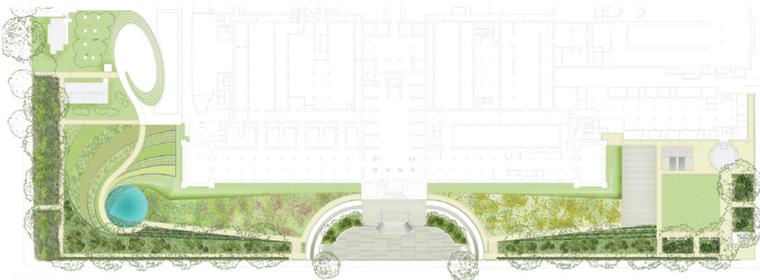
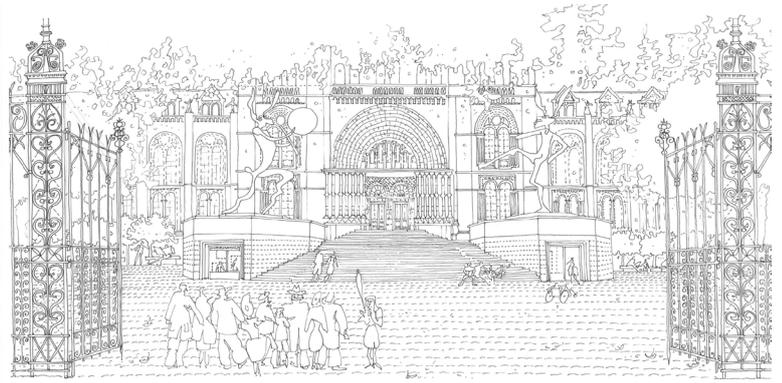


NIALL MCLAUGHLIN ARCHITECTS WINS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM'S CIVIC REALM COMPETITION



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The Natural History Museum is delighted to announce that Niall McLaughlin Architects with Kim Wilkie have won the chance to re-develop its exterior grounds. The team will work with the Museum to create an innovative setting that matches the visual excellence of the world famous Waterhouse building and Darwin Centre.

The competition was launched in autumn 2013 and sought the best team to win the commission for the Civic Realm project, a key part of which was improving the visitor experience for the five million visitors the Museum welcomes a year.

Niall McLaughlin Architects with Kim Wilkie were the unanimous choice of the jury, which included the journalist, broadcaster and former Cabinet Minister, Michael Portillo, Ian Henderson CBE, Deputy Chairman of CapCo and Chair of the NHM Estates and Building Advisory Committee, and Graham Morrison, Partner at Allies and Morrison.

Jury Chair, Ian Henderson said,

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‘The challenge was to find a team which would consider the changing nature of the Museum, a team who would think holistically, both spatially and intellectually, considering the Museum and the Grounds together. Niall McLaughlin Architects did this brilliantly.’

”

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

“

‘I am delighted we are appointing a team that fully understands the Museum’s opportunities and challenges for the future. I’m looking forward to working with Niall McLaughlin Architects over the coming months to develop a new design for our grounds that enhances the character of the buildings and gives our increasing visitor numbers the best possible experience’

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Malcolm Reading, Competition Organiser said,

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‘All of the teams should be congratulated for rising to the challenge set by the competition. This was reflected in both the quality of their submissions, as well as the vitality of their presentations.

‘But in the end it was Niall McLaughlin’s proposal which reflected the real wants and needs of visitors whilst also being sensitive to the significance of this key site. They will now take their initial concept and work closely with the Museum to develop it further.’

Niall McLaughlin said,

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‘We are delighted to have won this significant commission, particularly given the high quality of the work by all of the shortlisted candidates. The Natural History Museum offers the opportunity for us to reflect upon the relationship between an important building and the natural landscape that surrounds it.

We look forward to deepening our understanding of the natural world and thinking about how the public will access this knowledge in the future’

”

The four other teams who were shortlisted, included;

- BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group) with Martha Schwartz Partners
- Grant Associates with Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios
- Land Use Consultants (LUC) with Design Engine
- Stanton Williams Architects with Bradley-Hole Schoenaich Landscape Architects

During the competition the online posting of the teams' design concepts was anonymous for EU procurement reasons. These concepts are now assigned to the teams above and can be seen online at <http://competitions.malcolmreading.co.uk/naturalhistory>

Niall McLaughlin Architects have won a raft of awards and competitions recently. The practice was shortlisted for the 2013 RIBA Stirling Prize for their much-admired Bishop Edward King Chapel. Additionally, Niall McLaughlin continues to receive accolades as a sought-after and influential teacher; during 2015 he will be Norman R. Foster Visiting Professor at Yale University. Kim Wilkie, a Royal Designer for Industry, collaborates with architects around the world. Kim has designed the neighbouring V&A garden and Hyde Park Corner in London, and has worked with Niall McLaughlin on Worcester College in Oxford and the Oxford Botanic Garden.

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

FOR IMAGES:

please email Ellen Palmer at ellen.palmer@malcolmreading.co.uk

Images (from the left)

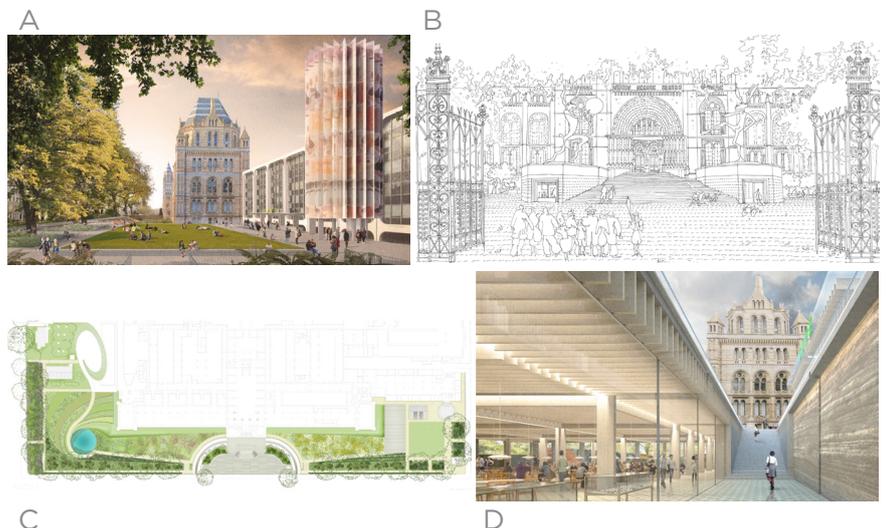
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For information relating to the Natural History Museum, please contact The Natural History Museum Press Office on +44 (0)20 7942 5654 or +44 (0) 7799 690 151 or via email at press@nhm.ac.uk

Notes to Editors

- The Natural History Museum Civic Realm Design Competition

The competition was launched in autumn 2013 and advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union. It was run by Malcolm Reading Consultants in association with Deloitte, the Museum's Project Manager. For further details please see the dedicated microsite:

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

- Niall McLaughlin Architects

Niall McLaughlin Architects is a practice that designs high quality modern architecture. The practice puts a strong emphasis on the inventive use of building materials, the qualities of light and the relationship between the building and its surroundings.

This practice has experience in a broad range of projects: from town master plans, to schools, health centres, community buildings, group housing, private residential houses, exhibitions, furniture and bandstands.

Niall McLaughlin is a former UK Young Architect of the Year and honorary fellow of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland. His practice has achieved national and international recognition with numerous awards for its buildings, exhibitions, and publications including RIBA Awards, American Institute of Architects Awards and Civic Trust Awards.

For more information please go to **www.niallmclaughlin.com**

- Kim Wilkie

Kim Wilkie is a Royal Designer for Industry and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute. Kim collaborates with architects and landscape architects around the world and combines designing with the muddy practicalities of running a small farm in Hampshire, where he is now based.

Kim studied history at Oxford and landscape architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, before setting up his landscape studio in London in 1989. He continues to teach and lecture in America; writes optimistically about land and place from Hampshire; and meddles in various national committees on landscape and environmental policy in the UK.

Current projects include the Churchill Memorial at Blenheim Palace, the redevelopment of an area between Regent's Park and Harley Street in London and a series of estates in Suffolk, Buckinghamshire, Sussex, Hampshire and Cornwall. Abroad Kim is working for New York University at Villa La Pietra in Florence and for Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania.

For more information please go to **www.kimwilkie.com**

- 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 please 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 the UK Pavilion for Milan Expo 2015, the Queen's College, Oxford, the Mumbai City Museum, the Cadogan Estate, and the Victoria and Albert Museum's Exhibition Road project.

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