

**Press Release**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**December 12, 2014**



## **The Athenaeum of Philadelphia Announces Winners & Opens Exhibition of *Looking Forward* Architectural Design Competition**

**Exhibition Dates:** December 5, 2014-February 14, 2015 (Free Admission)

**Hours:** Monday – Friday 9-5; First Three Saturdays 11-3

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**Location:** The Athenaeum of Philadelphia  
219 S. 6th St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

In an awards ceremony on Friday December 5 the winners of the **Athenaeum of Philadelphia's *Looking Forward: Re-Imagining The Athenaeum of Philadelphia* architectural competition** were announced. The \$5000 first place prize went to Ryan Lohbauer, Petra Stanev, Elizabeth Keshett, Melissa Styer, and Chun Wang of the Philadelphia firm, Stanev Potts, for their design "***Philadelphia Grotesque Revisited***"; the \$2500 first place student prize went to András Vernes of the Technische Universität Wien in Vienna, Austria for his design "***Prolog***." The remaining winners and honorable mentions in both categories came from Budapest, Nicosia, Brooklyn, Washington, DC and Lyndhurst, NJ. A full listing of the winners and images of their submissions can be seen at <http://www.philaathenaeum.org/lookingforward/prizes.html>

The Athenaeum received **46 professional submissions and 42 student submissions**. The total number of individual participants on these teams was 139. Submissions were received from **17 countries, 15 U. S. states and 10 schools**.

The jurors were Michelle Delk of Snøhetta Architects, Roger W. Moss, Director Emeritus of the Athenaeum, Laurie Olin, principal of Olin Studio, Ford Peatross, Founding Director of the Architecture, Design & Engineering Division of the Library of Congress, and Billie Tsien of Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects. In this concept-only competition, entrants were invited to envision an Athenaeum of the year 2050, a replacement for the 1847 National Historical Landmark building which had been hypothetically dismantled, moved and restored elsewhere.

Juror Laurie Olin, who presented remarks at the awards ceremony, said, "***Idea competitions that expressly acknowledge they will not lead to a 'real' project are intended to provoke, and to provide a forum for invention, speculation, thought and reflection on a particular subject. They intend to elicit a range of endeavor and talent, of conjecture, of 'what if?'... This competition for a 'replacement' of Notman's building had at least two goals, one was to shine a light on the Athenaeum and its accomplishments, its presence and contributions to the physical, mental and artistic well-being of the city and its citizens, and the other has been to stimulate the architectural community – students and practitioners alike – and to encourage them to speculate upon the future of libraries and their potential nature and contribution to the community, in particular here in Philadelphia in such a place as this address on Washington Square.***"

Images of the awards ceremony and exhibition opening can be viewed at <http://www.philaathenaeum.org/lookingforward/events.html> As the final celebration of the library's bicentennial year, a free exhibition, including the winning entries, models, and digital images of all submissions, will be open through February 14, 2015 in the Athenaeum's Haas Gallery.