

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM DESIGN COMPETITION SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED



Five teams to propose a design for the grounds of the world famous London museum

The Natural History Museum today announced the shortlist for the competition to find an inspired team to redesign and re-imagine its grounds.

The five teams – given by team-lead – and comprising architects in collaboration with landscape architects and other sub-consultants (not listed here) are:

BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group) with Martha Schwartz Partners

Grant Associates with Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios

Niall McLaughlin Architects with Kim Wilkie

Land Use Consultants (LUC) with Design Engine

Stanton Williams Architects with Bradley-Hole Schoenach Landscape Architects

The major project will aim to create an innovative exterior setting that matches the architectural excellence of the iconic 19th Century site, whilst ensuring that the Museum grounds are easily accessible to all visitors.

Attracting over five million visitors annually, the Natural History Museum is one of the UK's top visitor attractions and known worldwide as a leader in scientific research, housing over 80 million specimens from around the world.

The Museum's Grade I Listed Waterhouse building is admired as a model of the Victorians' passion for celebrating and classifying the natural world.

Dr Michael Dixon, Director of the Natural History Museum, said:

'We are delighted with the architectural community's response to the project and are eager to see the design proposals that aim to enhance the world class setting of the Museum. We look forward to working with the winning team'

Malcolm Reading, Architect and competition organiser commented:

'The list reflects the diversity of interest generated by the competition. The brief for the design stage is challenging and combines the redevelopment of the current landscape with ambitions to re-energise visitor engagement – so we were looking for teams with the breadth of expertise to deliver an integrated response. The Museum is one of the world's great institutions and we have a shortlist of designers of world-class status and capability.'

To find out more about the competition, which is devised and managed by specialist competition organiser Malcolm Reading Consultants, in association with Deloitte, the Museum's project manager for the redevelopment, please visit the dedicated microsite at:

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

An open day for competitors will be held in November and second-stage submissions are due towards the end of January 2014.

The winning team is expected to be announced in February 2014, following a public exhibition of the entries.

ENQUIRIES

For media enquiries and further information on the project, please contact Jacqui Savaker on +44 (0)20 7831 2998 or via email at jacqui.savaker@malcolmreading.co.uk

For information relating to the Natural History Museum, please contact The Natural History Museum Press Office on +44 (0)20 7942 5654 or +44 (0) 7799 690 151 or via email at press@nhm.ac.uk

AVAILABLE IMAGES



For images: please email Sarah Mattok at sarah.mattok@malcolmreading.co.uk

All images have a resolution of 300 dpi

NOTES TO EDITORS

• The Natural History Museum

Winner of Best of the Best in the Museums + Heritage Awards 2013, the Natural History Museum welcomes five million visitors a year. It is also a world-leading science research centre. Through its collections and scientific expertise it is helping to understand and maintain the diversity of the planet, with ground breaking partnerships in more than 70 countries.

At its heart is a unique, national collection of some 80 million natural history specimens and six million rare books and artworks. The original building was designed by the renowned Victorian architect Sir Alfred Waterhouse and opened to the public on 18 April 1881.

For more information go to www.nhm.ac.uk

• Malcolm Reading Consultants

A specialist architectural consultancy proving pre-project services, briefing and strategic and master planning advice on capital projects in the UK and worldwide. MRC specialises in the arts, culture, heritage and public realm, helping clients achieve world-class design for their buildings through selecting, briefing and managing teams. It is the leading independent organiser of international architectural competitions based in the UK. Recent competitions include those for Canterbury Cathedral, Oriel College, Oxford, the Olympic Park Legacy Company, the Cadogan Estate, the Victoria and Albert Museum's Exhibition Road project, the UK Pavilion for Shanghai Expo 2010 and the Glasgow School of Art.

For more information go to www.malcolmreading.co.uk