Competitions

Architects sought to design ‘unique’ UCL East campus on Olympic Park site

Client UCL and LLDC
Budget £40 million and £30 million
Sector Higher education
Deadline 1pm on 30 March
Brief University College London (UCL) and the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) are seeking two architects for the first phase of a new campus on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Separate contracts have been simultaneously tendered for Pool Street – a £40 million mixed-use academic and residential facility south of Zaha Hadid’s London Aquatics Centre, and Marshgate – an £80 million academic complex south of the Anish Kapoor-designed ArcelorMittal Orbit.

The two schemes are the first phase of the university’s UCL East masterplan, drawn up by LDA Design with Nicholas Hare Architects and Studio Weave, for a new estate on the site.

What sort of architects are you hoping to work with? UCL East is envisaged as a new model of how a university campus can be embedded in the local community and with businesses, as well as providing world-leading research, education, entrepreneurship and innovation. It will also form part of the significant development of Olympicopolis. So this presents a unique opportunity for UCL to recast its relationship with London and to fulfill its promise as London’s global university.

What other campus developments are you impressed by? We have taken a look at a number of university developments in Europe, the US and the UK, and are still looking and learning.

There are some impressive examples to learn from, ranging from O’Dowdell + Tuomey’s Saw Swee Hock Student Centre at LSE, to Twelve Architects’ Diamond building at Sheffield University and SOM’s New School building in New York.

However, none have really been developed under the circumstances that we are dealing with. We expect UCL East in many ways to be unique.

Gatwick Airport launches design and planning frameworks
Client Gatwick Airport
Budget £75 million
Sector Transport
Deadline 4pm on 23 March
Brief Gatwick Airport has launched a trio of frameworks covering development at the West Sussex airport up to 2021. The £30 million low-complexity framework – covering projects worth less than £5 million such as new builds, extensions, fit outs and refurbishments – features a lot specifically calling for architects. The £40 million high-complexity framework and £5 million planning framework are meanwhile open to multidisciplinary outfits and airport planners respectively.

Architects wanted for Sydney Metro over-station developments
Client Transport for NSW
Budget $BC
Sector Transport
Deadline 23 March
Brief Transport for New South Wales is recruiting architects for six over-station developments on its new Sydney Metro, City & Southwest rail line. Teams may bid for all six sites – Barangaroo, Chatswood, Martin Place, Pitt Street, Victoria Cross and Waterloo – but will be awarded a maximum of two of the anticipated high-rise mixed-use schemes.

Norway launches design contest for new art gallery
Client Kristiansand Municipality
Budget $BC
Sector Culture
Deadline 12 May
Brief The National Association of Norwegian Architects has announced a design competition for a new 8,815m² art gallery inside a listed 1934 grain silo, and for
a surrounding arts quarter in
Kristiansand. A £100,000 prize
fund will be shared between
winners of the open first
round. Up to five contestants
chosen for the second stage
will receive approximately
£15,000 each.

Highland Council wants
architect for Inverness
regional sports centre
Client Highland Council
Budget £27.5-£34.5 million
Sector Sports and leisure
Deadline 12 noon on 6 April
Brief The Highland Council
is looking for an architect for
a new regional sports centre
in Inverness. Planned to
complete in 2019, the project
will create a complex featuring
a velodrome, tennis courts
and gymnastics area next to
an existing leisure centre in
Bught Park.

University of Glasgow seeks
team to upgrade Adam Smith
Business School
Client University of Glasgow
Budget £18 million
Sector Higher education
Deadline 12 noon on 21 March
Brief The University of
Glasgow is looking for an
architect-led, multidisciplinary
design team to upgrade its
business school. The winner
will create a new home for
the Adam Smith Business
School within the university’s
Grade-A listed Gilbert Scott
Building.

Design competition for
Gozo Museum, Malta
Client Ministry for Gozo
Budget TBC
Sector Culture
Deadline 25 April
Brief Heritage Malta has
opened a design competition
for its new Gozo Museum. The
facility will be built inside a
Joseph Huntingford-designed
1950s former school within the
island’s capital, Victoria. The
winner will receive the design
contract, and there will also be
a second place prize of around
£300 and third prize worth
approximately £200.

Cap Group holds competition
to revamp Milan headquarters
Client Cap Group
Budget £13.25 million
Sector Commercial
Deadline 3 May
Brief Italian holding company
Cap Group has opened a
design competition to overhaul
its corporate headquarters in
Milan. The project will deliver
a new office complex and public
realm for the company, which
manages water networks and
plants across the Lombardy
region. The competition
language is Italian but phase
one applications may be completed
in English.

Milton Keynes police station
seeks consultant for overhaul
Client Thames Valley Police
Budget TBC
Sector Civic
Deadline 21 March
Brief Thames Valley Police is
recruiting a lead consultant
for an overhaul of Milton
Keynes police station.
Designed by Buckinghamshire
County Council Architects
Department in the early
1980s, the redbrick North Row
building currently features
divisional offices, residential
accommodation and stable
blocks.

Civic society requires
conservation architect to
restore Abingdon Abbey
Client Friends of Abingdon
Civic Society
Budget £4 million
Sector Conservation
Deadline 5pm on 25 March
Brief Friends of Abingdon
Civic Society is seeking a
conservation architect for an
overhaul of the town’s
Grade I-listed abbey. Up to six
teams will be shortlisted for
the £350,000 contract which is
expected to last four years.

Bucks County Museum to
be upgraded and extended
Client Bucks County Museum
Budget £5.5 million
Sector Culture
Deadline 5pm on 1 April
Brief Bucks County Museum
is looking for an architect to
overhaul its Grade II-listed
home in Aylesbury. The winner
will ‘upgrade, adapt and
extend’ the existing structure,
located inside the footprint of a
former Iron Age hill fort. Up to
six teams will be shortlisted for
the £350,000 contract, expected
to run for four years. Bids will
be assessed 80 per cent on
quality and 20 per cent on cost.

Chelsea FC holds competition
to design new gates at
Stanford Bridge
Client Chelsea Football Club
Budget TBC
Sector Sport and leisure
Deadline 12 noon on 24 March
Brief Chelsea Football Club
has launched an open design
competition for a new set of
gates. Part of Herzog & de
Meuron’s proposed Stamford
Bridge stadium enlargement,
the gates will be erected on a
new, enlarged pedestrian
bridge connecting the club to
nearby Fulham Road.

Architect wanted for Sea
Survival Training Centre
in Ireland
Client Irish Sea Fisheries
Board
Budget £1.2 million
Sector Education
Deadline 5pm on 4 April
Brief Irish Sea Fisheries
Board is recruiting an
architect for a new Sea
Survival Training Centre at
the National Fisheries College
in Greencastle, County Donegal.
Planned to complete in 2017,
the facility will feature a
15m-long swimming pool
with wave machine and fans
to simulate extreme
weather conditions.

Wokingham Council looking
for design consultant to
expand Lodden Primary
School
Client Wokingham Borough
Council
Budget TBC
Sector Education
Deadline 2.30pm on 30 March
Brief Wokingham Borough
Council is seeking a lead
design consultant to expand
Lodden Primary School in
Earley. The project will
increase the capacity at the
Silverdale Road school from
two-form entry to
three-form entry.

Competition insider

If you ever wanted to work for
Urban Splash how could be the
time to send the developer your
portfolio. The brownfield specialist
is reported by early talks about
a major new housing scheme in
Worl’s Waters, Merseyside.
Featuring hundreds of residential
units and a care home, the scheme
is being bid as a potential
ds ‘springboard’ for the 200ha
regeneration zone in Birkenhead
which has yet to take off since
winning planning six years ago.
Meanwhile at Park Hill in
Sheffield, Urban Splash is in
talks with local outfit S1 Arctapace
about a new £900m art museum
– or ‘Kunsthalle’ – within the next
phase of development. Hawkint
Brown and Studio Eiger West have
drawn up some initial plans but it is
thought a design contest could be
on the horizon.

In the capital, the London
School of Economics has
revealed the six rival visions
– drawn up by a star shortlist
including Amanda Levete and
David Chipperfield – for its new
£100 million Paul Marshall Building.
This is the prestigious
university’s third major competition
– following those that selected
D’Onofrio + Tuomey’s Stirling
Prize-nominated Saw Swee Hock
Student Centre and RSHP’s £170
million Global Centre for Social
Sciences – and is unlikely to be
its last.

It is understood a further
competition could be launched
later this year although the LSE’s
trimmed-in A Decide campus
means ‘opportunistic’ acquisitions
are required to enable expansion,
and so there is no masterplan to
indicate where the next project
will be.

Contact competitions editor
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