

## **Destination Station: Henning Larsen and Ramboll Win Competition to Transform Prague Central Station**

**Nový hlavák reconnects the historic central station and terminal hall with Vrchlického Sady Park to become a welcoming gateway to Prague. Redefining the city's landscape and propelling its vision to becoming a more sustainable, livable place, the design champions low-emission mobility options, adaptive reuse and timber construction.**

Driven by the introduction of a new tram line and anticipated 200% increase in the number of visitors, the new future mobility hub signifies a transformative milestone in Prague's urban development. Seamlessly connecting three transit hubs into one unified and inviting destination with optimized pedestrian flows.

The new station prioritizes low-emission transport and micro-mobility, making public transit and travel by foot and bike the most desirable mode of transport. The station will connect to the city's planned bike network with easy bicycle access and parking, supporting Prague's ambitions to lower the city's carbon emissions.

Breaking down the borders of the complex, former station, Nový Hlavák is a dynamic space that welcomes visitors to the city and invites them to take a pause in the station or the heritage of the surrounding park with its ancient trees.

Celebrating the architectural heritage of Prague's central station and its historic surroundings, Nový Hlavák will preserve and transform the Hlavni Nadrazi station. The Hlavni Nadrazi terminal hall's iconic design elements will be preserved, reimaged and extended to accommodate the increase in capacity. The terminal's striped paved flooring and iconic curved design elements will remain, paying homage to Hlavni Nadrazi's original playfulness and unique modernist architecture.

On arrival at Nový Hlavák from the city center visitors are greeted by the park and a bustling pavilion that acts as a gateway to the Fantova Building, creating a lively destination to pass through and explore. Central to the design is a large, open-roof timber canopy, unifying the surrounding park, central station, and communal transport center. To host a new tram stop and city transport plan, the glulam roof will be lifted 13.8m above the terminal floor replacing the existing steel girder and parking deck. The structure will feature lightweight ETFE roof cladding and allow for improved views of the park, the Fantova Building and surrounding skyline, easing pedestrian flow and safety, and inviting people to enjoy the space.

*"Our vision for Nový hlavák extends beyond the traditional concept of a station. We aspire to create a space that embeds itself in the fabric of people's lives, leaving them with lasting memories. The journey through Nový hlavák is designed to evoke traditional station sentiments, a nostalgic and familiar*

*experience that transforms the act of passing through the station into a truly fantastic moment.”*

*“Our commitment goes beyond creating a structure for transportation; it's about enhancing daily experiences. Nový hlavák is meticulously designed for super-efficient functionality, ensuring seamless mobility for everyone. The station aims to redefine the very idea of what a daily commute can be, making it not just a journey but an experience that adds value to people's lives.”* **says Jacob Kurek, Global Market Director, Henning Larsen**

*“More than a transit hub, Nový hlavák is conceived as an extended living room—a vibrant space within a green park adorned with a timber roof. It's not merely a place to pass through; it's a destination, a meeting point for individuals and communities. We envision Nový hlavák as a place where people gather, linger, and make meaningful connections—a truly inclusive and inviting urban oasis within the heart of Prague.”* **says Greta Tiedje, Associate Design Director, Henning Larsen**

*“We are proud to be part of enhancing low-carbon public transport in Prague and creating a local environment with positive social outcomes.”* **says Tom Singleton, Senior Chief Project Manager, Ramboll**

The terminal hall features an improved layout implementing intuitive wayfinding for visitors with ample daylight and direct visual connections to all surrounding areas. The design prioritizes climate comfort and the roofed station plaza. Safety is an integral part of the design, covering user well-being, traffic management, and crisis scenarios.

The Vrchlického sady Park will be revitalized, divided into cultural zone, activity zone and the central arrival plaza, creating areas for Christmas markets, a quick commute, or an afternoon picnic providing easy and direct access to the station. Preserving the historic identity of the park and reflecting it in the new design is key to its success, an abundance of native vegetation will be planted and existing historic trees preserved. The landscape will incorporate stormwater management and mitigate the heat island effect.

**The team was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place on 27<sup>th</sup> November in the draft design competition for Prague Central Station.**

The project bid was devised by Henning Larsen and Ramboll, bringing together Henning Larsen's world leading architectural design and Ramboll's extensive experience on complex international projects and mass timber engineering.

**For further information contact**

Victoria Woollorton, Communications Manager, Henning Larsen,  
E: viwo@henninglarsen.com, T: +45 31 14 82 44

## About Prague Central Station

**Project:** Station

**Location:** Prague, Czechia

**Site size:** 103,000m<sup>2</sup>

**Building size:** 24,400m<sup>2</sup>

**Client:** The Capital City of Prague, Správa železnic, Prague Public Transport Company

**Urban Design:** Henning Larsen

**Architect:** Henning Larsen

**Landscape Architect:** Henning Larsen

**Local Architect:** A8000

**Engineer:** Ramboll

**Renderers:** Bloom, Kvant, Vivid Vision

## About Henning Larsen

Henning Larsen is an international studio for architecture, landscape, and urbanism with design hubs in Copenhagen, New York, Singapore, Sydney, Stockholm, Berlin, and Oslo. At the heart of our design philosophy is the play of light and nature. We bring joy to those who occupy our spaces by shaping the conditions for human interaction. We work at the nexus of creativity and experimentation, always looking to the lasting impact on communities and their environments.

Drawing on a Scandinavian ethos, we develop context-driven, sustainable designs that provide lasting value to users, local communities, and cities. We aim to contribute social spaces that engage people and inspire human interaction. We approach our clients with curiosity and a desire to listen, inspire, collaborate, and innovate.

Our distinctive portfolio has received some of the highest honors in our profession, including the Architecture Laureate of the Premium Imperiale, The European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award, and the European Architect of the Year Award, 2019.

## About Ramboll

Ramboll is a global architecture, engineering and consultancy company founded in Denmark in 1945. Our more than 18,000 experts create sustainable solutions across Buildings, Transport, Energy, Environment & Health, Water, Management Consulting, and Architecture & Landscape.

Across the world, Ramboll combines local experience with a global knowledgebase to create sustainable cities and societies. We combine insights with the power to drive positive change for our clients, in the form of ideas that can be realised and implemented. We call it: Bright ideas. Sustainable change.