

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

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Media Release

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GSA design competition attracts over 150 entries from across the globe

The Glasgow School of Art 's (GSA) international search to find a team to design a new 11250 square metre building to sit opposite the iconic Mackintosh Building in Garnethill, Glasgow has drawn 152 entries, with 58 received from outside the UK including the US, Japan, Australia, Spain, Finland, Denmark and the Netherlands.

Among the applicants were 11 practices from Building Design's World Architecture Top 100, a large number previously shortlisted for the Stirling Prize and three Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureates. The competition, which is being managed by Malcolm Reading Consultants, received nearly 57,000 visits to its website over the six week period since being announced and the Expression of Interest document was downloaded over 11,000 times. The first stage of the competition is now closed and the jury will now assess all entries before announcing on May 22nd the shortlist of up to seven practices. The team which is finally selected will be revealed in September.

The panel judging the competition will be chaired by David Mackay of MBM Architectes, with broadcaster and writer Muriel Gray as Deputy Chair. Other recently appointed members of the eight person strong jury are: Professor Christine Hawley, architect and Dean of the Bartlett , University College London; architect and educator, Professor Isi Metstein; GSA Board Member and Chair of the Estates Committee, Fred Shedden; Director of GSA Professor Seona Reid; GSA

Board Member, economist and town planner Eleanor McAlister; and Head of the GSA Mackintosh School of Architecture Professor David Porter.

The whole purpose of the exercise is to appoint a world-class architect-led team of designers who can demonstrate that they have the skills, experience, imagination and sensitivity to the School's needs to deliver the project successfully and within the available budget. The School is not looking for a building design at this stage.

The shortlisted practices will develop their thinking over the next two months before a final submission at the end of July 2009. The winning architect-led design team will be announced in late September.

The successful team will then work with the GSA to confirm the overall campus masterplan and to design and deliver the Phase 1 building.

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 and research facilities and space for growth. When complete, the redeveloped 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 the highest 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:

“The impressive list of submissions, from such an international and diverse range of architect- led teams, make us more excited than ever about the scope and importance of this project. The task now is to give each entry the attention it deserves in order to identify the strongest possible shortlist.”

The Chair of the competition judging panel David Mackay said:

“I would like to see each and every one of the 153 entries as a winner, but a competition demands a choice. Our task will not be easy because the difference between the qualities of the entrees promises to be very narrow. ”

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

‘This is a great response to a very significant and exceptionally challenging project. The level of international entries, as well as those from the UK, is exceptional and an indicator of the wide appeal of the project. Glasgow is going to have a sparkling list to choose from. ‘

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

The Glasgow School of Art (www.gsa.ac.uk)

- GSA is a small, specialist and highly focused international community of artists, designers and architects, undertaking research at the highest levels. In the UK-wide Research Assessment Exercise 2008, the GSA was ranked as the second largest art and design research community in the UK. 70% of our academic staff are undertaking research that is internationally recognised with 50% undertaking work of international significance and excellence. The School has one of the highest retention rates in the UK and has produced 30% of the Turner Prize nominees since 2005.

Scottish Funding Council (SFC) (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.

