

Cleopatra's Kiosk, London

In August 2003, on behalf of Samuel Alexander Ltd and promoted by both Westminster City Council (WCC) and the Borough of Lambeth, the RIBA launched a competition to design an exciting and innovative structure for Cleopatra's Kiosk, located on the north bank of the River Thames in London. Open to entrants worldwide, the brief made reference to the Kiosk's history and entrants were invited to design and develop a structure 'worthy of the unique setting' thereby making it 'a tourist attraction in its own right'.

Following a rigorous two-day assessment process and post-competition interview, Riccardo Bianchini and Federica Lusiardi were chosen by the jury panel as eventual winners from a total of 211 entries. The jury panel praised Bianchini and Lusiardi for their 'organic form' of design which enabled them to stand out from all other entries.

The planning application for Cleopatra's Kiosk was approved in February 2005 and the project was subsequently completed and unofficially opened in July 2007 at a total cost of £160, 000. An official grand opening is scheduled for Spring 2008.

The RIBA Competitions Office organises bespoke, flexible architectural competitions that encourage excellence in design, offer value for money, and are run smoothly from inception through to the appointment of a winning design or architect. For more information contact RIBA Competitions on 0113 234 1335 or alternatively, visit www.architecture.com/competitions.