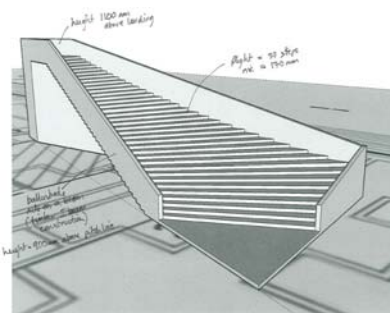




## Media Information

### **A Gathering Space - Scotland at the 11<sup>th</sup> Venice Architecture Biennale Piazzale della Stazione Santa Lucia**

**Press View of A Gathering Space and launch of The Lighthouse Architecture Series  
Thursday 11 September 2008: 3.30pm-4.30pm**



With the support of the Scottish Government, **The Lighthouse**, Scotland's National Architecture and Design Centre, is to present *A Gathering Space* at the Biennale di Venezia 11<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition. One of the only temporary structures to be created specially for the Biennale, **A Gathering Space will be located in Piazzale della Stazione Santa Lucia, Venice** outside the main railway station opposite the Grand Canal. The 7m high wooden structure created from sustainable materials, including Scots larch, will invite visitors to sit and rest, will offer a whole new perspective on the city. It will also be the focus of a number of debates including *New Regionalism in Architecture*, *Architecture Beyond Building*, *Architecture and Landscape* and *Transforming the urban landscape*, and an evening event celebrating Scotland and Venice with DJs and live music from bands Isosceles and Wilson Tan.

Following an open, anonymous competition to design a landmark installation for the Scottish presence at the Biennale, leading practice **Gareth Hoskins Architects**, has designed an imposing and expressive structure, which occupies the Piazzale. It takes the form of a flight of stairs that rises above the canopy of the adjacent railway station and sits within the long tradition of public stairs as seating - notable precedents include the Spanish Steps and the entrance stairs to the Metropolitan Museum, New York. "Venice is a city of bridges and steps" says Hoskins "As with many cities around the world these form places within the urban environment where people often pause, to rest, to meet or to simply watch the daily hustle and bustle of city life. This structure forms an intriguing new sculptural incident within Venice that creates both a formal place for events and an informal place where people can gather and observe the City from a new perspective".

During the opening days of the Biennale *A Gathering Space* will form the focus of series of debates and presentations that tie together current trends in place making and regionalism in architecture, and look at the tangible differences architecture makes to our lives. The structure will then remain in situ as 'a gathering space' for the public until the 12 October.

*"For the Scottish presence this year we have decided to take a novel approach in line with the theme of the Biennale - Architecture Beyond Building," says Nick Barley, Director of The Lighthouse. "A Gathering Space, aims to harness the buzz of and boundless energy of the Biennale with a lively programme of events bringing together Scottish and international voices to stimulate debate, exchange ideas and address some of the key architectural issues facing the world today."*

*"I am delighted the Scottish Government has been able to support the design competition and construction of A Gathering Space, guaranteeing a strong Scottish presence at the Venice Biennale on Architecture." adds Linda Fabiani, MSP Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture. "Gareth Hoskins Architects' design will be a focal point and an inspiration for those exploring the art of architecture - putting Scotland at the heart of the Biennale."*

A *Gathering Space* will also be the venue for the launch of **The Lighthouse Architecture Series** of monographs, which over the next five years will look at practices emerging on the international stage. The first in the series, with contributions from Hugh Pearman, Andy Macmillan, Greg Penoyre and Deyan Sudjic, amongst others, looks at Gareth Hoskins Architects as the practice marks its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Dates for the diary: (see [www.thelighthouse.co.uk/scotlandandvenice08](http://www.thelighthouse.co.uk/scotlandandvenice08) for updates)**

#### **Thursday 11 September:**

**3.30pm-4.30pm: Press view of *A Gathering Space*** and launch of The Lighthouse Architecture Series of monographs.

Gareth Hoskins will be available for interview at the launch.

**5pm-6pm: RIBA Journal debate: *Off Centre - New Regionalism in Architecture*.** Chaired by Hugh Pearman with contributions from Gareth Hoskins, Mary Arnold-Foster of Dualchas and others.

**7pm – 8pm: The Mackintosh School of Architecture:** The Urban Laboratory (looking at how we can transform our urban landscape) and The City Model (presentation of the ground-breaking 3-D city models created by the Digital Design Studio including newly created visualisations of Venice).

#### **Friday 12 September**

**2pm (tbc) The Lighthouse debate: *Architecture Beyond Building*.** Chaired by Charles Jencks.

**8pm 'til late: Celebrate Scotland in Venice** with a party organised in association with Blueprint Magazine. Live music from Scottish bands and djs.

#### **Saturday 13 September**

**3pm – 4pm: The Building Design debate.** Chaired by Ellis Woodman with contributions from international architects including Eelco Hooftman of GROSS.MAX.

#### **Sunday 14 September**

**2-4pm: Building Futures with the RIBA Trust: Building Futures Game**

Workshop using The Building Futures Game as a tool for visioning and exploring possible futures.

**Issued on behalf of The Lighthouse by New Century PR. For further information, information and images contact: Lesley Booth                      +44 (0)779 941 4474                      [lesley@newcenturypr.com](mailto:lesley@newcenturypr.com)**

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