



New Open International Design Competition

National Wildflower Centre

The National Wildflower Centre invites submissions for an international open design competition for the design of an innovative, architecturally striking educational, conference and seed production complex at the National Wildflower Centre, off Junction 5 of the M62 in the Liverpool City Region within the administrative Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley. The competition process is being managed by the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Competitions Office on behalf of Landlife and supported by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA).

Introduction

This project provides a unique opportunity to create an outstanding gateway site to the Liverpool City Region and a Science and Maths learning facility to inspire and encourage people to visit the Centre to learn about the relationships between nature, mathematics and physics. It will significantly enhance the visitor experience of the National Wildflower Centre and provide a centre of excellence, and operational hub for creative conservation, learning and innovation.

Site and Context

The National Wildflower Centre is located within the walled garden of Court Hey Park, an attractive Victorian park of 14 hectares, landscaped with wildflowers. The proposed new complex will complement the 150 metre long Civic Trust and RIBA Award winning building developed as part of the Millennium project that established the National Wildflower Centre in 2000. The National Wildflower Centre currently draws around 30,000 visitors to the park on average with 9,000 school children participating in educational activity. The Centre want to improve the overall quality of the visitor experience, meet the latent demand for additional visitors and conference delegates and facilitate a wider range of events and activities in the future.

Budget

A budget of £5m (exclusive of VAT) is being set for this project and needs to cover all aspects of the development including:

- Design and professional fees
- Construction

- Reinstatement /landscaping where appropriate
- Statutory fees
- Fit out and ancillary equipment

It is anticipated that £1m of this budget will need to be ring fenced to capture and maximise the energy generating potential of the site.

Competition Structure

The competition will be in two stages and judged anonymously in the first stage. The authors of up to six schemes will be invited to develop their designs and present them to the jury panel at interview.

Stage one designs should be submitted on 1 A1 panel accompanied by a short report on a single A4 sheet.

Assessment Criteria

The Jury Panel will make their selection at the first stage on the basis of the following criteria:

- Preliminary response to the site and client brief
- Demonstration of clear thinking and understanding of the fundamental issues involved
- An innovative and architecturally striking design
- An outstanding example of sustainable design
- Cost considerations

The criteria of the second stage will focus on:

- Quality of the design and response to issues outlined in the briefing material
- Evidence of ability to meet the client's budget and programme
- Technical sophistication of the scheme
- Demonstration of teams ability to deliver a scheme of this nature

Jury Panel

The jury panel is likely to comprise the following members:-

Tony Jones, National Wildflower Centre
Lucinda Antal, National Wildflower Centre
Grant Luscombe, Landlife
Cllr Graham Morgan, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council - TBC
Rod Holmes, Grosvenor - TBC
Gerald Scarfe, Patron of the National Wildflower Centre – TBC
Richard Tracey, North West Regional Development Agency
Sue Carmichael, RIBA Adviser

In addition to the above Jury Panel members, representatives from the RIBA Competitions Office, Friends of Court Hey Park and Places Matter will act as observers during the appraisal and selection processes. There will also be a small technical panel to assist the Jury Panel in their assessment of submissions.

Competition Timetable

The competition timetable, which may be subject to variation, is as follows:

Competition Launched:	14 November 2008
Brief available:	w/c 17 November 2008
Question deadline for stage one:	5 December 2008
Replies to stage one questions:	12 December 2008
Registration deadline	22 December 2008
Stage one submission deadline:	7 January 2009
Stage one assessment:	14 January 2009
Shortlist announced:	16 January 2009
Deadline for stage 2 submissions:	13 February 2009
Stage 2 interviews:	4 March 2009
Winner announced	w/c 9 March 2009

Honoraria and Prize Money

An honoraria of £6,000 +VAT will be awarded to each of the shortlisted competitors.

It is intended that, funding permitting, the winner of the competition will be appointed to work closely with the promoters to take the project through to completion.

Eligibility

The competition is open internationally to registered architect and architect-led teams and a Notice has been placed in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).

No member or employee of the client, Jury Panel, Steering Group or anybody else directly associated with them or the competition will be eligible to compete or assist a competitor.

How to Register

Anyone wishing to enter the competition must register with the RIBA Competitions Office by sending a cheque for £35.00 (including VAT), payable to 'RIBA Competitions' (please contact the RIBA Competitions Office for alternative payment methods).

Once registered you will be provided with details of how to access the competition website and issued with an official declaration form.

The deadline for registration is **Monday 22 December 2008**. Please note that the RIBA Competitions Office is closed for the Christmas break from midday on Wednesday 24 December to Monday 5 January 2009.

Enquiries

All enquiries should be addressed to the competition organisers:
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