

THE FLOREY DESIGN COMPETITION - SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED



Six 'seasoned' teams invited to submit proposals

The Queen's College today announced the six teams invited to submit proposals to update the Grade II listed Florey building in order to provide modern facilities and achieve exemplary energy design.

The project is the subject of a two-stage design competition launched in August 2013.

In alphabetical order, the team leaders are:

Avanti Architects

Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios

Hawkins\Brown Architects

John McAslan + Partners

Levitt Bernstein Associates

Nicholas Hare Architects

The Florey, now forty years old, is regarded as one of the great post-war modernist buildings in Britain. It is among the few surviving works of the architect James Stirling, acclaimed as the most brilliant designer of his generation.

Competition organiser, Malcolm Reading said:

‘We are delighted by the quality of response to our call for expressions of interest. These teams are highly seasoned, astute practices who are in their prime.’

‘This is an extremely complex project which will require a deal of patience and skill but the renewal of the Florey will be a tremendous asset to Queen’s, and indeed Oxford.’

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

The winner is expected to be announced in February 2014 following the Jury interviews.

The Florey was recently identified by The Guardian as one of the top ten student residences in the world.

For more details on the competition, please see:

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

For media enquiries and further information on the project, please contact Jacqui Savaker on 0207 831 2998 or via email at jacqui.savaker@malcolmreading.co.uk

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- **The Queen’s College**, one of the oldest constituent Colleges of the University of Oxford, was founded in 1341 by Robert de Eglesfield, a chaplain in the household of Queen Philippa of Hainault, who named it in her honour. Parts of the current College date back to the 17th century and replace the earlier medieval College buildings that had fallen into disrepair in the 16th century. The Baroque Front Quadrangle has been called ‘the grandest piece of classical architecture in Oxford’ and was heavily influenced by Nicholas Hawksmoor. Since the late nineteenth century Queen’s has developed a strong academic reputation and recently endowed a scholarship in memory of the Iranian student, Neda Agha-Soltan. Today, although candidates from all possible backgrounds are welcomed and northerners no longer have preference, the College remains conscious of its history and traditions and values its ancient links with Cumberland, Westmorland and Yorkshire.

www.queens.ox.ac.uk

- **The Florey Building (1971)** was designed by James Stirling, one of the most inventive and often controversial, British architects of the post-war period. The building, which provides accommodation for undergraduates and post-graduates, was commissioned by Lord Howard Florey, the Queen’s College Provost and a Nobel Prize winner, who sought ‘the best building by the best architect to attract the best students and also research funding’. Architectural historians often group the Florey with Stirling’s other two university buildings of this phase of his career: the Engineering Department at Leicester University (1959) and the University of Cambridge’s History Faculty and Library Building (1964). However, the Florey remains distinctive in its response to context: the river setting, endlessly captured and replayed in its glittering, faceted courtyard façade. The American critic, Amanda Reeser Lawrence in her book *James Stirling Revisionary Modernist* has described the Florey’s design as, ‘...perhaps the purest moment of release – Stirling’s “wildest” moment, in which he strays further from anything else in either his own work or the work of others.’ The annual Stirling Prize for Architecture commemorates James Stirling’s original talent and is now Britain’s leading architectural prize. English Heritage listed the Florey Building Grade II in 2009.
- **Malcolm Reading Consultants** provides pre-project services, briefing and strategic and master planning advice on capital projects in the UK and worldwide. The practice specialises in the arts, culture, heritage and public realm, helping clients achieve world-class design for their buildings through selecting, briefing and managing teams. MRC is the leading independent organiser of international architectural competitions based in the UK. Recent competitions include those for the Natural History Museum, Canterbury Cathedral, 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.

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