

## Media Release

### Nunavut Inuit Heritage Centre: Bringing Inuit Heritage Closer to Home Iqaluit, Nunavut Day, July 9, 2023

We are very excited to announce **the winning team of the international architectural competition!** The Nunavut Inuit Heritage Centre (NIHC) will be built in Iqaluit to honour the Government of Canada's commitment to the Nunavut Agreement and Bill C-15, the UNDRIP Act. The need for a heritage facility was identified in the Nunavut Agreement 30 years ago. The 55,000 sq ft facility will allow the return of the Nunavut Collection, provide a venue for exhibitions, performances, workshops, and other programs, and support healing and reconciliation. The NIHC will provide training and support the development of heritage facilities in other communities throughout Nunavut. A Steering Committee with members from the Inuit Heritage Trust (IHT), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KitIA), and the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA) is overseeing the project. This project is only possible with the generous support of NTI and QIA who have each committed \$5M. IHT has dedicated staff and financial resources.

#### Winning Team

**Dorte Mandrup Architects**, Lead Architect, Denmark

**Guy Architects Ltd.**, Architect of Record, Yellowknife/ Iqaluit

**Adjeleian Allen Rubeli Limited**, Structural Engineer

**Pageau Morel et Associés**, Mechanical & Electrical Engineering

**E Lees & Associates**, Landscape Architecture,

**EXP Services Inc.**, Civil Engineering,

**Polar Outfitting**, Inuit Consulting

**Arctic UAV & Panaq Design**, Inuit Consulting and Model Building

**Altus Group Limited**, Cost control

As IHT Executive Director **William Beveridge** says,

***We have waited many years for this opportunity and have never been this close to realizing our dream.***

*The need for a territorial heritage centre was first identified in the Nunavut Agreement and thirty years later we are still without a place of our own. As a result, many items made by our ancestors are stored in southern facilities. With few opportunities for Inuit to engage with these items, we continue to be disconnected from this important part of our cultural heritage.* But there is growing momentum for an Inuit-owned and operated facility.

#### Jury Statement

The winning proposal convinced the jury with their beautiful and poetic response to the requirements outlined in the Feasibility Study and during the March Design Week in Iqaluit. Jury members felt that Mandrup heard and understood community perspectives regarding Inuit Traditional Knowledge and the healing potential for the NIHC. The reference to kalutoqaniq resonated with the jury, the prevailing wind causing shapes and patterns in the snowdrifts. They appreciated the reference to Inuit wayfinding and integration into the landscape. They liked the idea of the building growing from the land, and the glowing lights in the landscape, for the eyes of the people of Nunavut. They liked the living green roof and the idea of having the more protected functional spaces set deeper into the hill. They thought the design and shape were interesting and that the building had an efficient footprint.

The jury was comprised of: Eva Aariak, Leena Evic, Piita Irniq, Nicole Luke, Moshe Safdie, Sakiasie Sowdloapik, and Desiree Valadares. Their bios are on the NIHC website at [www.nunavutheritage.ca](http://www.nunavutheritage.ca)

Architect **Dorte Mandrup** explains her vision,

*The design of the Nunavut Inuit Heritage Centre is inspired by the landscape and the movement of the snow and the wind. Following the topographic curves and distinct longitudinal features of the terrain, the building sits parallel to the prevailing north-western winds. It carves into the rocky hillside overlooking Iqaluit with the large roof continuing the lines of the landscape and forming a new public space and a viewing platform from which visitors can enjoy the uninterrupted views towards Frobisher Bay and Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park. By taking advantage of the protective rock, the building naturally creates a shelter over the sensitive collections and exhibitions while the expansive window gesture offers a space filled with daylight and generous views towards the south-west for future gathering and activities.*

Mandrup is excited to have been chosen for this important commission:

*The Nunavut Inuit Heritage Centre is an extraordinary project that we are very proud and humble to have been selected to be part of. **Working within this context requires both extreme sensitivity and consideration of landscape and its cultural significance.** The community has been working tirelessly for a long time to establish a place for Inuit to collect precious heritage and share unique, specialised knowledge that remains imperative for future generations and is in severe risk of vanishing. **We are looking very much forward to listening, learning, and being the link between thought and form.***

**For more information about the project**, or photographs for media use, please go to the NIHC website at [www.nunavutheritage.ca](http://www.nunavutheritage.ca) or contact:

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Credit: Dorte Mandrup