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World-renowned Designer Cesar Pelli Joins
Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport’s Design Team

César Pelli and Ray Manning tapped to lend talent to New Airport Terminal Envelope Design

(NEW ORLEANS, LA) – César Pelli and William Raymond Manning of Manning Architects have joined the Crescent City Aviation Team, A Leo A. Daly/Atkins Global Joint Venture that includes Lonnie Hewitt of Hewitt Washington Architects, to help shape a world class airport terminal in New Orleans set to open ahead of the 300th anniversary of New Orleans. Mr. Pelli is known locally for his work with Dr. Norman Francis, President of Xavier University, to design the St. Katherine Drexel Chapel at Xavier University. Mr. Pelli completed that work free of charge.

Pelli has been regarded as one of the 20th century’s preeminent architects and continues to dominate the architectural world into the 21st century with his unique style. Mr. Pelli has written extensively on architectural issues and his writings have been widely published and exhibited, with several books and issues of professional journals dedicated to his designs and theories. He is a former Dean of the School of Architecture at Yale University and has received twelve (12) Honorary Degrees, over 200 awards for design excellence and is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, a Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the National Academy of Design, the International Academy of Architecture, and of l’Academie d’Archetcture de France. In 1995, the American Institute of Architects awarded Pelli the Gold Medal, in recognition of a lifetime of distinguished achievement in architecture. In 2004, he was awarded the Aga Khan Award for Architecture for the design of the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Mr. Pelli avoids formalistic preconceptions in his designs and that the aesthetic qualities of a building should grow from the specific characteristics of each project such as its location, its construction technology, and its purpose.

Pelli, a world renowned architect, has designed several award-winning projects including the San Bernadino City Hall in Bernadino, CA; the Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles; and the United States Embassy in Tokyo, Japan. His airport terminal work includes the widely recognized TWA Terminal (JFK), Washington National Airport Expansion and the new Airport Terminal at Winnipeg, Canada.
Manning Architects was established by Manning in 1985 and is today a 30+ group of Leadership in Energy and Design (LEED) accredited architects. It maintains offices in Dallas and Las Vegas as well as its home base in New Orleans and specializes in the areas of transportation, education, cultural, civic, commercial, healthcare and hospitality. The Manning firm was part of a team of professionals asked to record and evaluate damages to the exterior of Armstrong International following Hurricane Katrina. Other Manning transportation projects include the New Orleans Riverfront Streetcar Stations, New Orleans Union Passenger Terminal Station, Dallas Area Rapid Transit – Orange Line Extension and the Port of New Orleans Erato Street Cruise Terminal Complex. Manning Architects is credited most recently with the completion of the Convocation Center and Annex at Xavier University.

The Long Term Infrastructure Development Plan is a $650 million terminal project is being planned for the north side of the airport campus. Pelli Clarke Pelli and Manning Architects will complete peer review on the design of the new terminal facility. The firms will bring a vision and world class experience to shape the design and aesthetics to infuse the essence and rich cultural roots of New Orleans into the architecture and interiors.

“We continue to work for a New Orleans that still has its best days ahead of her. This great addition will further ensure that our world class city will finally get a world class Airport,” said New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

New Orleans Aviation Board (NOAB) Chairwoman Cheryl Teamer said, “We know the design collaboration of Mr. Pelli will result in a unique look that will give our airport the prominence it deserves.”

Dr. Norman Francis, President of Xavier University said, “Xavier University was the first to bring César Pelli to New Orleans for the design of our beautiful chapel. We are pleased and lucky to have him as part of the team to provide us with a new airport.”

“We’re excited to see such an impressive team working together to design a world class airport for our community,” said Director of Aviation Iftikhar Ahmad. “We expect the team to be on time and on budget”

Chris Spann of Parson Brinkerhoff will be serving as the program manager for this project.

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