



National  
Trust

**UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 8.30AM ON 6/12/17**

## **Allies and Morrison wins international design competition to restore, reimagine and rebuild Clandon Park**

Following an international design competition which attracted 60 entries from some of the world's leading designers, architects Allies and Morrison have been chosen to bring Clandon Park back to life after a devastating fire in 2015.

Allies and Morrison is a leading UK architectural practice known for its inspiring designs and the variety of its projects, including work with historic places. From World Heritage sites to Grade-I listed buildings, their past projects in the heritage sector range from the award-winning refurbishment of the Royal Festival Hall in London to the careful restoration of Blackwell in Cumbria, and the confident, modern insertion of a new planetarium at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich.

Allies and Morrison was unanimously selected from six finalists by a jury comprised of figures from the fields of heritage, architecture and the arts, including Ptolemy Dean, Surveyor of the Fabric at Westminster Abbey, David Bickle Director of Design, Exhibition and FuturePlan at the V&A Museum, architectural historian, Clive Aslet, and local resident, Dame Penelope Keith.

The jury praised the winning team's bold yet balanced approach, to "respect the quality and character of the mansion house in its historic setting". The jury found the team's submission to be a clear and thoughtful proposal, which balanced continuity and cohesion with an appropriate level of drama and excitement.

The proposed concept is at an early design stage and Allies and Morrison will now work closely with the National Trust to develop a final design (subject to gaining the necessary approvals) which will restore and rebuild the 18th-century Palladian house in Surrey.

**Sandy Nairne CBE FSA, Trustee of the National Trust, former Director of the National Portrait Gallery and jury chair, says:** "Finding the right architect to restore Clandon Park is a very significant milestone in Clandon Park's history. The fact that many hold Clandon close to their hearts has been on our minds when thinking about its future. The jury's unanimous selection of Allies and Morrison was a result of their sensitive response to the brief, which matches the National Trust's commitment to doing what's best for the mansion, its surviving interiors and the wider estate."

**Paul Appleton, Partner at Allies and Morrison, says:** "Our approach is about balance; meticulously reinstating historically significant spaces while in others exploiting the extraordinary character of massive brick walls. New floors and ceilings are slotted into this robust matrix to re-order and to redefine, but only just as much as

is needed to create timeless spaces without erasing the marks of time. From a restored Marble Hall, through the series of grand rooms on the principal floor, to a soaring new space connecting the lower ground floor to a new roof-terrace, each element plays its own particular part.”

“It is hard to imagine an architectural project which bears more directly on the question of how we respond to our heritage. We feel enormously privileged to work with the National Trust to unfold the story Clandon Park has to tell and to begin, together, to weave plans for its future around the extraordinary evidence of its past.”

**Matthew Slocombe, Director of Britain’s oldest heritage body, The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), comments:** “The 2015 fire, terrible and destructive as it was, is now a part of Clandon Park’s unfolding story. SPAB believes that the National Trust’s vision for the future of the house is a bold and honest response, moving Clandon Park forward both architecturally and intellectually.”

**Paul Cook, Project Director for Clandon Park, says:** “We were incredibly impressed with the quality of all the entries in this competition, and I would like to thank all involved for the huge amount of time and thought that clearly went in to each submission.”

Allies and Morrison has invited Purcell to join as conservation architect, with structural engineer Price & Myers and services engineer Max Fordham. A landscape architect will be appointed after further consultation with the National Trust.

The next stage of the project includes a detailed feasibility study and consultations, after which a more developed design will be able to be shared.

For more information please visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/clandon-park](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/clandon-park)

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## **Images**

Images of Allies and Morrison’s proposed design concept, and group photo of the architect team, can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w8v9fw8l8eq1gud/AAAcL7mj3yTwAJpgOeldptGza?dl=0>

*All images ©Allies and Morrison*

Images of Clandon Park can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fjm27r09wbzaolh/AAC-bC44wVjYxkTs-clazazLa?dl=0>

*All images ©National Trust / photographer’s name*

## Notes to editors:

### About the International Design Competition

The international design competition was organised by Malcolm Reading Consultants and the jury consisted of:

- **Sandy Nairne CBE FSA** (jury chair), Trustee of the National Trust and former Director of the National Portrait Gallery
- **Clive Aslet**, Author on architectural history, journalist and former editor of Country Life
- **David Bickle**, Architect and Director of Design, Exhibitions & FuturePlan, Victoria & Albert Museum
- **Ben Bolgar**, Senior Design Director, Prince's Foundation for Building Community
- **Ptolemy Dean**, Principal Director, Ptolemy Dean Architects and Surveyor of the Fabric at Westminster Abbey
- **Dame Helen Ghosh DCB**, Director-General, National Trust
- **Dame Penelope Keith DBE DL**, local resident, President of the West Surrey National Trust supporter group and former Pro-Chancellor at Guildford University.
- **Rt Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury**, Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, former Culture Secretary and former Chairman of the Environment Agency
- **Baroness Lola Young of Hornsey OBE**, Professor of Cultural Studies (Middlesex University), Crossbench peer and former Historic England Commissioner
- The jury was advised by Clandon Park Project Director, **Paul Cook** and Competition Director **Malcolm Reading**

The jury was also informed by feedback from the local community, members of the public and the extensive research carried out by the National Trust's team at Clandon Park, with specialist consultants, since the fire. From 23 August – 1 October 2017 visitors to Clandon Park were able to view the six design concepts on display in the grounds. The property had nearly 3,000 visitors to the concepts display and received over 500 comment cards, forming a "Compendium of comments" for the jury.

### About Allies and Morrison:

Allies and Morrison is an architecture and urban planning practice based in London and Cambridge. We have a reputation for thoughtful placemaking and well-crafted buildings honed over more than three decades in practice. Our work in architecture, interior design and conservation, masterplanning, consultation and research has garnered 41 RIBA Awards and two shortlisted nominations for the Stirling Prize. We work across all sectors, and our work on Clandon Park will join a thriving portfolio of heritage and cultural projects.

[www.alliesandmorrison.com](http://www.alliesandmorrison.com)

Twitter: @alliesmorrison

Instagram: @alliesandmorrison

### About Clandon Park

Clandon Park was one of the country's most complete examples of a Palladian mansion designed by Venetian architect Giacomo Leoni (c1686-1746) within a designed-landscape. This extraordinary commission by Thomas, 2nd Baron Onslow, was a bold move which revealed the self-confidence and wealth of his family. The house was celebrated for its magnificent double-height Marble Hall with its sculptural plaster ceiling by stuccador Giuseppe Artari (d. 1769) and the virtuoso Carrara marble over mantels by sculptor John Michael Rysbrack (1694-1770). Its decorative schemes were highly significant, particularly the six additional ornate plaster ceilings by Arturi, that in the Speakers' Parlour survived the fire. The arrangement of the piano nobile with its enfilade circuit are important remaining features of Leoni's work and demonstrate the Onslow family's status and use of the rooms to entertain royalty and nobility.

The house was damaged by fire in April 2015 but Leoni's composition and superb brickwork exterior is remarkably little altered since its completion in c1730. Significant elements of historic fabric survived the fire and approximately 500 objects from the collection were rescued on that night. Since the fire much historic decorative plaster, building fabric and collection objects have been carefully excavated from the debris which was up to eight feet high.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/clandon-park](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/clandon-park)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ClandonParkNationalTrust](https://www.facebook.com/ClandonParkNationalTrust)

Twitter: [@ClandonParkNT](https://twitter.com/ClandonParkNT)

### **About the National Trust**

The National Trust is a conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people who saw the importance of our nation's heritage and open spaces, and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. More than 120 years later, these values are still at the heart of everything the charity does.

Entirely independent of Government, the National Trust looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 778 miles of coastline and hundreds of special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

More than 24 million people visit every year, and together with 5 million members and over 65,000 volunteers, they help to support the charity in its work to care for special places for ever, for everyone.

For more information and ideas for great seasonal days out go to: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nationaltrust](https://www.facebook.com/nationaltrust)

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### **About Malcolm Reading Consultants (competition organisers)**

Malcolm Reading Consultants (MRC) is a strategic consultancy specialising in the selection of architect designers. MRC believes in the power of design to create new perceptions and act as an inspiration – either at the local level, or internationally.

MRC is the leading specialist in design competitions in Europe. Recent work includes competitions for the Illuminated River Foundation, the Museum of London, the gold medal-winning UK Pavilion at Milan Expo 2015, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, Tintagel Castle Bridge, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park's Culture & Education Quarter, the Mumbai City Museum, the Natural History Museum and New College, Oxford.

<https://malcolmreading.co.uk>

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<sup>i</sup> From Allies and Morrison competition submission *Clandon Park has a story to tell*.