

# THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

MALCOLM  
READING  
CONSULTANTS

## Media Release

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009

### Down to the final seven - candidates shortlisted for GSA design team competition

Seven architecture practices from Scotland, the rest of the UK and abroad have been shortlisted by The Glasgow School of Art (GSA) in its international search to find a team to design a new 11250 square metre building to sit opposite the iconic Mackintosh Building in Garnethill, Glasgow.

The shortlist for the competition in alphabetical order is: **Benson & Forsyth** (London, UK); **Elder and Cannon** (Glasgow, UK); **Francisco Mangado Architects** (Pamplona, Spain); **Grafton Architects** (Dublin, Ireland); **Hopkins** (London, UK); **John McAslan and Partners with Nord Architects** (London and Glasgow partnership); **Steven Holl Architects with JM Architects** (New York and Glasgow partnership).

Over the course of two days, the Selection Committee chaired by Barcelona-based architect David Mackay deliberated over the 153 entries, which ranged in size from small practices to major global architects, and included 58 entries from outside the UK including the US, Japan, Australia, Spain, Finland, Denmark and the Netherlands. This diversity has been ultimately reflected in the final shortlist.

The shortlisted practices will now develop their thinking over an eight week period for a final submission in late July 2009 and interviews in early September. The winning architect-led

design team will be announced in late September after which the team will work with the GSA to finalise the campus master plan and design and deliver the Phase 1 building as part of the redevelopment of the School's campus.

Phase 1, set to open in 2013, sees the start of the complete redevelopment, over time of the School's estate, transforming the current incoherent and inefficient scatter of unfit for purpose buildings across Garnethill into a coherent urban campus, providing world class teaching facilities and space for growth. When complete, the new estate will reinforce the GSA's position as one of Europe's leading art, design and architecture schools, supporting the creative entrepreneurs of tomorrow and ensuring that Glasgow maintains its position as one of Europe's most creative cities.

With high design and sustainability values, the new Phase 1 building will be an important development in one of Glasgow's most interesting and diverse conservation areas significantly enhancing the setting for the Grade A listed Mackintosh Building opposite.

The estate redevelopment will be financed through a combination of Scottish Funding Council (SFC) support, School cash balances, land sales, borrowing and philanthropic sources. SFC support for Phase 1 is based on its approval of the outline business case in January and is conditional on approval of the full business case at Design Stage D.

**Director of The Glasgow School of Art Seona Reid said:**

*"We have been absolutely delighted with the range and strength of submissions received for this competition. Reducing 153 entries to a shortlist of seven has not been without its challenges but there was a reassuringly high level of consensus amongst the Selection Committee members about the 7 practices who will now go on to the next stage of the competition. We can be confident of finding an exceptional design team from such a strong shortlist."*

**The Chair of the competition judging panel David Mackay said:**

*"After two difficult sessions we have been able to select seven architects for the second stage of this extraordinary competition. Difficult, because many tempting entries have been left behind. What is obvious is that the City of Glasgow and its School of Art will get the best of the best."*

**Malcolm Reading, who previously ran the competitions for King's Cross Square and the British Pavilion for Shanghai World Expo 2010, said:**

*"The Selection Committee has done an inspirational job and been sensitive to the subtle and challenging aspects of a new building in this special setting. Singling out seven teams required a rigorous analysis of the individual architect's approach to the new building but also has tested their awareness of the opportunity for the School and for Glasgow. This is what the competition was seeking and the outcome is an excellent balanced shortlist. "*

**ENDS**

For further information or images, please contact Alison Hunter, Media Relations Officer, The Glasgow School of Art. T: +44 (0) 141 353 4443 M: +44 (0) 7939 954 836

For press enquiries about the competition process, please contact Malcolm Reading on +44 (0) 207 637 2502 (office) / mobile (0)7968 841 926

**Notes to editors:**

**The Glasgow School of Art ([www.gsa.ac.uk](http://www.gsa.ac.uk))**

- Founded in 1845 as a Government School of Design and is one of the UK's oldest higher education institutions for creative education and research. Today the GSA is one of the UK's pre-eminent institutions for the study and advancement of fine art, design and architecture and is one of the few remaining independent schools in the UK.
- In the UK-wide Research Assessment Exercise 2008, the GSA was ranked as the second largest art and design research community in the UK with 25% of research world leading.
- Has an international community of over 1900 students studying fine art, design and architecture and a growing postgraduate population which is projected to grow to 25% of our total student community with the introduction of new Master's programmes and an increase in PhD students
- Has extensive international links with leading creative institutions including the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing and developing links in India with the National Institute of Design and the National Institute of Fashion Technology
- Has one of the second lowest student drop-out rate in Scotland and one of the lowest in the UK at 1.8% (HESA June 2008)
- In 2007, Design Week included the GSA in its HOT 50 list of design leaders saying that the GSA is a "leader in the field of design education"
- The Architects Journal has consistently ranked the Mackintosh School of Architecture as the top architecture school in Scotland and one of the top five in the UK based on the views of 100 major architectural practices in the UK.

- 30% of the Turner Prize shortlisted artists since 2005 have been GSA graduates, including the winner, Simon Starling in 2005 and GSA graduates have dominated Scotland's representation at the Venice Biennale since 2003

#### **Scottish Funding Council (SFC) ([www.sfc.ac.uk](http://www.sfc.ac.uk))**

- Distributes more than £1.6 billion of public funds annually to colleges and universities on behalf of the Scottish Government
- Is responsible for working with Scotland's colleges and universities to develop strategies in support of ministerial priorities 3 and securing coherent, high quality provision of further and higher education and supporting the undertaking of research.
- Has allocated £300 million to major capital projects in the University sector over the past three years

#### **Malcolm Reading Consultants**

- Malcolm Reading Consultants provides independent advice and hands-on support to clients involved in building projects.
- Founded by Malcolm Reading in 1996, the company specialises in cultural, education and regeneration work in the UK and abroad. MRC is the leading private organiser of architectural competitions in the UK and also works internationally.
- Recent projects include the competitions for the UK Pavilion for the Shanghai World Expo 2010, King's Cross Square, British Antarctic Survey and Central Park Bridge for the London Olympic site.