

The former Warsaw Ghetto site will host the Museum of the History of Polish Jews

*Architects chose copper for the cladding and façades in order to preserve
the building for future generations*

Brussels, 28th November 2011: The Museum of the History of Polish Jews - Warsaw's most prominent construction project - will open in 2013 on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto. This multimedia narrative museum and cultural centre - offering 12 800 m² of useable space - will present the history of Polish Jews and the rich civilisation they created over the course of almost 1000 years. One third of the building will be occupied by the core exhibition, while the remainder will host temporary exhibitions, a multi-purpose conference/cinema/concert hall, Educational Centre with film projection, workshop rooms, club, restaurant and café.



Exterior views of the museum to be opened to the public in 2013

Initiated by the Jewish Historical Institute Association in Warsaw in 1996, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews is funded by the City of Warsaw, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. It is estimated that the museum will attract 500,000 annual visitors from all over the world.



*USA President Obama visited the
construction site in May 2011*

*President Obama remarked that the
Museum was an important
undertaking, not only for Poles and
Jews, but also for the whole world.
He also promised to come back to the
Museum's opening together with his
daughters.*

119 architects in competition for the project

The International Architectural Competition for the building of the museum, announced by the Jewish Historical Institute Association and attended by 119 architects, was won by Finnish architects Rainer Mahlamäki and Ilmari Landelma.

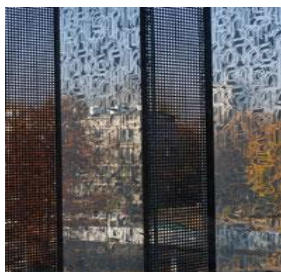
Both the jury and experts noted that the winning architects proposed a building that, being a monument of very tragic history, is oriented towards the future. Bohdan Paczkowski, the head of the jury said: *“The project, while expressing with force the drama of history described by the Museum, did it with restraint and moderation, thus achieving a permanent internal tension”*. Michał Borowski, Chief Architect of Warsaw at the time, said in an interview with Rzeczpospolita Daily that *“The winning project combined two opposites - the drama of history and a place that was alive.”* He pointed out that it was *“a crystal through which a stream has sculpted a passage to the Monument of Ghetto Heroes”*.



Interior plans of the museum

Copper: a key material in the Museum’s construction

Prof. Rainer Mahlamäki emphasised that copper is one of the most important materials used in the building, both in the façade and the cladding of the inner walls of the auditorium. Along with the visual reasons, he decided to use copper due to its longevity and the fact it is a sustainable material. As a result, it will preserve the remarkable public building for coming generations.



The outer façade gives a very interesting effect. As a result of placing copper and glass sheets in a zig-zag pattern, it lives according to the light and to the watchers’ position and movement. Viewed from the glass side, the façade is more greenish and reflective, but softer and more velvet-like if viewed from the direction of the perforated copper.

A double façade works as a sun shield and long-lasting raincoat.

The primary façade area is clad with corrugated and pre-patinated copper sheets, which give the façade its naturally blue-greenish tone. Outside this primary façade, there is the secondary façade made of glass and copper. The space in between the double façade is illuminated, creating the final effect of a public lantern in the cityscape.



About The European Copper Institute

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