

PRESS RELEASE

FROM THOSE—YOU SAVED

COMPETITION FOR THE CONCEPT OF A COMMEMORATION HONORING
POLES WHO RESCUED JEWS DURING THE GERMAN OCCUPATION



WARSAW
SEPTEMBER 2014

„THOSE SAVED TO THEIR RESCUERS“ – LAUNCH OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE CONCEPT OF A COMMEMORATION HONORING POLES WHO RESCUED JEWS DURING THE GERMAN OCCUPATION

September 8 2014. An international competition for the concept of a Commemoration honoring Poles who saved Jews during the German occupation „Those saved to their rescuers“ was announced today in Warsaw. The idea for the Commemoration comes from the contest’s organizer: the Remembrance and Future Foundation established by Zygmunt Rolat. The foundation is also supported by the Polish and International Committees for the Construction of the Commemoration as well as Bronisław Komorowski, the President of the Republic of Poland. The Commemoration will be located in the immediate surroundings of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. The Competition’s first phase is intended as an open artistic debate focused on finding an appropriate method and form of honoring the rescuers in this remarkable location. The competition is open to both young and experienced artists. Those wishing to not only participate in the discussion but to submit their designs for the construction of the Commemoration must submit a Competition Participation Request by October 8, 2014. From among the entries submitted by the December 5, 2014 deadline, the Competition jury (headed by Milada Ślizińska) will selected five artistic visions of particular promise. The authors of the five selected entries will take part in the Competition’s second phase – submitting realistic conceptual designs (first quarter of 2015). The Competition Jury will announce the winning entry in April, 2015. The project is expected to be built in autumn 2015.

The idea for the construction of the “Those saved to their rescuers” Commemoration, as explained by Zygmunt Rolat, the founder of the Remembrance and Future Foundation, *“Developed from the deeply-held conviction that Jews experienced much evil during the German occupation of Poland (unfortunately, many times also at the hands of their non-Jewish fellow citizens). This is why it is so important to honor those who did not bow down in the face of evil, and risking their own lives and those of their families, selflessly provided assistance to the Jews.”* Konstanty Gebert, a member of the board at the Remembrance and Future Foundation added: *“Our initiative is an attempt to repay the debt of gratitude and remembrance toward these heroes, both the known and the nameless. Remembering them is part of the Jewish memory; it is high time to give this memory a visible form.”*

The Competition is open both in terms of the expected artistic form of the Commemoration, as well as who is allowed to participate. The Competition is open to both experienced and young artists wishing to add their design to the discussion. According to the published competition rules, *„the Jury will select the design concept which expresses the survivors’ gratitude most effectively while also revitalizing and integrating the public space surrounding the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, while addressing the expectations of its users. [...] The Commemoration honoring the Poles who rescued Jews during the German occupation calls for a unique spatial solution, an innovative formula that would inscribe itself into the existing urban space, and engage it in a characteristic dialogue. The Commemoration should express gratitude to all such Poles, including those whose names, for various reasons, we will never learn. The Organizer views the Commemoration as a focal point of new interpretations in the making and, to the extent possible, inspiration for the future generations.”* The design proposals may utilize any available materials and all forms of artistic expression. The

Commemoration may also feature a performative program intended to activate and educate – provided that the Commemoration’s solemnity remains respected. Design authors should appreciate the heritage of project’s remarkable site. Prior to World War II, it was at the center of Warsaw’s vibrant and colorful Jewish quarter, which, during the War, became a witness to the tragic extermination of the residents of the then-established Ghetto, and was eventually razed to the ground.

Artists desiring to have their Commemoration designs implemented, should file Competition Participation Requests by October 8, 2014, while the deadline for submitting works for the Competition’s Phase I is on December 5, 2014. Early in 2015, the Competition Jury headed by Milada Ślizińska will select five finalist projects. The authors of these five finalist projects will participate in Phase II, submitting realistic conceptual designs (first quarter of 2015), one of which will be chosen for implementation. A detailed description of the Competition and its rules can be found at: : www.raff.org.pl.

The initiative to build the “Those saved to their rescuers” Commemoration is a public one, fully financed by the Remembrance and Future Foundation from private donations from the worldwide Jewish community. The project’s execution is overseen by the International Committee as well as the Polish Committee for the construction of “Those saved to their rescuers” Commemoration, the establishment of which was announced today. Members of the Polish Committee include: Waldemar Dąbrowski, Jan Englert, Janusz Głowacki, Zbigniew Hołdys, Jan Kulczyk, Grażyna Kulczyk, Robert Korzeniowski, Krzysztof Penderecki, Rev. Kazimierz Sowa, Jerzy Starak, Andrzej Wajda and Krzysztof Zanussi. Similar committees will also be established for Europe, Israel and the United States.

The Commemoration project has received the support of Bronisław Komorowski, the President of the Republic of Poland. In a letter to the initiative’s organizer’s and contest participants he invoked the words of former President of Israel Shimon Peres: *“We have to do all we can so that the new generation of Jews and Poles know that it was only here, on Polish soil, that a death penalty existed for helping Jews. For the measure of humanity is our ability to offer help to those who need it, when doing so represents the biggest risk to ourselves and our whole family.”*

FUNDACJA PAMIĘĆ I PRZYSZŁOŚĆ / REMEMBRANCE AND FUTURE FOUNDATION

Established in 2013 by Polish-Jewish American businessman and philanthropist Zygmunt Rolata, the Remembrance and Future Foundation has tasked itself with creating a Commemoration of Poles who rescued Jews during the German occupation. The Commemoration is to be built in the vicinity of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews and will be entirely financed by private donations from the Jewish community in Israel and abroad. The project has received the support of the President of the Republic of Poland, the Mayor of the City of Warsaw and the leadership of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

The project is being overseen by the Foundation's International Committee, which features representatives of various Jewish communities in Israel and abroad. Its members include: Zygmunt Rolat – chairman, Hanoch Gutfreund (Israel); Corinne Evens (France); Elżbieta Ficowska, Konstanty Gebert, Adam Roffeld, Michael Schudrich (Poland); Michael Berkowicz, Abraham Foxman, Wiktor Markowicz, David Marwell (USA).

The Commemoration's design will be selected through an international "Those saved to their rescuers" competition announced on September 8, 2014. The competition is open to experienced artists whose portfolios include successful realizations as well young artists wanting to add their voices to the debate over the Commemoration's nature and form. The announcement of the Competition's winning entry is expected to take place in April 2015. The winning project should be built by autumn 2015.

Additional information at: www.raff.org.pl

Additional information is available from:

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF “THOSE SAVED TO THEIR RESCUERS” COMMEMORATION

POLAND

Adam Rotfeld
Konstatnty Gebert
Michael Schudrich
Elżbieta Ficowska
Feliks Tych
Leopold Kozłowski

USA

Zygmunt Rolat
Wiktor Markowicz
Richard Horowitz
David Marwell
Harvey Krueger
Irene Pletka
Lydia Sarfati
Michael Traison
Stanley Skalka
Samantha Rolat Asulin
Lee Feinstein
Michael Berkowicz
Abraham Foxman

ISRAEL

Shewach Weiss
Samuel Wilenberg
Chaim Hecht
Miriam Rotfeld

CANADA

Peter Jassem

FRANCE

Corinne Evens
Marek Halter

AUSTRALIA

Andrew Reicher

Zygmunt Rolat

Born in 1930 in Częstochowa, Poland.

He spent the war in the Częstochowa Ghetto where he lost his only brother and parents. His brother was the youngest of six Jewish partisans executed by a German firing squad, his father fought and died during an uprising in the Treblinka death camp, his mother died in a death camp. Rolat was deported to the HASAG Pelcery labor camp in Częstochowa.

Immediately after the War, he emigrated to the U.S., and obtained a university degree in international relations. He developed a financial firm specializing in imports. He has been visiting Poland since the 1960s, and has been actively engaged in restoring the memory of Częstochowa’s Jews. He is the chairman of the North American Council of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, and one of the Museum’s major benefactors. He actively supports cultural institutions and events, including Warsaw’s Teatr Wielki, The Częstochowa Philharmonic and the Cracow Jewish Culture Festival. He is also involved in philanthropic activities in the U.S., where he is a member of the Board of Trustees of The Kosciuszko Foundation – the U.S.’s most significant Polish-American cultural and educational institution. Rolat is an Honorary Citizen of the City of Częstochowa.

POLISH COMMITTEE FOR THE „THOSE SAVED TO THEIR RESCUERS” COMMEMORATION

Marek Belka – President of National Bank of Poland (NBP)
Juliusz Braun – Chairman, Polish Television (Telewizja Polska)
Waldemar Dąbrowski – General Director of Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera, former Minister of Culture
Jan Englert – Director, the National Theatre (Warsaw)
Janusz Głowacki – writer
Zofia Gołubiew – Director, National Museum in Cracow
Zbigniew Hołdys – Polish rock music legend
Prof. Michał Kleiber – President, Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN)
Prof. Marek Krawczyk – Rector, Medical University of Warsaw (WUM)
Robert Korzeniowski – four-time Olympic track and field champion
Jerzy Koźmiński – former Polish ambassador in the U.S.A.
Jan Kulczyk – distinguished benefactor of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews
Grażyna Kulczyk – founder, Art. Stations Foundation
Jerzy Limon – professor, co-founder and president of the Theatrum Gedanese Foundation (Shakespearian theatre)
Ks. Grzegorz Michalczyk – chaplain of Warsaw’s creative community
Edward Miszczak – director, TVN television
Prof. Adam Myjak – Rector, The Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw
Małgorzata Niezabitowska – columnist
Agnieszka Odorowicz – General Director, Polish Film Institute (PISF)
Jan Ołdakowski – Director, Warsaw Rising Museum
Prof. Wiktor Osiatyński – Constitutional law expert
Janina Paradowska – columnist
Prof. Krzysztof Penderecki – composer
Prof. Andrzej Rottermund – Director, Royal Castle in Warsaw
Ks. Aleksander Seniuk – chief, John Paul II Institute
Ks. Kazimierz Sowa – Director, Religia TV channel (TVN)
Jerzy Starak – businessman, philanthropist
Andrzej Wajda – film director
Krystyna Zachwatowicz – scenographer
Marcin Zamoyski – Mayor, City of Zamość
Krzysztof Zanussi – film director
Jacek Żakowski – columnist

Waldemar Dąbrowski commenting on “Those saved to their rescuers” initiative:

Could there be a more beautiful name for a symbolism-laden space offered, after more than 70 years, to those to whom so much is owed? Could there be a more telling way to honor the memory of these, often anonymous, heroes – especially so since the initiative came from the Polish Jewish community?

Recently, I had the opportunity to see Roman Polański’s “The Pianist” once again – it is not only an incredible work of art, but also a testament to that time – a time when some risked their own lives to save the lives of others. I believe that this piece of land will, above all, be a testament. A symbol and a gesture toward the past – a past which continues to shape our consciousness despite the passage of time. A universal symbol invoking the individual and familial memories of each one of us. For me, it will be a symbolic way to honor my mother and my grandparents – and the thousands of other true heroes of those times.

Placing this Commemoration near the Museum of the History of Polish Jews and the Ghetto Heroes Monument appears to be quite appropriate. Is there a square meter of land in Warsaw that was not soaked in blood and marked by human suffering? Let us make this space a symbol of humanity’s superiority over soulless brutality – a symbol of eternal values that should form the basis on which each human being’s life is formed.

President of the Republic of Poland

Warsaw, 27th May 2014

The initiators and organisers
of the competition: *Pamięć i Przyszłość*
– *Remembrance and the Future*
in memory of Poles who saved Jews
during the German occupation

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great satisfaction and joy that I heard about the initiative to build the “The saved to their rescuers” monument in the Muranow district of Warsaw, next to the Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

I am certain that the monument will be a wonderful way of expressing the gratitude to those Poles who dared to help Jews during the Holocaust, and that it will become an important part of the stories told of good people in such terrible and evil times. It will also express our joint hope that despite everything, people are able to do good even in the face of the greatest threats.

I support your initiative whole-heartedly and would like to warmly thank you for taking it. In this context I would like to refer back to my conversation several years ago with the President of Israel Shimon Peres. Back then he said “We have to do all we can so that the new generation of Jews and Poles know that it was only here, on Polish soil, that a death penalty existed for helping Jews. For the measure of humanity is our ability to offer help to those who need it, when doing so represents the biggest risk to ourselves and our whole family”.

I am certain that the building of this monument is an action that is fully in line with those sentiments.

Thank you!

Bronisław Komorowski

THOSE SAVED TO THEIR RESCUERS” – COMPETITION FOR THE DESIGN OF A COMMEMORATION HONORING POLES WHO RESCUED JEWS DURING THE GERMAN OCCUPATION

BASIC COMPETITION INFORMATION AND A MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZER

Competition Information

Competition organizer: Remembrance and Future Foundation

Web site: www.raff.org.pl

Competition audience: Polish and foreign artists, architects, landscape architects and designers. Artyści, architekci, architekci krajobrazu, designerzy polscy i zagraniczni. The competition is open to both experienced artists as well as young artists (students).

Commemoration localization: Immediate vicinity of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw – Poland. The urban block of open space bordered by Anielewicz, Zamenhofa, Karmelicka and Lewartowskiego streets. The Commemoration may be located at the west side of the Museum building and in the northeastern corner of the block.



Competition task – general assumptions: The Commemoration would memorialize Poles who rescued Jews in the German-occupied Poland. It is expressive of the gratitude of the Holocaust survivors, their families and relatives, and of the Jewish community at large. The Commemoration calls for a unique spatial solution, an innovative formula that would inscribe itself into the existing urban space, and engage it in a characteristic dialogue. The Commemoration should express gratitude to all such Poles, including those whose names, for various reasons, we will never learn. The Organizer views the Commemoration as a focal point of new interpretations in the making and, to the extent possible, inspiration for the future generations.

Form of Commemoration: The artists are free to choose the means of their artistic expression while avoiding literal or figurative representations. The Commemoration concept may be accompanied by a supplementary program; of performance, active engagement and/or educational forms.

Competition Phases:

Phase I: Development of, and submission to Organizer, of an artistic vision of the Commemoration.

(Anonymous submissions)

Phase II: Preparation of Commemoration designs by the 5 authors/teams selected by the Competition Jury in Phase I. During negotiations with the Organizer comments submitted by the Mayor's office and the Competition Jury will be considered. (Non-anonymous)

Entry and participation terms

Competition provides for a two-track process:

IMPLEMENTATION track: ścieżka przeznaczona dla uczestników, którzy (zgodnie z Warunkami konkursu) mogą podjąć się realizacji Upamiętnienia i ubiegają się o udział w II fazie konkursu. Obowiązują ich dopuszczenie do udziału w konkursie na podstawie m.in. cv i portfolio zawierającego co najmniej jedną zrealizowaną pracę..

DISCUSSION track: Artists, architects, landscape architects, designers (including students) who choose not to engage in project implementation.

Competition Jury:

Competition Jurors: Michael Berkowicz, Michael Crosbie, Jarosław Kozakiewicz, Rainer Mahlamaki, Marek Mikos, Maciej Miłobędzki, Oren Sagiv, Jakub Szczęsny, Hanna Szmalenberg, Milada Ślizińska (Chairperson of the Competition Jury).

Observers:

Ryszard Horowitz - representative of the International Committee to Build the Commemoration

Agnieszka Celeda-Honkisz - representative of the Chancery of the President of Poland

Alicja Schnepf - representative of the Polish Righteous Among the Nations Association

Zygmunt Stępiński - representative of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews

Expert:

Konstanty Gebert, journalist and columnist, representative of Remembrance and Future Foundation

Prizes: Total Competition Phase 1 prize pool of US\$ 42 000. Competition Phase 2 Prize: the winner signs the Commemoration design services agreement, a project of a total value of US\$ 800 000. Up to five equal prizes (of US\$ 7000 each); their winners qualify for Competition Phase 2 (Implementation track) and distinction awards of a total pool of US\$ 7 000 (Available to DISCUSSION track Participants).

Competition framework timetable:

Competition Phase I: September 8, 2014 – January 15, 2015

September 8, 2014 – call for entries

October 8, 2014 – final deadline for submitting Competition Participation Requests (IMPLEMENTATION track)

December 5, 2014 – final deadline for submitting works for Phase I of the Competition (Commemoration artistic vision)

January 15, 2015 – announcement of Phase I results, selection of five finalist works

Competition Phase II: January 15, 2015 – April 2015

January – April 2015 – project negotiations and design preparation – Concept of the Commemoration.

April 2015 – announcement of Competition Phase II results, announcement of Competition winner

Autumn 2015: unveiling of „Those saved to their rescuers“ Commemoration

Detailed information and Competition rules can be found at: www.raff.org.pl

Message from the Competition Organizer

The task we put before the Competition Participants is an extremely difficult one. We expect this Competition will enable us to select the appropriate form of Commemoration for one of the greatest acts of bravery of our times: the rescue of Polish Jews, in spite of the threat of death at the hands of the German occupiers, by some of their Polish compatriots. We desire for this Commemoration to focus on the rescuers themselves, their moral character, courage and aloneness. We also want it to speak expressively, more than 70 years after the fact, to the grandchildren of the witnesses and participants of those events, and to the future generations. We want the Competition to contribute to the discussion on the timeless currency and value of the experience of the rescuers and the rescued. At the same time, we want this work to be free from endless historical polemics.

We expect creation of a work that would express our gratitude and homage, and would contribute to the integration of urban space in this symbolically charged place. In wartime, this was the central area of the Ghetto, where the seat of the Judenrat was located, and it witnessed events terrifying in their cruelty. Not one of the buildings once standing there survived to this day. The present tenants of the surrounding housing built there after the war have no connection with the war-time or pre-war history of that district.

The space of the Ghetto Heroes Square and the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, however, has become the symbolic space of Jewish remembrance. Within it stand monuments commemorative of not only the Heroes of the Ghetto Uprising, but also of other persons linked with the war-time events. This includes Irena Sendler, who was a rescuer of Jewish children and Jan Karski, the emissary of the Polish ‘Underground State’, who sought to alert the Allies of the ongoing genocide, but to no avail. Here also stands the monument of the German chancellor Willy Brandt, who in December 1970 spontaneously kneeled before the monument of the Heroes of the Ghetto Uprising, a gesture to be remembered for generations.

The work we expect should attempt to contribute to the integration of a highly diverse and disparate urban space. We want it to serve as a source of inspiration, emotion and aesthetic reflection for those rescuers and rescued still alive today and for their descendants. The work is to be shared with people visiting Warsaw and the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, as well as the inhabitants of the district in which it will stand. We do not want to forejudge the form your artistic vision will adopt. Everything is acceptable: from the more traditional sculpture forms to land art.

We are convinced that the artist’s creative imagination is capable of expressing all these diverse, yet not necessarily contradictory expectations. We also believe that the immense complexity and sensitivity of the topic will constitute a challenge rather than an obstacle for you.

COMPETITION JURORS BIO:

MICHAEL BERKOWICZ

Was born in Siberia and grew up in post war Poland (Wroclaw). He attended a public Jewish school where he studied Yiddish and Jewish history and was involved in Jewish social and cultural life in Poland. He is passionately interested in Polish-Jewish dialogue and Jewish presence in contemporary Poland. He is particularly sensitive to these issues because of his Polish Jewish background as well as his professional affiliations.

As a synagogue architectural designer working with congregational committees, he often deals with issues of Jewish identity – both religious and secular. In a broader sense, he addresses issues of religious/ethnic diversity in various settings and recognizes the impact of the arts and culture on societal self-definition.

MICHAEL J. CROSBIE

Ph.D., FAIA, has made significant contributions in the fields of architectural journalism, research, teaching, and practice. He has served as an editor at Architecture: The AIA Journal, Progressive Architecture, ArchitectureWeek.com, and is editor-in-chief of Faith & Form, a quarterly journal on religious art and architecture. He is also a frequent contributor to Architectural Record and writes about architecture and design for the Hartford Courant. He has also appeared as an architectural expert on The History Channel. He is the author of more than 20 books on architecture (including five books for children) and has edited and contributed to more than 20 others. Dr. Crosbie is Associate Dean of the University of Hartford's College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, and Chairman of the Department of Architecture. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Roger Williams University and Catholic University. He has lectured and served as a visiting critic at architecture schools in North America and abroad, including the University of California (Berkeley), the University of Pennsylvania, Yale University, and the Moscow Architectural Institute. Dr. Crosbie is a registered architect in the State of Connecticut, has practiced with Centerbrook Architects & Planners and Steven Winter Associates, and is a member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

JAROSŁAW KOZAKIEWICZ

Artist, born in 1961, active at the nexus of art, science and architecture. Graduate of the Faculty of Culture, Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw and of the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City. Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. The inspirations behind his artistic-architectural projects include modern ecology, genetics, physics, astronomy and ancient cosmological conceptions relating to the connections between the micro and macrocosmos. His artistic quests have led him to create utopian and critical architectural and land-art projects. Some of them received prizes in prestigious architectural competitions, such as, the Centre of Contemporary Art in Toruń (2004), and the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw (2007). In 2005, he submitted the winning entry in the international competition for the Park of Reconciliation near the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum. In 2007, his Mars Project was completed - a massive land-art redesign at a former coal mining area around Lake Baerwalde in Germany. Other projects include proposals - often utopian in character - for ecological or symbolic solutions in the fields of urban planning (Transfer, 2006) and architecture (Oxygen Towers, 2005). In 2006 Kozakiewicz represented Poland at the International Architecture Exhibition in Venice.

RAINER MAHLAMÄKI

Professor Rainer Mahlamäki (born 1956) is a Finnish architect, President of the Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA), Professor of Contemporary Architecture at the University of Oulu Department of Architecture and joint partner with Professor Imari Lahdelma of the Helsinki based architecture firm Lahdelma & Mahlamäki Architects, one of the most prolific and successful architecture firms in Finland. A significant part of their works have begun as successful entries in architectural competitions, in which they have received 35 first prizes (and 57 other prizes).[1] Mahlamäki studied architecture at the Tampere University of Technology, and was awarded the Master of Science in Architecture in 1987. He, along with Lahdelma and 6 others, was a partner in the architecture firm 8 Studio from 1986 to 1993. From 1992 he together with Lahdelma and architect Mikko Kaira founded Kaira-Lahdelma-Mahlamäki Architecture, and from 1997 Mahlamäki and Lahdelma have been in partnership in the firm Lahdelma & Mahlamäki Architects. Mahlamäki was appointed Professor of Contemporary Architecture at the University of Oulu Department of Architecture in 1997, from 2000 to 2007 he was head of the department and since 2007 vice-head of the department. In 2007 he was appointed President of the Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA). Mahlamäki was the Chair of the Jury for the 2009 International Architecture Awards.

MAREK MIKOS

Architect, acting Director of the Architecture and City Planning Department of the City of Warsaw

MACIEJ MIŁOBĘDZKI

Architect. Born in Warsaw 1959. Graduated from the Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology in 1985. Between 1984-1988 worked with ESPEA architectural cooperative. Since 1988, founding partner of JEMS Architekci. Since 2004, supervisor of diploma projects at the Faculty of Architecture, Poznań University of Technology. Since 2008, tutor at the Faculty of Architecture, WUT. Winner of the SARP Honorary Award in 2002. Selected realizations: AGORA S.A. headquarters, "Spectra" office building on Bobrowiecka Street in Warsaw, Residential/Boarding house in Konstancin, "Dom Przyszłości" in Choszczówka, Residential complex at Hozjusza Street in Warsaw, TRIO Building in Warsaw, Hoover Square in Warsaw, addition to the Raczyńskich Library in Poznań, addition to the Faculty of Sculpture building, Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw.

OREN SAGIV

Professor of architecture at the Department of Architecture at the Bezalel Academy for Art and Design in Jerusalem, where he serves as the pedagogical coordinator for the first year studies. Oren is also the chief designer of the Israel Museum, the largest cultural institute in Israel, where he is leading the Museum's in-house design team, as well as external designers in the design of more than 20 temporary exhibitions per year and spanning an area of more than 20,000 square meters. Oren's work has been present in various exhibitions in Israel and abroad, as well as in international theory symposia and was published in international architectural publications. Oren completed his studies in Architecture at Cooper Union in New York, and later studied Philosophy of Science in Tel Aviv University.

JAKUB SZCZĘSNY

holds a PhD from Faculty of Design of Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts, studied in Warsaw Institute of Technology, Ecole d'Architecture Paris-la-Défense and ETSAB in Barcelona. Since 2001 he is a comember of Centrala Designer's Task Force, a multidisciplinary collaboration platform involved in a number of critical urban revitalization projects, such as Powiśle Station and winning competition entries awarded with building prizes for such buildings as the Sporthall in Bieruń and Ohel- the temporary pavilion of the Museum of Polish Jews in Warsaw. He is also a co-curator of Synchronicity, a festival of architecture run by Bęc Zmiana Foundation since 2008. He maintains a parallel practice of architecture concentrated on residential experiments, such as Podkowa and Siekierki houses, along with artistic one, through such installations as Keret House (Warsaw 2012), Pchechong (ArtTLV biennial in 2010) and Stretched Pavilion (Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart and CCA Warsaw). His main focus relates to community conflicts and memory. He participated in a number of international artist-inresidency projects, among others in Schloss Solitude, Residency Unlimited, NKD Dale and Spaced in Western Australia. The model of his project, Keret House was included in the collection of MoMA in New York.

HANNA SZMALENBERG

Polish architect and designer, member of the Community Committee for the Protection of Jewish Cemeteries and Heritage Sites in Poland, democratic opposition activist during Communist era. Co-author of numerous projects created under Oskar Hansen, including "A study for humanizing the City of Lubin" (1975), and "A study for humanizing the Railroad Rolling Stock Repair Facility in Pruszków" (1979).

Designer of:

- Umschlagplatz monument;
- Tomb of Lejb Najdus (a Jewish poet) at Okopowa Street in Warsaw;
- Żegota monument in Warsaw;
- Monument to the Victims of the Warsaw Ghetto, located at a mass burial site at the Jewish Cemetery on Okopowa Street in Warsaw;
- Boulder Monument at the foot of the Anielewicz Mound in Warsaw, commemorating Jewish fighters who died at the location.

Currently, as a member of the Community Committee for the Protection of Jewish Cemeteries and Heritage Sites in Poland, involved in efforts to restore the Jewish Cemetery in Warsaw, also active in the "Ogród Warszawa" effort to protect the cultural landscape. Awarded two Knight's Crosses of the Order of Polonia Restituta for "significant achievements in unearthing, collecting and promoting the truth about the Holocaust, and for efforts to commemorate the history of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising," and an Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta for "distinguished efforts toward democratic reforms in Poland, for professional, public and social work, and for popularizing Poland's recent history."

MILADA ŚLIZIŃSKA

Art historian, curator.

Received her MA degree at the Institute of Art History, Warsaw University. Between 1972-1987 worked at Foksal Gallery, from 1987 till 1989 she was Head of the Exhibition Department at the Institute of Industrial Design, in 1990 she became the Chief Curator of the International Exhibitions Programme at the Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle where she worked until 2011. Among the artists she was working with there were: Jenny Holzer, Joseph Kosuth, Ilya Kabakov, Cindy Sherman, Rosemarie Trockel, Gerhard Richter, Shirin Neshat, David Hammons, Pipilotti Rist, Nan Goldin, James Turrell, Marina Abramovic, Christian Boltanski, Kara Walker, Magdalena Abakanowicz, Wojciech Fangor, Krzysztof Wodiczko and Leon Tarasewicz. In 2000 for Zachęta Gallery she curated the exhibition: „Classics of the 20th Century: Picasso, Bacon, Beuys, Duchamp, Kandinsky, Warhol, Malewicz, Dali, Mondrian, Brancusi.”

She was working as the visiting lecturer at Royal College of Art, Pratt Institute, Columbia University, New School for Social Research and Bard College. Currently she teaches at the Faculty of Media Art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw and at the Sound Engineering Department of the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw.

She is a member of the International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art (IKT).