning PES-Architects design team included many architects and special designers who had worked on the design of the Wuxi opera house.

Further development of the competition proposal together with the client started immediately, and construction is planned to begin at the end of 2014.

### PES-ARCHITECTS DESIGN TEAM (competition phase)

- Pekka Salminen , Partner in Charge, Chief Architect
- Martin Lukasczyk, Project architect
- LaiLinli, Project Manager, China
- Timo Kujala, Architect
- Masahide Nakane, Architect
- Tuukka Päivärinta, Architect
- Marcelo Diez, Architect
- LiWei, Architect
- Uros Kostic, Architect
- Beatriz Redondo, Architect
- Vesa Hinkola, Architect
- Jaakko Heliövaara, Physical Model

### LOCAL PARTNER CCEDGC

### SPECIAL CONSULTANTS

- Matti Haaramo, Steel structure, Vahanen Group, Helsinki
- Gretel Hemgård, Landscape Design, Helsinki
- Florian Scheible, Curtain wall, Knippers&Helbig, Stuttgart
- Echard Kahle &Thomas Wulfrank, Kahle Acoustics, Brussels
- Henrik Möller, Theater technology, acoustics, Akukon, Helsinki
- Johan Storgård, Theater operation and management, Helsinki