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K A M R A T A L - P E R I T I

To support members of the profession in achieving excellence in their practice of architecture and engineering in the interest of the community

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Design Competitions

The Kamra tal-Periti refers to the recent announcement and subsequent debate regarding the project for Misrah San Gorg in Valletta. In line with its own position paper “The Urban Challenge: Our Quality of Life and the Built Environment” and with the Architects’ Council of Europe (ACE) policy document “Architecture and Quality of Life”, the Kamra tal-Periti wishes to restate its position in favour of design-based competitions for the selection of projects of particular size and importance, particularly those of a public nature, or those utilizing public funds or funds from EU sources.

It is the firm belief of the Kamra that design competitions are instrumental in providing the best design proposals for a given urban or architectural undertaking. Design competitions also enhance competition within the profession while promoting quality and innovation in the procurement of architectural services, offer an important opportunity to support the emergence of young design talent and contribute to ensure that design quality can be delivered as independently as possible of economic and vested interests.

The Kamra also stresses that a thorough appreciation and understanding of the complex character of urban design problems is best addressed through the employment of skilled resources, with sound architectural and urban design training, which alone provides a comprehensive basis for the understanding of the full range of contextual, artistic, historical and technical requirements concerned, and with the ability to take on the professional responsibility for their design and execution.

The Kamra believes that the Public Sector has a special responsibility to society, more so when making use of public funds for public benefit. Government is in a unique position to champion the transformation of Malta’s urban environment by consistently leading by example in terms of quality of design and a quality-based approach to the procurement and execution of urban and architectural design services.