

Press Release

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The architectural competition for the new headquarters of Česká spořitelna reaches the finals, jury selected three best projects

The projects by architects from Sweden, Germany and Austria/Czech Republic have made it to the finals of the international architectural competition for the new headquarters of Česká spořitelna. The winner will be selected in summer and autumn.

The independent jury, led by the architect Petr Hlaváček and consisting of experts in town planning and architecture, as well as representatives of Česká spořitelna and the project developer of Smíchov City, Sekyra Group, selected three best projects to the finals of the international architectural competition. The finalists are the architectural studios Baumschlager Eberle Architekten/Pavel Hnilička architekti (Austria/Czechia), Tham Videgard Arkitekter (Sweden) and Kleihues + Kleihues (Germany). In cooperation with Sekyra Group, Česká spořitelna will start discussions with the finalists, and in late summer or early autumn it will be decided which project will be realized. The competition followed the rules of the Czech Chamber of Architects.

The architectural projects for the the new headquarters of Česká spořitelna in the southern part of Smíchov City also include the drafts of the town-planning concept of this area, which should be turned into a modern multifunctional neighborhood by the bank and the developer Sekyra Group. The building of the headquarters of Česká spořitelna will start in 2021, to be finished two years later. The new headquarters should be designed as a campus, offering, in addition to office space, various services for the bank's employees and general public. Major emphasis will be put to the fact that the campus should play an important role in creating the fully-fledged urban public space.

“Česká spořitelna was at the birth of many beautiful buildings and projects, such as Rudolfinum or the Prague Riverbank. I believe that our new campus will become a real community center of the residents of Smíchov and Prague, offering, for example, interesting exhibitions or concerts. We take a lot of inspiration from the headquarters of Erste in Vienna, a natural part of the Viennese community life,” says Tomáš Salomon, CEO of Česká spořitelna.

“The building of Česká spořitelna in the southern part of Smíchov City will significantly contribute to the acceleration of the whole project, and will immediately follow up on the first, primarily residential part of the project. Since the whole concept was subject to thorough public discussion, the residential part of the project obtained the planning permit last week, with no appeal. This is quite extraordinary for a project this size. In both parts of the project, we will build public areas and create opportunities for various amenities in the parterre. Our ambition is to create a new destination of metropolitan importance and scope, and we're delighted that Česká spořitelna shares this view. We'd like to thank all active participants in public discussions on the project; we believe such discussion will continue to be an integral part of the project preparation,” said Luděk Sekyra, Chairman of the Board, Sekyra Group.

“The Smíchov City project is the first Prague brownfield that's obviously bound for realization, instead of remaining on paper only. This was enabled by unprecedented cooperation of the developer, city district, city hall and citizens, so the project obtained the planning permit without a single complaint. As the city district, we embrace the project, as the unsightly part of Prague 5 will turn into a multifunctional neighborhood with numerous apartments of which Prague is

currently short , and also thousands new jobs in offices, shops and restaurants,” said the mayor of City District Prague 5 Pavel Richter.

The international architectural competition for the new headquarters of Česká spořitelna was called by the bank, together with the MOBA studio and Sekyra Group, in September 2017. Invited were especially studios that had already realized office projects in the size of at least 20,000 m²; however, the bank also offered participation to architects that were new to projects of this size. 166 studios joined, of which the jury shortlisted 15 successful participants in November 2017. These 15 contestants made specific projects for the new campus of the bank. In March, the jury selected 6 finalists, and in June, three best projects were selected.

Link to web pages of the finalists:

www.baumschlager-eberle.com / www.hnilicka.cz

www.kleihues.com

www.tvark.se

Official website of the competition:

<http://cshq-citycampus.cz/about-the-competition/>

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We are the oldest Czech bank; our roots go back to 1825. Our aim is to lead individuals, companies and the whole society to prosperity. We are the **biggest bank in the Czech Republic**, with almost 5 million clients, and also the **most accessible bank**, with the largest network of centers and ATMs. We have a relevant offer for all client types from individual clients and small and medium companies to large corporations and public sector. We are playing a major role in providing services on financial markets. Since 2000, we have been part of the European banking group Erste. Our position enables us to set trends in technological and digital innovations and implementation of new services and products.

- We hold the leading market position in client and corporate credits, mortgages and overall deposits. Our services are used by every other municipality in the Czech Republic.
- As the only bank on the market, we enable clients to get a loan completely online, even if the applicant isn't our client.
- Our internet and mobile banking **George is the most popular banking digital service on the market.**
- Nadace České spořitelny is the biggest banking foundation in the Czech Republic. We focus on system changes in education and social business. The foundation invests the average annual sum of 60 million Czk to projects in these areas, and other programs of social benefits.