

Museum der Weltkulturen – Summary

The city of Frankfurt is planning to erect a new building for its museum of world cultures („Museum der Weltkulturen“) on the Museumsufer street, one of Europe’s most renowned museum locations. For this purpose, it is planned to conduct an international contest of architects, with a maximum of fifty participants. This starts in July, the contributions should be submitted in mid-October 2010th.

The Museum of World Cultures was established over one hundred years ago thanks to the initiative and support of the cosmopolitan citizens of Frankfurt am Main. Today, in the 21st century, the Museum’s remit is to make accessible its collections through exhibitions, events, a new research laboratory (Labor der Weltkulturen), and an extensive and stimulating education programme. Recognised for its world class collection and leading scientific inquiry, the Museum aims to communicate greater understanding and respect for people and cultures around the world. Key to this process is the fertile relationship between anthropology, art and literature that features as the Museum’s unique selling proposition. To this purpose, it provides a platform for innovative research and knowledge production on world cultures. Since the end of World War II, the Museum has been housed on the banks of the river Main. However, due to space restrictions, it has been unable to present its significant collections within a permanent exhibition. With the planned extension, the Museum will benefit from considerable additional space and will be able to promote the significance of its collections both nationally and internationally. The extension will have up to 6.000 m² of working space for exhibitions (permanent and temporary), a centrally located reading room, publicly accessible stores, an auditorium for public events, rooms for museum education, and a foyer/entrance hall. In addition, there will be infrastructural space for amenities such as a café, a museum shop, and workshops for restoration. The location for the new extension is situated in the small park area at the rear of the two Museum Villas that were built in 1900. The Museum lies adjacent to the Museum of Applied Arts (Museum für Angewandte Kunst) built by Richard Meier (for more information, go to www.museumsuferfrankfurt.de). The two Museum Villas plus the stable buildings located at the rear of the park form an integral part of the new concept and need to be included within the urban and architectural planning of the site. In this way, inside and outside locations together constitute a whole, enabling additional outdoor events to take place.

