

FACT SHEET

Batumi Aquarium

Rustaveli Str.
Batumi
The Republic of Georgia

Client: Association A.T.U.

Architect: Henning Larsen Architects

Gross floor area: 2,000 m²

Type of assignment: First prize in invited competition. Other participants were the German architecture company Drei Architekten as well as the two American companies PJA Architects and Pryor & Morrow Architects.

Project team: Louis Becker (design director, partner) Anders Park (project manager), Viggo Haremst (design responsible), Michael Sørensen and Jaewoo Chun.

Batumi Aquarium - description

Henning Larsen Architects' proposal for Batumi Aquarium is inspired by the characteristic pebbles of the Batumi beach – shaped by sea currents through millennia. The building stands out as an iconic rock formation visible from both land and sea. The formation constitutes four self-supporting exhibition areas with each stone representing a unique marine biotype – the Aegean Sea & the Mediterranean Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Black Sea & the Red Sea and finally the more interactive exhibition space for teaching and “edutainment”.

The new aquarium will replace the older, existing aquarium and will be situated on the beach side of Rustaveli Str. adjacent to Batumi 6 May Park featuring a Dolphinarium and a Zoo.

Batumi Aquarium will become a modern, cultural aquarium offering visitors an educational, entertaining and visually stimulating journey through the different seas. The central, multipurpose space in connection with the aquarium features a café and retail functions and its flexible layout makes it well-suited for presentations and workshops. Visitors can gather in the central space to play, eat, shop and relax before continuing through the exhibitions. An outdoor landscape of sea archipelagos surrounds the aquarium and provides the opportunity for innovative research and learning as well as informal meetings along the coast.

The City of Batumi

Batumi is the capital of the south-western province Adjara in Georgia. The city has approx. 120,000 citizens and is situated by the Black Sea, approx. 20 km from the border of Turkey. Batumi is a very active tourist city and commercial port. Unlike other cities in Georgia, the houses of Batumi are richly coloured and the city bears the mark of being a sailor city with a number of restaurants and cafés. Batumi also has wonderful beaches and many small hotels.

Henning Larsen Architects

Henning Larsen Architects is the most international architectural company in Denmark. The company was founded by Henning Larsen in 1959 and today occupies 140 employees.

In the World Architecture Survey of the recognised British building magazine BD, Henning Larsen Architects features as number 86 on this year's Top 100 where the overall performance of the world's architecture companies is measured on the basis of capacity, turnover and number of employees. In January 2010, the same magazine placed Henning Larsen Architects as an impressive number six on this year's Top 10 in the market sector of culture.

Henning Larsen Architects has many years' experience of cultural projects and currently works on Reykjavik Concert and Conference Centre in Iceland, the Massar Children's Discovery Centre in Syria, Lanzarote Congress Centre and Moesgaard Museum in Aarhus.

Henning Larsen Architects has worked on several projects in Georgia, including a ballet school in Tbilisi, a Russian cultural centre, building consultancy in connection with the planning of a large university project as well as the current competition for a four-star hotel resort in Abastumani.

Henning Larsen Architects is managed by CEO Mette Kynne Frandsen, Design Director Louis Becker and Design Director Peer Teglgard Jeppesen.

Henning Larsen Architects A/S

Vesterbrogade 76
1620 København V
Denmark

Tel: +45 8233 3000

Web: <http://www.henninglarsen.com/>

E-mail: info@henninglarsen.com

Contact person:

Communications Consultant Lisbet Fibiger

Tel (dir): +45 8233 3097

E-mail: lf@henninglarsen.com

Project Manager Anders Park

Tel (dir) +45 8233 3014

E-mail: ap@henninglarsen.com