

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Media Release

GSA launches international search for architects to redevelop its estate

The Glasgow School of Art (GSA) has today launched an international competition to select the team who will design a major new building opposite the iconic Mackintosh Building in Garnethill, Glasgow as Phase 1 of the School's estate redevelopment plans supported by the Scottish Funding Council.

The competition will be managed on behalf of The Glasgow School of Art by Malcolm Reading Consultants, with a judging panel, chaired by international architect David Mackay of MBM Arquitectes, Barcelona, making the final selection of the architect led team who will work with the GSA to agree the campus master plan and design and deliver the Phase 1 building.

With the Phase 1 building set to open in 2013, and Phase 2 planned to follow soon after, the complete redevelopment of the School's estate will transform the current incoherent and inefficient scatter of buildings across Garnethill which are no longer fit for purpose, into a coherent urban campus providing world-class teaching and research 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 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.

Capital costs for the estate redevelopment will be funded by a combination of SFC funding, School cash balances, land sales, borrowing and philanthropic sources. The Scottish Funding Council has committed up to £50 million towards the Phase 1 building with a commitment to discuss and agree with the School a funding package for future phases.

The Chair of the competition judging panel David Mackay said

"Mackintosh's Glasgow School of Art Building is a mine for discovering the discipline of architecture and one leaves the Building challenged and motivated to reach the same coherence achieved by this architect, when he was only 30 years old. That is what this competition is about: open to all, from the thirty year olds to those, like Louis Khan, who emerged later in life, over sixty and still learning.

To find that architect or team of architects will not be an easy task, but the jury will be looking for the intelligent capacity and sensitive dexterity of the applicants to translate, not copy, those pioneers of modern architecture, within the historic context of Glasgow.

As an architect and Life Member of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society, I am honoured to be asked to chair what will be an unusually distinguished jury, judging an internationally significant project."

Director of The Glasgow Art School Seona Reid said:

"Who could not be excited about what lies ahead? The prospect of appointing the design team that will work with us to develop the masterplan and then design and deliver Phase 1, is thrilling. The Phase 1 setting, opposite the much loved Mackintosh Building, is, of course, crucially important and we need to ensure that the design team works with us to provide a building which current and future generations of staff and students will find as inspiring to work in as the Mackintosh Building; which will provide top class facilities for teaching and research; which will support our aspirations for growth and which will be a model of sustainability.

Put together, this is not without challenge but it is a challenge I am sure, that many practices will wish to face and we await the submissions with great anticipation

Councillor George Ryan, Executive Director for Development and Regeneration, Glasgow City Council said:

"The GSA's new buildings should reflect the fantastic architectural and design standards that have given The Glasgow School of Art a worldwide reputation for excellence. I am sure there will be massive international interest and we look forward to this competition attracting submissions of very high quality. When complete, The Glasgow School of Art's new buildings will be another key feature of the regeneration of Glasgow city centre and a vital part of our creative industries."

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Notes to editors:

International Architectural Competition (www.malcolmreading.co.uk/gsa)

- Candidates have until Friday 1st May to enter their Stage 1 application. Short listed candidates will then be announced towards the end of May. The winner of the International Architectural Competition will be announced in September 2009.
- Candidates are asked to enter the competition via the website www.malcolmreading.co.uk/gsa
- David Mackay will Chair the judging panel. The other external members are still to be advised.

The Glasgow School of Art (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. 70% of our academic staff are undertaking research that is internationally recognised with 50% undertaking work of international significance and excellence.
- Given Broad Confidence - the highest rating - by the QAA at its Institutional Review in 2005. This builds on our success in the last teaching quality assessments previously conducted by the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council where teaching in architecture, fine art and design were rated Excellent, Highly Satisfactory and Highly Satisfactory respectively, giving the GSA one of the highest aggregate ratings in these subjects in the Scottish sector.
- 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 an innovative partnership with 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 third in the UK based on the views of 100 major architectural practices in the UK
- A quarter 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

David Mackay (<http://www.mbmarquitectes.cat/home.htm>)

- David Mackay, of Irish and English descent, has been practising architecture for 50 years in Barcelona with his practice partners Josep Martorell and Oriol Bohigas and since 2000 with Oriol Capdevila and Francesc Gual.
- The practice is probably best known for the urban design of the Barcelona Olympic Village and Port in 1992.
- He has been member of the Senate Advisory Committee for the unification of Berlin
- He was advisor to the Dublin City Council, and has chaired the Plymouth Design Panel for four years.
- He was Senior Design Fellow (2000-01) at the London School of Economics within the City Design and Social Science Programme.
- In November 2004, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Arts by the University of Plymouth. He is also an Honorary Member of the Bund Deutscher Architekten, Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Incorporation of the Architects in Scotland.
- He has written several books, the latest *A vision for Plymouth 2004* and his memoirs *Life and Cities* will be published in English by R.I.A.S. and presented in Glasgow 23rd April 2009.

Malcolm Reading Consultants (<http://www.malcolmreading.co.uk/>)

- 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.
- Current projects encompass the new fit-out of UK Supreme Court, the new Hostry building for Norwich Cathedral, Sammy Ofer Wing for the National Maritime Museum, a civic campus for Bracknell Forest Council and supervising the new British Embassy in Damascus.
- MRC also organises and runs architectural competitions, notably the UK Pavilion for the Shanghai Exposition 2010, campus facilities for the London School of Economics and a new science research base in Antarctica for the British Antarctic Survey.
- Other clients include: The Royal Institution, Royal Geographical Society, Heritage Lottery Fund, Open University, Stowe School, The Wallace Collection, City and Islington College, and the Africa Centre.

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

