

EMBARGOED NEWS: NOT FOR RELEASE UNTIL WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2017 AT 11AM PDT / 2 PM EASTERN / 7 PM UK / 8PM CET / AUG 24, 2 AM (CHINA)

Berggruen Institute Unveils Design by Herzog & de Meuron for Its Scholars' Campus Overlooking Los Angeles



The hilltop campus built along the existing contours of a mountain ridge in the Santa Monica Mountains ingeniously melds the design traditions of monasteries, rural villages and geometric ideals.

A landscape vision as much as an architectural project, the low-density complex of meeting and study spaces, scholars' residences, and gardens will preserve over 90% of the 447-acre site as open space.

Los Angeles, CA, [August 23, 2017] — The Berggruen Institute today unveiled plans for a new campus in Los Angeles designed by Herzog & de Meuron, the Pritzker Prize-winning architecture firm internationally admired for the environmental sensitivity and intellectual integrity of its work; and supported by Gensler as executive architect. The campus master plan and its design respond to both the Berggruen Institute's desire to respect and restore the landscape of its 447-acre site—over 90% of which will be preserved as open space—and the Institute's intention to create a private educational forum where distinguished scholars can interact with thought leaders.

Founded in 2010 by philanthropist and investor Nicolas Berggruen, the mission of the Berggruen Institute is to provide critical analysis and new ideas that will shape political, economic and social institutions. Since its inception, the Berggruen Institute has launched the *21st Century Council*, the *Council for the Future of Europe*, the *Think Long Committee for California* and the signature [Berggruen Prize for Philosophy & Culture](#). In May 2016, the Berggruen Institute announced the decision to build its new campus in Los Angeles, at a site in the eastern portion of the Santa Monica Mountains near Topanga Canyon State Park, in recognition of the forward-looking spirit and profound connection to the natural world that are ingrained in Southern California.

Nicolas Berggruen said, “The mission of the Institute is to develop and encourage new ideas for a changing world and to propose practical solutions that can transform society—and humanity—for the better. By building our campus here on the Pacific coast, we hope to advance the position of Los Angeles as a world center for ideas, linking the East to the West. By commissioning this visionary design from Herzog & de Meuron, we demonstrate our intention to make an important contribution to the architecture of Los Angeles and the world.”

A landscape vision as much as an architectural project, the design of Herzog & de Meuron in collaboration with Michel Desvigne Paysagiste and Inessa Hansch calls for the Berggruen Institute to concentrate development within previously graded areas, and thereby limits topographic changes. The principal site for the campus will be a long mountain ridge that was scraped and flattened in the 1980s to cap a landfill. The design envisions the ridge being restored and transformed into a linear park or gardened plinth, landscaped with drought-resistant plants and incorporating the collection, filtration and re-use of water.

Plans call for a low-density campus featuring meeting and study spaces, scholars’ residences and gardens along the linear park. The campus will follow the existing contours of the ridge and make use of infrastructure that is already in place, such as Serpentine Road, which will lead from Sepulveda Boulevard to the Berggruen Institute’s principal entrance, thereby leaving the surrounding natural landscape undisturbed. Public hiking trails traversing the site will be maintained and enhanced and provide access to the Institute campus. Plans call for preserving approximately 415 of the 447 acres for open space.

Jacques Herzog of Herzog & de Meuron said, “The Berggruen Institute's architecture is intertwined with a specific landscape concept. The rough coastal scrubs and woodlands on the hills and ridges of the property within the Santa Monica mountain range will be juxtaposed with an abundance of specific and diverse garden areas. The current barren ridge where the campus will be sited is transformed into a self-sustainable oasis by means of a water system within the Institute's campus based on harvesting, collection, cleaning and re-use. Such transformative, immediate impact is also what the Institute and its fellows aim to achieve through their work on today's most urgent concern: the economic, political and ecological imbalance in our societies between scarcity and plenty.”

A Scholars’ Campus

The principal facility of the main campus, built at the far southern end of the site’s eastern ridge, is a horizontal structure, referred to as the Frame, which hovers 12 feet above ground level, supported by

just a few elements. At its center, the Institute building features a large courtyard garden. The hovering structure frames and contains the courtyard garden while at the same time allowing for views of the city and nature beyond. Within the Frame, the Institute's main functions of studying, living and convening are accommodated in one level with occasional mezzanine spaces. Spaces provided include live-work lofts, meeting rooms, study spaces, offices, artists' studios, media spaces and dining and reception areas.

A sphere nestled within the open courtyard houses a 250-seat lecture hall within its base or bowl. As the tallest structure on the Berggruen Institute campus, the sphere rises approximately 45 feet above the roofline of the Frame. A second, smaller sphere, which sits atop the Frame, serves as a water storage tank. The total floor area of the Frame, including the lecture hall, is approximately 137,000 square feet. The Institute Frame accommodates a total of 26 Scholars-in-Residence units and 14 Visiting Scholars units.

To the north of the Frame, a Scholar Village occupies the central area of the Institute ridge, with approximately 26,000 square feet of residential use for scholars and guests, as well as support services and recreational facilities. A total of 15 units for scholars are built on either side of a wide, landscaped promenade, with courtyard residences recessed into the landscape. Each unit features extensive outdoor spaces including entrance courts and living gardens, designed as extensions of the indoor areas.

The third and last main area on the eastern ridge, occupying its northern end, is the site of the Chairman's Residence, a 26,000-square-foot compound that includes a library, conference room, dining and catering facilities and staff quarters, as well as residential areas. A series of adjacent landscaped terraces blends indoor and outdoor space for this single-story structure. Immediately north of the Chairman's Residence, a heavily landscaped area and gardens serve as a buffer zone between the Institute and the neighboring MountainGate community, 250 feet away.

Preserving the Landscape: Sustainable Features

Through passive measures such as the buildings' orientation, shaded overhangs, cross ventilation and thermal mass, the need for mechanical systems is drastically reduced. In open public areas, shade tree canopies and permeable pavement for pathways and parking make for inviting and livable exterior spaces, all linked into a water management system for irrigation of the landscape and gardens. Aside from applying passive environmental strategies, the low-energy lighting systems, electric vehicle charging stations and renewable energy sources further reduce the Institute's environmental impact.

The Institute will undertake a comprehensive planting program to mitigate the impact of construction on the site's oaks and other protected trees as well as a riparian habitat restoration plan.

To minimize the risk of wildfires, a fuel modification plan will establish buffer zones around all structures, dictate the type of vegetation permitted and specify requirements pertaining to landscape irrigation, vegetation thinning and removal of brush, dead plant materials and non-native plant species. A helipad is included for emergency use by firefighters.

To begin creating its new campus, the Berggruen Institute has submitted the site plan by Herzog & de Meuron to the City of Los Angeles, initiating the environmental review process.

ABOUT THE BERGGRUEN INSTITUTE

The Berggruen Institute's mission is to develop ideas and shape political, economic and social institutions for the 21st century. Providing critical analysis using an outwardly expansive and purposeful network, we bring together some of the best minds and most authoritative voices from across cultural and political boundaries to explore fundamental questions of our time. Our objective is enduring impact on the progress and direction of societies around the world. To date, projects inaugurated at the Berggruen Institute have helped develop a youth jobs plan for Europe, fostered a more open and constructive dialogue between Chinese leadership and the West, strengthened the ballot initiative process in California and, in collaboration with the Huffington Post, created The WorldPost, an international online daily digital platform that brings together thought leaders from around the world to share ideas. In addition, the *Berggruen Philosophy and Culture Center* confers the *Berggruen Prize*, a \$1 million annual award given by an independent jury to a thinker whose ideas are helping to shape human self-understanding and advance humankind.

ABOUT HERZOG & De MEURON

Herzog & de Meuron is a partnership led by Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron with Senior Partners Christine Binswanger, Ascan Mergenthaler and Stefan Marbach. The practice was established in Basel in 1978. An international team of six Partners, about 40 Associates and 380 collaborators works on projects across Europe, the Americas and Asia.

Herzog & de Meuron has designed a wide range of projects from the small scale of a private home to the large scale of urban design. While many of the projects are highly recognized public facilities, such as stadiums and museums, the firm has also completed several distinguished private projects including apartment buildings, offices, and factories. Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron have been awarded numerous prizes including the Pritzker Architecture Prize (USA) in 2001, the RIBA Royal Gold Medal (UK) and the Praemium Imperiale (Japan), both in 2007. In 2014, Herzog & de Meuron was awarded the Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize (MCHAP) for 1111 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach.

Projects currently under construction include Roche Development Plan and Roche Building 2, in Basel; 56 Leonard Street, a residential tower in New York City (planned completion 2017); Tai Kwun, a high-profile conservation project which will revitalize the historic Central Police Station Compound in Hong Kong (planned completion 2017); M+, the new museum for visual culture in Hong Kong (planned completion 2019); AstraZeneca's global R&D center and corporate headquarters in Cambridge, UK (planned completion 2018); and the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem, Israel (planned completion 2020). Other ongoing projects include Triangle, a new building for the Parc des Expositions at Porte de Versailles in Paris, and the Children's Hospital in Zurich. In April 2014, Herzog & de Meuron won the competition to design the New North Zealand Hospital in Hillerød, Denmark, a healthcare facility for the area's 310,000 citizens.

Recently completed projects include Elbphilharmonie, a mixed-use complex comprising a new philharmonic hall and public plaza, as well as a hotel and apartments, in Hamburg (2017); Porta Volta Fondazione Feltrinelli in Milan (first phase 2016); the Tate Modern Project in London (2016); the

Veterans Room in the Park Avenue Armory in New York City (first two pilot rooms in 2011, Board of Officers room in 2013, Veterans Room in 2016); the Gondelbahn (cable car) Espel-Stöfeli-Chäserrugg, connecting the valley station Espel with the mountain-top station Chäserrugg, in Toggenburg, Switzerland (2016); the Blavatnik School of Government in Oxford (2015); the extension and renovation of Musée Unterlinden in Colmar, France (2015); the new headquarters for BBVA in Madrid (2015); and the Vitra Schaudapot on the Vitra Campus in Weil am Rhein, Germany (2015).