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HYLAND EDGAR DRIVER TEAM WINS CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN COMPETITION



Landscape architects inspired by the Cathedral's archives and glass art

The team led by Hyland Edgar Driver Landscape Architects has won the Canterbury Cathedral Landscape Design Competition.

The design competition, which was launched in the early summer, sought an exceptional team to rethink how visitors approach and encounter England's first Cathedral.

The Jury was unanimous in choosing the HED team (who collaborated with Andrew Moor Associates, Thorn Lighting Limited and KLH Sustainability) from the five practices shortlisted to develop concept designs at the design competition's second stage.

The successful proposal was distinctive in approaching the sensitive and historic site with a master-planning strategy. It concentrated on the welcome for visitors and chose to narrate Canterbury's historic, cultural and architectural stories through contemporary artworks in glass and stone.

The team derived inspiration from the Cathedral's archives and glass art. They suggested developing a pavement of etched 'ledgers' (large flagstones) to form a new piazza, as well as a Pilgrims' bench with drinking fountains and basins, and seasonal planting at the Cathedral's West Front.

They also proposed restoring lost flint walls, reintroducing herbs and wildflowers to the Precincts and using highly-sustainable techniques to reclaim and recycle existing materials.

Canterbury Cathedral's Receiver General and the chair of the jury, Brigadier John Meardon said:

I am delighted with the outcome of this competition which produced some very interesting and innovative ideas. In the end, the jury was convinced by the approach and depth of understanding that HED showed for this very important setting. The project will make a significant contribution to the life of the Cathedral and enhance the welcome we give to all our visitors. Canterbury Cathedral would like to extend their sincere thanks to Peter Baldwin and Lisbet Rausing for making this competition possible.'

Malcolm Reading, competition organiser and adviser to the jury, said:

The brief called for exemplary and sustainable landscape design, which recognises the spiritual, historic and national importance of the site. The winning team was the one which took this message to heart, coming up with original ideas and a refreshing but also realistic approach.'

HED's Associate, Arthur Gelling, said:

Canterbury Cathedral has a unique place in our cultural, architectural and historic heritage and we are absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to play a role in its continuing story. We look forward to working alongside the Dean and Chapter and the many stakeholders to bring their ambitions for the Precincts to fruition.'

HED is an award-winning practice with a strong reputation for innovative work in landscape design, landscape architecture and urban design.

It was part of Team Stadium who worked on the Stadium Island landscaping for the London 2012 Games.

The Canterbury site, which provides the setting for the Grade I listed Cathedral and is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site, was last updated following the Second World War.

Five teams were shortlisted in the contest for the project. The others were teams led by Kossmann.dejong, Michael Lee Architects, Purcell, and Todd Longstaffe-Gowan Ltd Landscape Design.

See the winning concept design at:

<http://competitions.malcolmreading.co.uk/canterburycathedral>

ENDS

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AVAILABLE IMAGES



Resolution: 300 dpi (2.3mb)
Size: (30cm by 18cm)
Caption: Precincts Aerial Perspective



Resolution: 300 dpi (953kb)
Size: (26cm by 10cm)
Caption: Precincts Daytime Perspective



Resolution: 300 dpi (1.6mb)
Size: (18cm by 10cm)
Caption: Precincts Nighttime Perspective

For images: please email Ellen Palmer at canterburycathedral@malcolmreading.co.uk

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Resolution: 300 dpi (4mb)
Size: 20cm by 30cm
Caption: Precincts Focussed Plan

NOTES TO EDITORS

- The shortlisted teams included:

Kossmann.dejong (The Netherlands) in collaboration with Felixx, ROD'OR Advies and VAN DEN BERK Nurseries.

Michael Lee Architects (UK) in collaboration with Austin Winkley & Associates, NORM, Biodiversity by Design, Noel Kingsbury and Jackson Coles Construction Consultants.

Purcell (UK) in collaboration with ARUP, Tonkin Liu, Bare Leaning & Bare (Synergy LLP) and Fletcher Teckman Consulting Ltd.

Todd Longstaffe-Gowan Ltd Landscape Design (UK) in collaboration with Gianni Botsford Architects, Langlands & Bell, Press & Starkey and Hockley & Dawson.

- The project site is within the Precincts, adjacent to the West Front and Christ Church Gate. The Grade I listed Cathedral is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The extent of the site affected and budget for the eventual works will be defined in part by the winning team, and is expected to amount to roughly £1 million.
- Canterbury Cathedral** is England's first Cathedral and Mother Church of the Anglican Communion. Created for worship, learning and discovery, it was founded by St Augustine, the first Archbishop, in 579 AD. St Augustine's original building lies beneath the floor of the nave– it was extensively rebuilt and enlarged by the Saxons, and the Cathedral was rebuilt completely by the Normans in 1070 following a major fire. There have been many additions to the building over the last nine hundred years, but parts of the quire and some of the windows and their stained glass date from the 12th century. Today, the Cathedral stands as a place where prayer to God has been offered daily for over 1,400 years. The Cathedral currently welcomes over a million visitors a year. In March 2013, it was the setting for the enthronement of the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury, and head of the Church of England, the Most Reverend Justin Welby.

For more information please see www.canterbury-cathedral.org

- Malcolm Reading Consultants** (MRC) is a strategic architectural consultancy, which specialises in heritage master-planning and the selection of contemporary designers. Highly experienced in both these areas, they are enthusiastic advocates of the power of design to create new perceptions and act as an inspiration – whether at the local level, or internationally. MRC has advised on some of the leading heritage projects in the UK, notably Westminster Abbey, the National Maritime Museum and St Martin-in-the-Fields, the latter winning the European Union's prestigious Europa Nostra award.

They offer a service to find the very best designers for clients with new building projects, whether through open-international, or private-invited competitions. Recent work in this area includes competitions for the Natural History Museum, the Queen's College, Oxford, the Cadogan Estate, the Olympic Park Legacy Company, the Aberdeen City Garden project, the Victoria and Albert Museum's Exhibition Road project, the UK Pavilion for Shanghai Expo 2010 and the Glasgow School of Art.

www.malcolmreading.co.uk