

Competition to design a foot and cycle bridge over the River Soar in Leicester.

Preliminary Briefing Paper



River Soar Foot and Cycle Bridge Competition Invited Competition with Open Trawl of Interest

Preliminary Briefing Paper

This competition seeks expressions of interest from architect or engineering-led design teams for the design of a new foot and cycle bridge crossing the River Soar in Leicester.

Organised by the RIBA Competitions Office on behalf of Leicester Regeneration Company and Leicester City Council, the competition seeks to identify a suitable team on the basis of an initial concept and an appropriate design approach.

1.0 Project Background

Leicester is the largest city in the East Midlands area of England and is currently being transformed by a series of major public and private sector initiatives.

National Space Centre – Grimshaw Architects



Curve – Raphael Viňoly Architects



John Lewis, Highcross Leicester - Foreign Office Architects



Photography – Creativity Works

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Leicester Regeneration Company (LRC) was set up in a strong partnership with Leicester City Council, English Partnerships and East Midlands Development Agency, to establish a co-ordinated masterplan to broaden the city's economic base, by integrated improvements in employment, housing, shopping, graduate retention, public realm and environmental standards.

Over 8,000 new jobs are to be created, shifting the base of Leicester's economy into new, higher value sectors. Employment is being created in the New Business Quarter; in science and technology related industries at the Science Park; and in the retail sector at the recently extended Highcross Leicester shopping centre.

Leicester has some 11 miles of water frontage to the River Soar and the Grand Union Canal. The reconnection of the city with this important, but as yet underutilised environmental asset, is a critical component of the regeneration aims.

The Abbey Meadows regeneration area spans the River Soar and the canal, just to the north of the city centre and is already home to the UK National Space Centre, designed by Grimshaw Architects and opened in 2001.

2.0 Project Vision

The new bridge over the River Soar forms a part of the City Council's major programme of works which is currently transforming the quality of the public realm throughout Leicester. To date more than £20m has been committed to these improvements, which set an exemplar standard and enhance the environment of the city.

Leicester City Council is committed to improving and extending the network of footpaths and cycle routes in and around the city, as part of the vision of a city which plans for people not cars and which, by getting people out of their cars, will create a friendlier, safer feeling and healthier society.

Abbey Meadows will be home not only to the new **Leicester Science Park**, which will capitalise on the world class research and innovation strengths of Leicester's two universities – but also to new waterfront homes, to be built on the opposite bank of the River Soar on **Wolsey Island**.

The new bridge is in a very attractive stretch of the river between Abbey Park to the south and Swan's Nest Weir to the north. It will provide foot and cycle access between these two sections of the regeneration area and will also connect with existing national and local cycle routes through Leicester and form part of a much needed, east-west route in this area of the city.

The construction of this bridge is another signpost to the very significant public and private sector investment scheduled for the Abbey Meadows regeneration area.

3.0 Estimated Project Budget

The estimated budget for the project has been set at £1.5 million to include all professional design fees.

4.0 Competition Format

The competition will take the following format:

- Stage 1: Expressions of Interest (requirements set out below)
- Stage 2: A shortlist of up to 6 teams will be invited to produce initial concept designs
Assessment will involve presentation and interview with the judging panel

5.0 Timetable

The timetable, which may be subject to change, is:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Competition launch: | 27 October 2008 |
| Expression of Interest deadline: | 2.00 pm – 4 December 2008 |
| Panel meet to select shortlist: | 9 December 2008 |
| Brief issued to shortlist: | w/c 15 December 2008 |
| Submission deadline: | w/c 2 February 2009 |
| Final judging (including interviews): | 19 February 2009 |
| Announcement of Result | March 2009 |

6.0 Jury Panel

The full composition of the jury panel has yet to be confirmed but will comprise the following members:

Jim Eyre, Wilkinson Eyre – RIBA Adviser
James Sinclair, Leicester Regeneration Company
Cllr Ross Willmott, Leader, Leicester City Council
Cllr Patrick Kitterick, Cabinet Lead, Regeneration, Leicester City Council
Chas Bishop, National Space Centre
Andrew Smith, Leicester City Council
Anne Provan, Leicester City Council
Engineering Adviser - to be confirmed

Joanne Wallis, RIBA Competitions Officer (observer only)

7.0 Honorarium

Those shortlisted to stage two will each receive an equal honorarium of £6,000 (plus VAT). It is intended that the successful team will work closely with the client group to deliver their concept through to completion, subject to funding. The winner's honorarium represents an advance on their professional fee.

8.0 Criteria for Selection

Stage one selection will be based upon the following criteria:

- Design Quality
 - *demonstrable inspiration and creativity in recent work*
- Resource & Experience
 - *experience and ability*
 - *evidence of capacity to deliver the project*
- Communication
 - *response to and compliance with requirements set out in this briefing paper*
 - *experience of /approach to working collaboratively /community consultation*

Stage two selection criteria will be:

- Design Quality
 - *quality of the design*
 - *inventiveness and flair*
- Response to Brief
 - *compliance with brief*
 - *response to site, context, opportunities and constraints*
 - *deliverable and appropriate response to budget*
- The Team
 - *ability to work in partnership with the client team*
 - *ability to engage with stakeholders - clear straightforward communication*

9.0 Expression of Interest : Requirements for Submission

Expressions of interest should comprise no more than 20 single sided A4 pages, providing the following information:

1. Full contact details of the practice, identifying one point of contact for the competition.
2. Introduction to the practice and motivational statement
3. CV's of key team members
4. Details of relevant projects, including illustrations. These may be for completed or ongoing projects, but the distinction between the two should be clearly identified. Where projects are included that are not the work of the lead consultant this should be stated and the level of involvement clearly articulated.

Please note: 3 copies should be provided

Late submissions will not be accepted and it will not be possible to submit entries via email. Competitors should note that first class post does not necessarily guarantee next-day delivery and should plan their submission schedule accordingly.

Overseas Competitors should note that for Customs purposes no commercial value should be assigned to the Expression of Interest. Failure to do so may result in your submission being delayed and/or returned to you unopened, as the RIBA will not be liable for any charges otherwise incurred.

This information should be submitted to the RIBA Competitions Office to arrive by 2.00pm on Thursday 4 December 2008.

10.0 Eligibility

The competition is open to all registered architect or engineering-led design teams worldwide. Candidates should demonstrate their ability to deliver a UK based project of this nature.

11.0 Enquiries

All enquiries should be addressed to the RIBA Competitions Office:

RIBA Competitions Office

6 Melbourne Street

Leeds LS2 7PS

T: ++44 (0) 113 2341335

F: ++44 (0) 113 2460744

E: riba.competitions@inst.riba.org

W: www.architecture.com/competitions