

Information for applicants:

The Statutory City of Brno announces an art competition for the design and construction of Milan Kundera's tombstone.

1. Introduction: Milan Kundera (1 April 1929 Brno - 11 July 2023 Paris) was a Czech-French writer. From 1975 he lived in France, and is considered one of the most important figures in Czechoslovak and world literature. He wrote his first works in Czech, later in French. He entered the literary scene as a poet and playwright, but eventually became famous around the world primarily as a novelist and essayist. After 1970 he was banned from publishing his works in Czechoslovakia. In 1975 he became a legal resident of France, where he first taught at the University of Rennes, followed by the École des Hautes Études in Paris. After the publication of his novel *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*, he was stripped of his Czechoslovak citizenship in 1979, and was granted French citizenship in 1981 (his Czech citizenship was reinstated in 2019). French also gradually became the language of his literary works; in the late 1980s he reworked the previously published French translations of his Czech novels to their definitive version in this language.

In France, Kundera published his works exclusively through Gallimard; after leaving Czechoslovakia, he had his Czech books published by the Toronto-based Sixty-Eight Publishers formed by Zdena and Josef Škvorecký, and after November 1989 by Atlantis in Brno. His works have been translated into many languages and have earned international acclaim.

After Kundera's death, his library and archive were transferred from Paris to the Moravian Library in Brno. The books and the archive there are available to the public and are accompanied by other Czech and foreign editions. It is a cultural brand of global significance.

2. Designated site for the tombstone: the Circle of Honour at Brno Central Cemetery, honorary burial group No. 25E, grave site No. 15. The Circle of Honour is located in the old part of the cemetery with an honorary burial ground and tombstones marking the graves of distinguished personalities.

3. The defined grave field has ground plan dimensions of 213 cm (top edge) x 319 cm (sides) x 210 cm (bottom edge); the maximum possible depth of the base of the structure is 150 cm;

4. Heritage protection: the Circle of Honour is listed in the Central List of Cultural Monuments (it is strictly protected). The vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the tombstones is also classed as protected heritage.

5. Design requirements for the tombstone:

- high artistic standard, respecting the Kunderas' wish for a simple design - Kundera's writing style is analytical, non-symbolic, expressively sparse, yet not simplistic, always aim to make an intellectual point, not ornamental
- the tombstone is to bear the **inscription:** Milan Kundera *1. 4. 1929 Brno – + 11. 7. 2023 Paris, Věra Kunderová *24. 10. 1935 Prague – +14. 9. 2024 Paris (may be in smaller lettering).
- the urn chamber must be accessible to enable the urns to be put in place; designed for at least 2 urns;
- the lifetime of the tombstone is set at a minimum of 50 years from the date it is handed over to the client.
- tombstone to be covered by a 36-month warranty from the date of delivery

6. Prizes awarded in the tombstone design competition: 100,000 CZK for 1st place, 75,000 CZK for 2nd place, 50,000 CZK for 3rd place.

Remuneration awarded in the tombstone design competition: 25,000 CZK for non-award-winning competition designs that contain remarkable suggestions and solutions.

Price for the tombstone: maximum of 1,250,000 CZK excluding VAT; this amount cannot be exceeded. The price includes all costs associated with the design and construction of the tombstone and its placement in the Circle of Honour, including the granting of a royalty-free license by the author for the

design of the tombstone for 1-3 places and for the construction of the tombstone.

Total price (competition and construction): a maximum of CZK 1,500,000 excluding VAT; this amount cannot be exceeded.

Further information: No remuneration will be given for non-award-winning designs. Participants are not entitled to claim reimbursement of costs associated with entering the design competition; the costs associated with the preparation and submission of bids will not be reimbursed by the Contracting Authority.

Prizes and remuneration will be taxed according to the applicable Czech legislation.

7. Exhibition: An exhibition of the designs will be held after the close of the competition.

8. Submission of designs: The **physical form** of the design - sketch, model, sealed envelope (with the participant's details inside) - should be submitted **in person/by post** to the Culture Department of the Brno City Municipality, Dominikánské náměstí 3, Brno 602 00, Czech Republic.

The form, the draft contract for the work, the visualisation of the proposal (**in digital form**) should be submitted **electronically** via the Contracting Authority's electronic tool.

The tombstone design competition is **anonymous**. Neither the name nor the brand of the author of the design may appear on the physical rendition of the design.

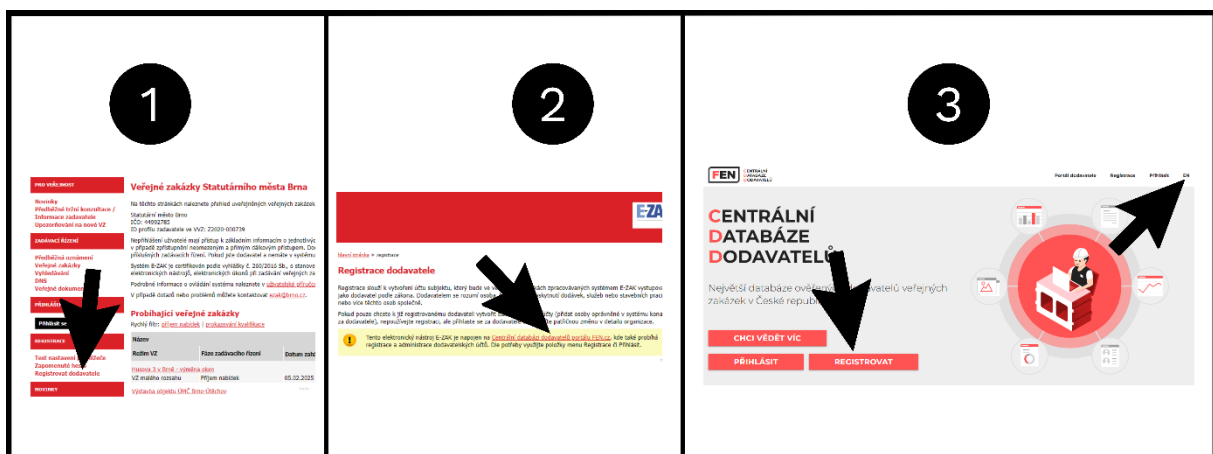
9. Deadline for the submission of designs: 28 April 2025: by 12:00 noon physical version; by 12:00 midnight digital version.

10. Deadline for construction of the tombstone: 10 July 2026 (inclusive).

11. Competition documentation: Detailed tender documentation including other competition documents (all in the Czech language) is available via the certified public procurement tool E-ZAK (https://ezak.brno.cz/contract_display_1834.html). Non-registered users must register to make full use of the electronic tool (e.g. to submit a competition design). Registration in the Central Contractor Database: <https://cdd.fen.cz/#/registrace> (see below a short guide on how to get from E-ZAK to Central Contractor Database registration - FEN)

Registration may take more than one day. The Contracting Authority draws your attention to the need to register early.

For further details and information, contact user support by calling: +420 538 702 719, or emailing: podpora@ezak.cz, (on working days).

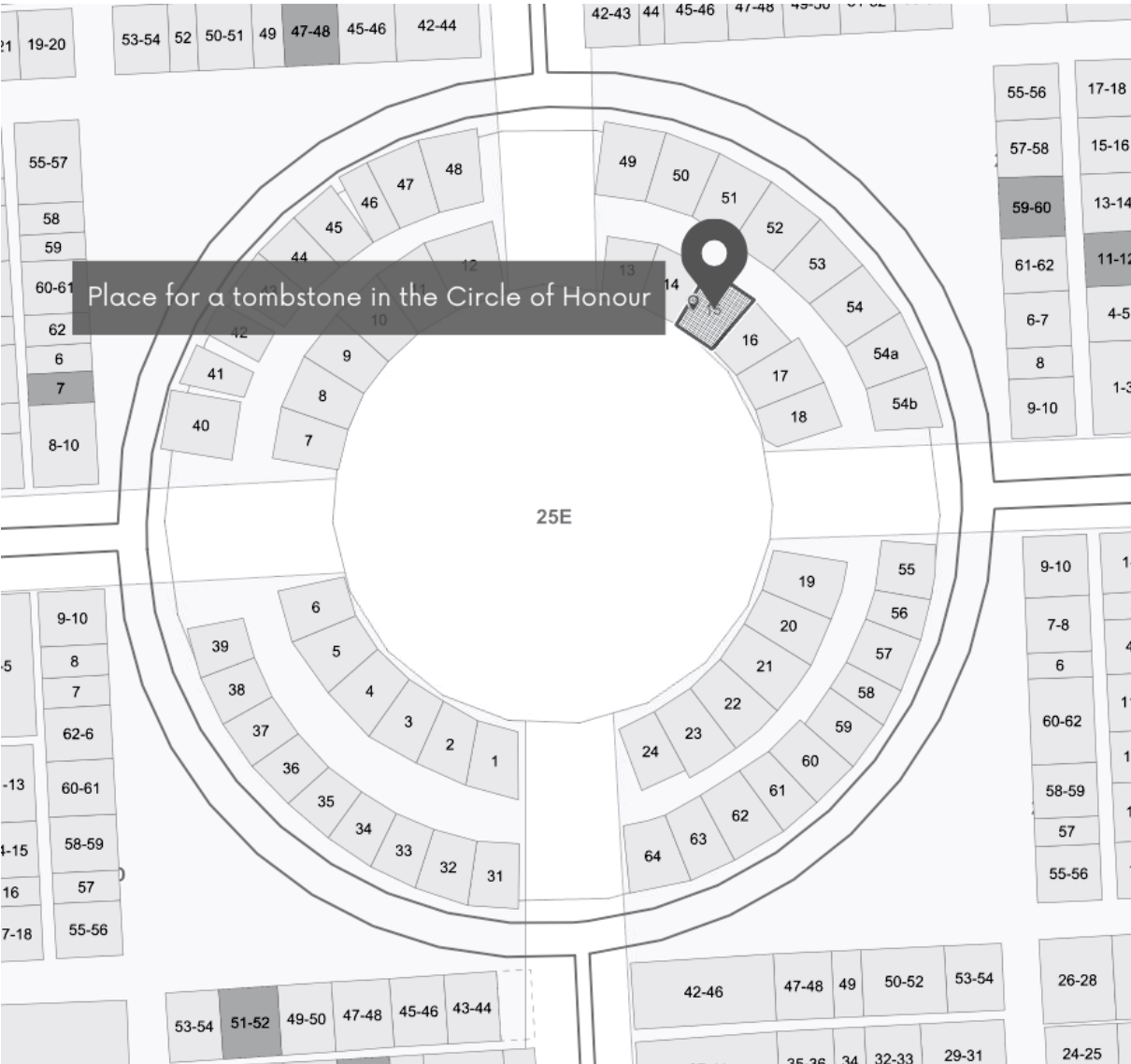


Photographs of the site to give a better idea of the artistic design of the tombstone



Plan of the honorary burial ground with the grave site marked

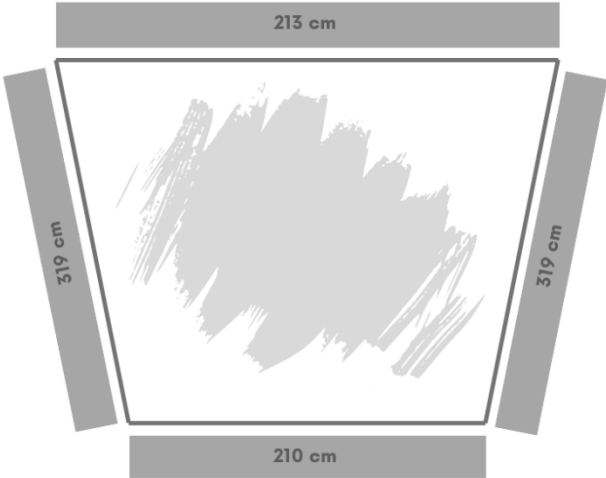
MAP OF THE CIRCLE OF HONOUR



CURRENT SITUATION



TOMBSTONE DIMENSIONS



The maximum possible depth of the base of the structure is 150 cm