




STIFTUNG  
HISTORISCHE MUSEEN  
HAMBURG

# RETHINKING BISMARCK

INTERNATIONAL OPEN COMPETITION  
TO CONTEXTUALISE THE BISMARCK MONUMENT  
IN THE ALTER ELBPARK IN HAMBURG

[shmh.de](https://shmh.de)

  
Hamburg | Behörde für  
Kultur und Medien

## COMPETITION ASSIGNMENT

Since its construction in 1907, the Bismarck Monument in Hamburg's Alter Elbpark has been invested with a great number of connotations.

Today, it is seen by many as an expression of an authoritarian and colonial tradition that is part of our history and to which we must and we wish to find an adequate response. It is necessary to reframe this widely visible monument because in terms of its position, use and symbolic association it manifests complex references to colonialism, National Socialism, discrimination and questions of social justice that had previously not been in evidence.

In 2021 several workshops were held which, together with international experts, offered a forum for discussing future possibilities of dealing with the monument. Within the framework of a competition a call has now gone out to artists and architects to develop ideas for recontextualising the monument. We need to break with previous perceptions of the monument in order to highlight their charged relationship to notions of democracy, discourse and pluralism underpinning our open society – on behalf of the hundreds of other Bismarck monuments throughout Germany. The purpose of this initiative is to signal the need to further develop our culture of remembrance.

The aim of the competition is to make the invisible visible. Information and artistic interventions should seek to foster a critical debate about this massive monument and its history.

## JURY

Reflecting the competition's complex challenges, the jury will assemble a broad panoply of professional competence and expertise. It will consist of specialists from art, culture, architecture and history, from campaign groups that have critically challenged Hamburg's colonial past, as well as protagonists from former German colonies, internationally active artists and representatives of civil society organisations and citizens of Hamburg. The jury will decide on the winning concept in early 2023.

## PROSPECTIVE SCHEDULE

Tender documents for the competition procedure are available from the management body from CW 39 onwards.

### Phase 1

CW 41 2022	Queries colloquium
CW 44 2022	Submission of exposés
CW 47 2022	Selection of participants eligible for the second competition phase

### Phase 2

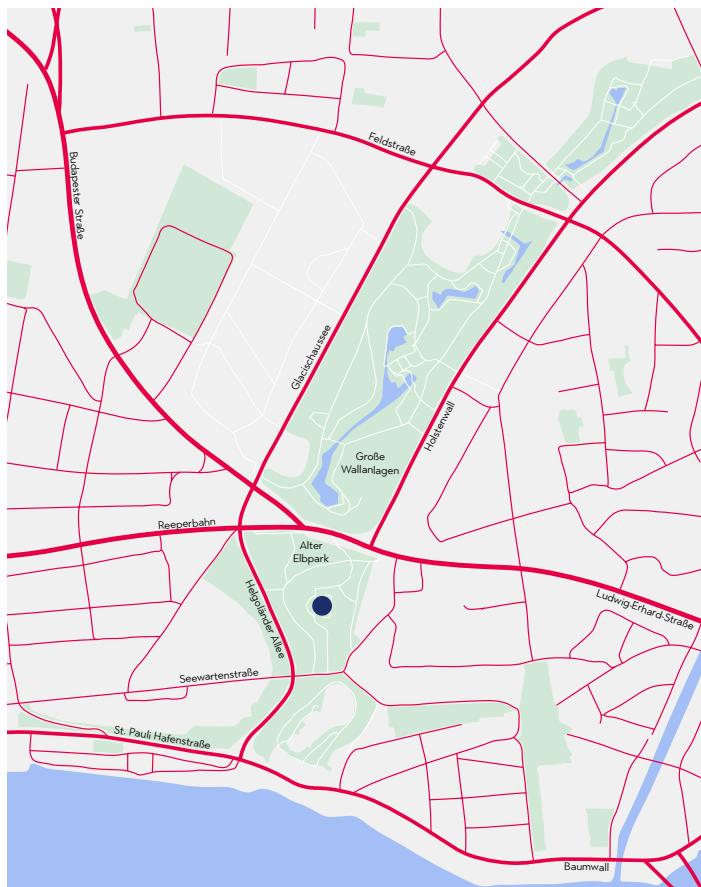
CW 03 2023	Submission of designs
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## MONETARY AWARDS

1st prize	15,000 Euros
2nd prize	8,000 Euros
3rd prize	4,000 Euros

All other completed designs submitted during phase 2 will be entitled to a reimbursement of 2,000 Euros.

## LOCATION



## CONTACT

**Tender procedure management:** büro lucherhandt & partner  
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**Competition initiators:** Stiftung Historische Museen Hamburg  
in cooperation with the Behörde für Kultur und Medien (Ministry of Culture and Media) Hamburg

This international open competition is part of the project "Initiative zur Aufarbeitung der kolonialen Geschichte" (working title) – a project of the Stiftung Historische Museen Hamburg in cooperation with and funded by the Behörde für Kultur und Medien Hamburg. Funded by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation). The Kulturstiftung des Bundes is funded by the Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media).