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LSE announces £100m design competition

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Contest comes hot on heels of two others

The London School of Economics has bought a second site on Lincoln's Inn Fields and plans to hold an international design competition for a £100 million building.

The news comes the same week that the winner of another LSE contest - for a £90 million Global Centre for Social Sciences on its Aldwych campus - is due to be announced with RSHP, OMA, Hopkins, Grafton Architects, Heneghan Peng all battling it out.

The new contest will be launched in the late summer next year.

The LSE bought 44 Lincoln's Inn Fields, an eight-storey post-war building, from Cancer Research last month. The charity will be a tenant of the university until 2016 when it moves out to make way for construction of the new building.

The current plan is for it to contain an academic faculty plus some accommodation for visitors and staff, a nursery and a basement sports centre.

The LSE already owns 32 Lincoln's Inn Fields, whose refurbishment was designed by Jestico & Whiles.

It is a busy time for the LSE estates department. Next week sees the completion of O'Donnell & Tuomey's Saw Swee Hock Student Centre. "We'll have two £100 million buildings on the go at the same time," said director of estates Julian Robinson.



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