

MAM SELECTS HERZOG & DE MEURON TO DESIGN NEW MUSEUM

*Vote by Architect Selection Panel is unanimous;
new MAM is key element of Museum Park revitalization*

For Immediate Release—Miami, Florida, September 14, 2006 . . . At a specially convened public meeting today, the Miami Art Museum’s Architect Selection Panel voted unanimously to engage the internationally celebrated firm of **Herzog & de Meuron** as designers of the Museum’s new and expanded facility, planned for Museum Park. Panel members included MAM Board Chair Aaron Podhurst; trustees Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Rafael Miyar, and Gloria Scharlin; and Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs Director Michael Spring.

Scheduled to open in late 2010, the new building, estimated at 125,000 square feet in size, will occupy four acres of land in Museum Park (formerly called Bicentennial Park). Along with the Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium, which is also relocating to the Park, the new MAM is a central element of the City of Miami’s master plan for the refurbishment and renovation of the Park and the re-vitalization of Miami’s downtown area.

Aaron Podhurst states, “The selection of an architect is a milestone moment for this project. We are delighted by the support we have received from Mayor Carlos Alvarez of Miami-Dade County and Mayor Manny Diaz of the City of Miami, as well as from the rest of our community. This encouragement has energized the Museum’s commitment to move ahead with this exciting project as quickly as possible in order to maximize the resources granted to us by the voters of Miami-Dade County in 2004, when they approved the general-obligation bond.”

Based in Basel, Switzerland, and with projects across Europe, in North America, and in Asia, Herzog & de Meuron is known for designs that are at once highly inventive and sensitive to the site, geography, and culture of the region for which the building is planned. Among their most widely recognized museum projects are the transformation of a power plant into Tate Modern, in London (2000); the de Young Museum, in San Francisco (2005); and the expansion of the Walker Art Center, in Minneapolis (2005). In 2001, Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron were awarded the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize for their body of work.

MAM Board President Mary Frank states, “The trustees of the Miami Art Museum could not be happier with the Architect Selection Panel’s choice of Herzog & de Meuron to design the Museum’s new home. The firm has demonstrated a consistently high level of intelligence and creative energy in the execution of a wide range of projects, including a number of museums. Herzog & de Meuron also has proven managerial skills, with an excellent track record for simultaneously handling diverse and complex projects around the world.”

Prior to convening the Architect Selection Panel, the Museum’s trustees formed an Architecture Research Committee, chaired by Museum Trustee Rose Ellen Meyerhoff Greene. With the assistance of the Museum’s project consultants, the Paratus Group, the Research Committee initially considered the work of 75 architects. The six-month-long research process culminated in a visit by committee members to 26 buildings by 12 architects in 13 cities and five countries.

Creation of the new MAM will be a complex undertaking, requiring knowledge of and sensitivity to the changing natural, built, and cultural landscapes of Miami; the diversity of the Museum’s growing audiences; and MAM’s needs as its collection and programs evolve.

MAM Director Terence Riley adds, “In seeking an architect, we were looking for the perfect blend of experience and innovation. Herzog & de Meuron has an incredible track record of successfully completed museums, coupled with a seemingly boundless design vision that has insured that each is unique to its circumstances. Anyone who has visited the many splendid museums they have designed worldwide, knows that Herzog & de Meuron can not only meet the challenge of building a new MAM, but will also create a stellar design for the city, the county, and, indeed, the nation.”

Jacques Herzog, founding partner, Herzog & de Meuron, says “We are excited to work on a museum project in Miami, which is such a vibrant mix of cultures. The region’s extraordinary role as an eminent international crossroads will inspire the programming and design of the new site, enabling the creation of a facility that is unique among the ever-expanding number of new museums worldwide.”

Museum Expansion

The expansion of the Miami Art Museum follows a comprehensive, roughly decade-long planning process. The Museum analyzed all aspects of its needs—from its

civic role to its space and programmatic requirements—in order to develop a functional plan for the new building.

The facility to be designed by Herzog & de Meuron will be on the north side of Museum Park, overlooking Biscayne Bay. It will include 32,000 square feet of galleries for the display of the permanent collection and special exhibitions; an educational complex with a library, auditorium, classrooms, and workshop space; and such amenities as a cafe and store. Plans also include an outdoor sculpture garden, which will be free and open to the public, within Museum Park and contiguous with the new Museum.

The Museum anticipates a total cost for the building project of \$208 million, the largest portion of which—\$120 million—will be used to cover the costs directly associated with the construction of the building and sculpture garden. The total cost also includes \$70 million for the Museum's operating endowment and \$18 million in transitional expenses related to the project.

The largest single source of funding for the project is the County's General Obligation Bond. In November 2004, Miami-Dade County voters overwhelmingly approved a bond that includes \$100 million for the construction of the Museum building. The trustees of the Museum are committed to raising additional funds from a combination of public and private sources, and have begun the fundraising process. Prominent civic leaders and MAM Trustees Ambassador Paul L. Cejas, Jorge M. Pérez, and Craig Robins are co-chairs of the Miami Art Museum's Capital Campaign Committee.

The Museum will remain in full operation in its current location on Flagler Street until the new building is complete.

Museum Park

The new MAM is critical to the transformation of forty acres of abandoned waterfront property on Biscayne Bay into Museum Park, which will include lawns, public gardens, and two major museums—MAM and the Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium, which will also host a branch of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. The creation of Museum Park, which is expected to be complete in 2010, is the result of a public-private partnership with four stakeholders: the Miami Art Museum, the Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium, Miami-Dade County, and the City of Miami. The master planner for the Park is the New York-based Cooper, Robertson & Partners,

whose extensive experience includes numerous public gardens and parks, urban master-plans, and streetscapes, among other types of projects.

Architects

The Swiss firm of Herzog & de Meuron is among the most highly praised architecture offices in the world. The firm, which maintains branch offices in London, Munich, San Francisco, Barcelona, and Beijing, has designed a stunning range of projects, from a railway engine depot; to private houses; the 1998 Dominus winery, in Napa Valley; hospitals; factories; office buildings; and stadiums. In addition to the museums mentioned above, they have designed a series of acclaimed buildings for such cultural organizations as the Küppersmühle Museum, for the Grothe Collection, in Duisburg, Germany (1999); the Schaulager Laurenz Foundation, Basel (2003); the Laban Dance Centre, London (2003), which was the recipient of the RIBA Stirling Prize; the CaixaForum-Madrid, Spain (completion in 2006); the Centro Cultural Museum and Cultural Center in Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain (completion in 2007); the Hamburg Philharmonic Hall, Germany (completion in 2009); and the new development for transforming Tate Modern in London (projected completion in 2012), among others.

In addition to founders Pierre de Meuron and Jacques Herzog, the firm includes five partners: Harry Guggler, Christine Binswanger, Robert Hösl, Ascan Mergenthaler, and Stefan Marbach. Currently, a team of 220 people representing 26 nationalities is working on more than 30 projects from San Francisco to Beijing. Herzog & de Meuron projects have appeared in numerous exhibitions and publications worldwide.

Miami Art Museum

Currently celebrating its tenth anniversary, the Miami Art Museum is dedicated to engaging the public with art from the twentieth century through the present. Since its founding in 1996, the Museum has built a collection of contemporary art with the goal of providing Miami with a legacy for future generations. MAM's collection has grown exponentially since *Art in America* called it "the quintessential Miami collection" in 1999. The collection both looks at international art from the perspective of the Americas and reflects the cosmopolitan makeup of Miami, forging connections among diverse groups and ideas. Among the artists represented in the collection are Carlos Alfonzo, José Bedía, Fernando Botero, Chuck Close, Joseph Cornell, Marcel Duchamp, Edouard Duval-Carrié, Teresita Fernández, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Ann Hamilton, Guillermo

Kuitca, Morris Louis, Ana Mendieta, Robert Rauschenberg, James Rosenquist, Rubén Torres-Llorca, George Segal, Lorna Simpson, and Frank Stella.

Like its collection, MAM's ambitious exhibition program—comprising both original presentations and traveling exhibitions from other museums—reflects the Museum's broad vision. Exhibitions have ranged from major solo shows of work by such artists as Ana Mendieta and Vik Muniz, to group shows such as *Miami in Transition*, a presentation of responses by Miami-based artists to urban development in the city. The Museum's education program, with offerings for teachers and students from kindergarten through twelfth grade, is the largest art-museum education program in Miami-Dade County.

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