RIBA + Hull 2017 Co-Commission

**COMMISSION PURPOSE**

The RIBA is the national collection of architecture and aims to deliver ambitious programmes across the UK, in collaboration with its local offices and cultural partners. The UK City of Culture is a flagship event that offers the opportunity to extend RIBA’s reach and diversity its audiences. As the forthcoming UK City of Culture, Hull 2017 is inviting artists, architects and designers to create work that responds to and sits within the city’s newly designed public realm. These specially commissioned works form the ‘Look-Up’ programme, inspiring new relationships with Hull’s architecture and public spaces.

The RIBA and Hull 2017 co-commission is part of the Look-Up programme and must dare to be different, pushing the boundaries of how architecture is communicated. An architect/artist commission will allow the subject to be approached from a fresh angle, attracting new and varied audiences. It will stimulate debate about architecture and its social purpose and allow RIBA to establish closer connections with cultural institutions beyond London and Liverpool.

Combining an artist with an architect will allow an exchange of ideas and experiences that results in a rich visual design and surrounding programme. Commissioning an artist will provide an opportunity for RIBA to reach out to a new public audience as well as appealing to culturally aware groups who may have limited architectural knowledge.

**SCOPE OF PROJECT**

The co-commission must reflect the following four principles. These will be explained in the design brief and selection of the design team will be based upon their fulfilment.

**1. Collaboration**

A key aspect of the commission is the collaboration between an architect and an artist to approach architecture through different artistic fields, providing new routes into the subject matter. The Design Team selected will represent both these parties and a continued dialogue with the RIBA Curators, Hull 2017 project team, and appointed external design advisors will aid the development and refinement of the design.

**2. Purpose - *making something useful for the city***

The installation should be a functioning piece of architecture, rather than a visual artwork or sculpture. This could be a pavilion, a site for dialogue, play or other civic uses. Its purpose should engage the residents and visitors of Hull in new and exciting ways by responding to existing or historical uses of the urban site. It will be the creative challenge for the Design Team to specify this usefulness in both their Expression of Interest (EOI) and the detailed design proposal.

**3. Responding to context**

It is critical that the design is site specific and responds to its topography, neighbouring architecture and functions. Design Teams are encouraged to look at historic and contemporary use of the site to inform their proposal.

**4. Materiality**

The structure should make significant use of galvanised steel. The Design Team is encouraged to explore the properties of the material and investigate new ways of using it.

**SITES**

Three potential sites have been identified for this project   
1 Land on the east bank of the River Hull, adjacent to Scale Lane Staith footbridge  
2 Land to the north of Castle Street, adjacent to Princes Dock  
3 Market Place

It has been agreed that Market Place (3) was the preferred option, with land adjacent to the River Hull (1) as the fall back. Option 2 was discounted. Hull 2017 have confirmed that Option 1 is definitely available, currently leased to Hull City Council. Enquiries will be made regarding consent to use Market Place.

**BUDGET**

50k secured sponsorship from Wedge Group Galvanising, provided that the design uses galvanised steel. Hull 2017 will provide an additional 50k from their Look-Up budget, totalling 100k.

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| **TOTAL BUDGET** | **£100,000** |
| Honorarium to 3-4 shortlisted design teams | £6,000 (3x £2000) |
| Commission fee to selected design team | £15,000 |
| Fee to external design advisors | £1,000 (500 fee + expenses) |
| Fabrication and install | £60,000 |
| Marketing | £8,000 (£4000 to each partner) |
| Travel | £2,000 |
| Learning | £3,000 (£1500 to each partner) |
| Contingency | £5,000 |

**SCHEDULE**

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| **ON-SITE PERIOD** | **25 Aug- 27 Oct (8 weeks)** |
| **ORGANISATION AND BRIEF** |  |
| Agree responsibilities and budget framework | 29 July |
| Confirm site and design brief | 26 August |
| Appointment of external design advisors to panel | 26 August |
| **SHORTLISTING OF ARCHITECTURE PRACTICES** |  |
| Expression of interest invitations issued to up to 20 longlisted architecture practices | 12 Sept |
| EOI, including confirmation of artist, submitted by | 30 Sept |
| EOI’s reviewed and 3 -4 practices shortlisted | 2 Oct |
| Invitation to tender issued to shortlisted practices | 9 Oct |
| **COMMISSIONING OF DESIGN TEAM** |  |
| Shortlisted design teams to visit site | 17 Oct |
| Submission and presentation of detailed design proposal | 9 Jan |
| Panel review proposals and make selection | 9 Jan |
| Design team announced to press | 17 Jan |
| **DESIGN DETAIL AND CONSENTS** |  |
| Design refined in dialogue with RIBA Curators and Hull 2017 team | 23 Jan- 24 Feb (5 weeks) |
| Application for planning permission | 20 Jan- 21 April (8 weeks) |
| **FABRICATION/INSTALLATION** |  |
| Fabrication and installation | 24 April- 23 August (17 weeks) |
| Launch | 24August |
| Freedom Festival | 1-4 Sept |
| Turner Prize | 27th Oct (tbc) |

**SELECTION METHODOLOGY**

The commission will be selected through a two-phase approach:

1. Expression of Interest by invitation-only (15-20 pre-selected practices by the curatorial team)

2. Shortlist of 3-4 proposals to be selected by a panel consisting of Hull2017, RIBA and two external specialists

The EOI commission brief will be sent to architects/practices, with the following list being indicative only. The curatorial team will select practices based on the relevance of previous work, research or design approach. It will be the responsibility of the architects to select the artist(s) they wish to collaborate with and state whether this collaboration is confirmed or in conversation. The purpose and core idea of the installation should be articulated verbally in the EOI but no new design ideas or visuals presented. Up to five images (of existing work or referencing other installations/artwork/buildings) can be submitted that reflects the idea.

The shortlisted teams will be given a fee of £2,000 to develop a detailed design proposal based on site visits and feedback from the curatorial selection panel. The detailed proposal will be submitted in writing and presented to the panel.

**Potential architecture practices to work with:**

* Sutherland Hussey (Edinburgh)
* **Adam Nathaniel Furman** (young, architecture and fine art)
* Mawson Kerr (Newcastle, RIBA emerging architect of the year)
* Faulkner Brown (Newcastle)
* **OS31** (Sheffield, emerging)
* Shedkm (Liverpool)
* Hawkins/Brown (experience working with artists. Could ask MCR office…)
* Drmm
* **WMBstudio** (London and Liverpool based, emerging practice)
* Amanda Levete
* **Hesselbrand** (UK+NO)
* Rotor (NL)
* Christian Kerez (CH)
* **The Next Enterprise Architects** (AU)
* Assemble(UK)
* **Julia King** (UK+XX) AJ Emerging Woman Architect of the Year 2014
* **Dekleva Gregoric Architects** (SI) <http://dekleva-gregoric.com/>
* **Breaded Escalope (AU)** <http://www.breadedescalope.com/index.php/about>
* **Sam Jacob Studio**
* **Invisible Studio**
* Hat Projects
* **Carmody Groarke**

**ABOUT HULL 2017**

In 2017 the eyes of the world will be on Hull as it becomes UK City of Culture. Hull is only the second city to hold the title, and the first in England. Hull 2017 has been set up to produce 365 days of transformative culture through a range of diverse and high profile events and projects. The year has been broken into four ‘thematic’ seasons which inform the programme;

Jan – March “Made in Hull”

Apr – Jun “Roots and Routes”

Jul – Sept “Freedom”

Oct – Dec “Tell the World”

See the Hull 2017 website for more information [www.hull2017.co.uk](http://www.hull2017.co.uk)

As part of the overall artistic and cultural programme we are directing a major programme of temporary art commissions for the city centre - ‘Look Up’. This ambitious programme will respond to, and reveal in new and surprising ways, Hull’s remarkable architecture, streets and public spaces.

Artists, architects and designers are being invited to create work that alters the city in some way, shifting perceptions of the place, turning the familiar into something strange and wonderful, intriguing and celebratory. Commissions will be broad ranging and will include sound design, lighting installations, digital, interactive and socially engaged works, as well as sculptural and architectural interventions*.* The city becomes a dynamic setting for, and subject of, the artists’ work, rather than a stage on which the work is displayed.

‘Look Up’ will complement the extensive programme of city centre public realm refurbishment being delivered by Hull City Council, which includes an integrated series of permanent public art works.