RIBA + Hull 2017 Architect-Artist Co-Commission

Invitation to submit an Expression of Interest for a temporary site-specific commission as part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017

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**Introduction to the commission and commissioners**

The RIBA and Hull 2017 jointly invite you to submit an Expression of Interest to create an ambitious and bold temporary outdoor structure in Hull city centre. The organisations are collectively approaching *agree number* outstanding emerging and established architects practicing in the UK and internationally to form a collaborative Design Team with an artist of their choosing. The built structure will launch in August 2017, attracting a wide demographic that includes new audiences from Hull and beyond.

Involvement in the project is by invitation only. From the Expressions of Interest received, up to three Design Teams will be shortlisted and given the opportunity to visit the site in Hull before preparing a concept design proposal for an honorariumof £2,000 per Team. The proposal will include concept designs, budget breakdown and schedule. The total commission budget , including fees, fabrication and installation, is £75,000 and from this the selected team will receive a commission/design fee of £15,000. The co-commission is sponsored by Wedge Galvanising and is supported by the British Council.

COMMISSION OBJECTIVES

The RIBA and Hull 2017 co-commission must dare to be different and push the boundaries of how architecture is communicated. An architect-artist commission should allow the subject to be approached from a fresh angle, attracting new and varied audiences, stimulating debate about architecture and facilitating unique experiences for residents and visitors to Hull. The co-commission is intended to be exciting and though-provoking, encouraging people to see the city in a new way and encouraging national and international visitors to discover Hull for the first time. The structure should take advantage of its city centre location, form a meaningful relationship with its surroundings and fulfil a purpose – it should be a structure with function, not a folly. Design Teams will be invited *to make something useful for the city* and are free to propose its function. The commission aims to offer new and memorable experiences that capture the excitement in Hull during 2017.

ABOUT RIBA  
The RIBA is the national collection of architecture and delivers ambitious programmes across the UK, in collaboration with its local offices and cultural partners. RIBA programmes three exhibitions annually in the Architecture Gallery at 66 Portland Place that aim to connect its collection with contemporary practice and stimulate critical and discursive debate about the role of architecture and its impact on society, culture and well-being. Beyond the dedicated Architecture Gallery at the RIBA Headquarters in Central London, the institute delivers a range of off-site temporary projects and an annual programme of talk and events.

ABOUT HULL UK CITY OF CULTURE   
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 UK City of Culture is a flagship event that offers the opportunity to extend RIBA’s reach and diversity of its audiences

One of the key programmes within Hull UK City of Culture 2017 is “Look Up” – which invites artists, architects and designers, with a particular focus on emerging talent, to create work that responds to and sits within the city’s public places and spaces. This co-commission with RIBA sits within Look Up and will be a major contributor to this programme of specially commissioned works, inspiring new relationships with Hull’s architecture and public spaces..

ABOUT WEDGE

With nearly 150 years of history, Wedge Group Galvanizing is the UK's largest hot dip galvanizing organisation. They have 14 plants around the UK, including a location in Hull, which are designed and equipped to set industry-leading standards for sustainability and low environmental impact. Wedge has demonstrable experience in working with architects and artists including Antony Gormley and Chris Brammall.

ABOUT THE BRITISH COUNCIL

The British Council’s Architecture Design Fashion (ADF) department creates links between designers and cultural institutions around the world, through a diverse range of projects across the three disciplines.

USEFUL LINKS

[www.architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com)

<https://www.hull2017.co.uk/>

[www.wedge-galv.co.uk](http://www.wedge-galv.co.uk)

<http://design.britishcouncil.org/>

**The Site**

**NOTE** Shortlisted design teams invited to participate in this limited design competition will be required to visit the site, preferably at the start of their design programme.

The site for this commission is Trinity Square, situated in Hull’s ‘Old Town’. The square is currently part of the city’s public realm improvements programme and is undergoing a programme of works designed to de-clutter the space and open it up with improved access and legibility. This transformation will restore life and status to what has sometimes been an undervalued space at the heart of the city. The plan attached to this brief shows Trinity Square as it will be on completion of the capital programme, scheduled for March 2017.

The square, sometimes referred to as Market Place, is dominated by the grandeur west elevation of Holy Trinity Church and the tower which rises behind it. Holy Trinity is one of the greatest town churches of medieval England and apparently the largest parish church in the country. In 2017 its status will be elevated to that of a Minster, in the year which will also mark the 500th anniversary of the reformation. An important feature of the improvements programme has been the removal of a Victorian church wall which effectively bisected the public space and separated the church from the square. The reunification and restoration of this public square opens up a range of possibilities for future public use.

The square is surrounded by an interesting collection of buildings including the Old Grammar School (1583-5), Trinity House (1753-9) complex to the north, The Kingston pub on Trinity Lane Corner and the Edwardian Market Hall (1902-4) on North Church Side. The names of the streets and lanes which lead into the square reflect something of the city’s history and the square’s place in it – Fish Street, King Street, Posterngate and Market Place.

For further information

‘Hull – Pevsner Architectural Guide’ by David and Susan Neave, Yale University Press 2010

<http://www.jonestheplanner.co.uk/2014/02/hull-city-of-culture.html>

Images of site

**The Brief**

RIBA and Hull 2017 are welcoming ideas that reflect the following four principles:

* **Collaboration**

A key aspect of the commission is the collaboration between an architect and an artist and the design team selected to deliver the structure will consist of both of these parties. The collaboration is expected to challenge the limits of both art and architecture and explore new cross-disciplinary ideas. Architects, designers and artists are increasingly choosing not to define themselves by traditional specialisms. The commission should be a celebration of the shared knowledge and skills that flourish when restrictions are removed and boundaries are blurred.

* **Purpose – *making something useful for the city***

The proposed structure should be a functioning piece of architecture that engages local residents and visitors to Hull, rather than a visual artwork or folly. It should be able to host activities such as, but not limited to; talks, debates, workshops and performances. The brief has been left deliberately open to allow the Design Team to decide an appropriate theme or function for the structure to facilitate and the purpose(s) should be explored in the EOI and specified in the design proposal.

* **Responding to context**

It is critical that the design is site-specific and responds to its topography, neighbouring architecture and purpose. The commissioned structure will be built directly in front of Holy Trinity Church and the synergy between the structure and the church should be considered. Design teams are encouraged to look at historic and contemporary use of the site to inform their proposal.

* **Materiality**

The structure should make significant use of galvanised steel. The design team is encouraged to explore the properties of the material and demonstrate innovative and unexpected ways of using it.

**Budget**

Up to three shortlisted design teams will receive an honorarium of £2000 to work up design concepts. These should include a budget outline and schedule. The design team that is selected will receive a commission/design fee of £15,000. The total budget for fabrication and installation of the proposal is £60,000. All sums are exclusive of VAT.

**Selection Process**

The final proposal will be selected by a panel of experts through a two stage process.

Stage 1: Up to three shortlisted proposals will be selected from the Expressions of Interest submitted.

Stage 2: The final design team will be selected from those shortlisted.

Applications will be judged on their originality and creativity and marked against how successfully they meet the following:

1. **Relevance and Purpose**

Does the proposal answer the brief and have relevance to the overall objectives of the commission? What is the function of the structure? Will it be useful to the city? Is the purpose of the structure engaging? How will various audiences interact with it?

1. **Originality and making a difference**

How is this structure different to other pavilions or public realm commissions? What unique qualities does it bring to Hull? Is it something that will ‘create a buzz’ and be a talking point within the city and beyond?

1. **Collaboration**

How does the proposal make the most of the collaboration between the architect and artist? What is special about this relationship and how does the direction of the design differ from if either party approached it alone?

1. **Response to context**

Does the proposal make interesting use of the site and how is existing knowledge of the context reflected in the proposal? What is the relationship between the structure and the surrounding buildings? Is the function of the programme led by the site? How is it specific to Hull and can this be communicated through the design?

1. **Materiality and technical innovation**

Does the concept introduce new approaches to working with galvanised steel and push the boundaries of the material? Does it exploit the properties of galvanised steel, using it in a way that couldn’t be replicated with another material? What is the relationship between the steel and other materials that are specified? How does the use of galvanised steel affect the landscape of the site?

1. **Budget and timescale**

Is the proposal realisable within the timescale and production budget of no more than £60,000?

**Panel**

Expressions of Interest will be reviewed by a panel and up to three shortlisted practices will be awarded an honorarium of £2,000 exc VAT.

Stage 1 Review panel:

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| Representative from RIBA |  |
| Representative from Hull 2017 |  |
| Representative from British Council |  |
| Sarah Munro | Director, Baltic Art Gallery |
| Francesco Manacorda | Artistic Director, Tate Liverpool |
| Sam Jacob | Founder, Sam Jacob Studio |
| Chris Lamb | Chief Exec at Kent Architecture Centre |
| Prof Franco Bianchini | University of Hull's Cultural Research Institute |
| Jes Fernie | Independent curator |

Shortlisted Design Teams (consisting of both architect and artist) will be invited to submit a Concept Design Proposal. An independent panel will select the final Design Team to be awarded the commission.

An Advisory Group including representatives from RIBA, Hull 2017, British Council, Wedge Galvanizing, Holy Trinity Church and Hull City Council will support the Stage 2 Independent Selection Panel by offering feedback on the Concept Proposals.

Stage 2 Independent Selection Panel:

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| --- | --- |
| External from Stage 1 Review Panel |  |
| External from Stage 1 Review Panel |  |
| Richard Wentworth | Artist |
| Catherine Yass | Artist |
| Prof. Frederic Migayrou | Chair, Bartlett School of Architecture |
| Vo Trong Nghia | Founder, Vo Trong Nghia Architects |
| Shelley McNamara | Co-founder, Grafton Architects |
| Bijoy Jain | Founder, Studio Mumbai |

**Schedule Outline**

The schedule below sets out the key dates for the selection process. This is indicative only and a more detailed timeline will be developed following consultation between the curatorial team and the appointed design team.

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| Expressions of Interest invitations issued: | 18th November 2016 |
| Expressions of Interest submission deadline: | 14th December 2016 |
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| Shortlist selection meeting: | 6th January 2017 |
| Shortlisted design teams notified by: | 7th January 2017 |
| Submission and presentation of Concept Design Proposal: | w/c 30th January 2017 |
| Concept Design feedback from advisory group | w/c 30th January 2017 |
| Final design team notified by Independent Selection Panel: | w/c 30th January 2017 |
| Installation opens : | 24th August 2017 |

**Appointment**

Shortlisted design teams will be notified by 9th January. Following this, there will be an opportunity to visit the site in order to develop their proposal for Stage 2.

At Stage 2 each shortlisted Design Team will need to submit a Concept Design Proposal in writing as well as presenting their ideas to the Independent Selection Panel at the end of January 2017. It is expected that the chosen Design Team will work closely in continued dialogue with the curatorial team from RIBA and Hull 2017 to refine their proposal and, as such, the project lead should be available to meet regularly during the design process.

Only one proposal can be built, but there may be the opportunity for the proposals of shortlisted Design Teams to be displayed as part of the Hull 2017 festival.

The decision of the selection panel is final.

**Submission Requirements**

All Expressions of Interest must contain the following:

* Full name, contact number, postal and email address of the lead architect.
* A cover letter containing a 200 word interest in the co-commission, plus brief biographies of all the project team.
* A brief biography of the artist that you intend to collaborate with, specifying to what extent this has been confirmed. Partnerships that are confirmed are preferred over those that are speculative.
* . A brief outline (500 words) of the response to the concept of making something useful for the city
* Up to five images of your own relevant existing work, or references to other installations, artwork, or buildings that reflect the ideas in the 500 word statement.

The Expression of Interest should be no more than 3 single - sided A4 pages and should not exceed 5MB as a digital file.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in English and only one per applicant will be accepted. Proposals should be original. Any submissions judged to be overly promotional or that intend to use the site to display the practice’s own portfolio in a non-critical manner will not be considered.

The shortlisted teams will be given a fee of £2,000 to develop a concept design proposal in the form of two A2 panels and based on site visits and feedback from the curatorial selection panel. The detailed proposal will be submitted both digitally and presented to the panel.

Please submit your Expression of Interest as a PDF file to [anna.holsgrove@riba.org](mailto:anna.holsgrove@riba.org) by 5pm, 14th December 2016.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please submit enquiries in writing to the same address by 22nd November 2016.

**About RIBA**

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) champions better buildings, communities and the environment through architecture and its 40,000 members. It works to improve the design quality of public buildings, and provides the standards, training and support that helps maintain British architects - in the UK and overseas – at the peak of their profession.

Since its foundation in 1843, the RIBA has amassed one of the world’s largest and richest architectural collections, which now comprises over 4 million drawings, books, models and photographs. The RIBA curates this collection for the general public and makes it available for research through galleries and reading rooms at its headquarters at 66 Portland Place, London, and at the Victoria & Albert Museum (with whom the RIBA has an architectural partnership).

2014 marked a unique moment in the history of RIBA as the first purpose-built gallery space with condition-controlled environment opened. With RIBA North launching in Liverpool in 2017, the institution will have two significant platforms to showcase its collection and inspire audiences. In addition to these permanent spaces, RIBA programmes exhibitions and events across the UK beyond the walls of its galleries and buildings, in collaboration with its regional offices. It aims to target new audiences, including specialists and non-specialists, and make architecture relevant to everyone across the UK.

**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.