International Student competition: documenta center of information and communication

Image: documenta 1; 1955

Informations: www.documentahalle.de

Organizers:
The University of Kassel in cooperation with the documenta and Museum Fridericianum Veranstaltungs- GmbH is awarding a prize for the international student competition "documenta centre of information and communication" in the summer semester 2011.

Preface:
The documenta is regarded as one of the most significant and renowned exhibition venues of contemporary art worldwide. It was initiated in Kassel by the artist and art educator Arnold Bode in 1955. After the period of Nazi dictatorship, this venue was intended to confront and reconcile the German public with international modernity and with its own failed education. Nobody at that time could imagine that the exhibition, often labeled as "One Hundred Day Museum", would one day become an unprecedented success - and yet the documenta will take place for the 13th time in the summer of 2012.
The singular character of the documenta has remained constant: Every 5 years a new director is chosen reinventing the exhibition at the same time. During the documenta 12, 751,301 visitors came to see the venue. The documenta is considered, beside the Biennale of Venice, the most important recurring exhibition of modern and contemporary art worldwide.
Each documenta has, in its unique way, had a decisive influence on the international discussion of art. The documenta as an art communicating institution presents and reinvents contemporary art production while reflecting - as it has always been the case - issues such as the purpose of each particular exhibition. The documenta has established itself as an institution which is more than a simple presentation of contemporary art.

Competition details:
During the 13th documenta, a temporary centre of information and communication is planned to be placed in the city of Kassel, a hybrid space housing several functions during the 100 day venue. Next to different areas such as a lecture room, event stage, press centre, shop or bookstore, gastronomy and documentation area, a series of necessary ancillary functions have to be also included in the planning.
Beside a draft of a central structure, another task is to depict smaller satellites in exemplary form that can be clustered around strategic bases in the city. All in all, approximately 1300 square meters of usable area is planned for the documenta centre of information and communication.
On the one hand, the aim of the assignment consists of a sophisticated space conceptually thought out that will react in its nucleus in terms of architectural and urban design to the greatest exhibition of contemporary art in a sustainable manner.
On the other hand, the concepts for a future centre of information and communication should contain a high user acceptance and do justice to the host's role for an international audience.

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