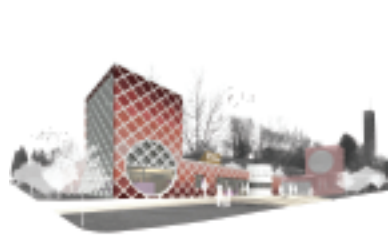


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Winner announced: Bentley Community Library Competition, Walsall



Fashion Architecture Taste (FAT) Ltd has won the RIBA competition to design a new community library facility in Bentley, Walsall.

The first phase of the competition attracted 72 Expressions of Interest from architectural practices in the UK, Europe, Sri Lanka and the United States of America.

FAT won a hard-fought competition that also included Aaron Evans Architects, Featherstone Associates, McMorran and Gatehouse Architects Ltd, Panter Hudspith Architects and Sjolander da Cruz Architects on the shortlist.

The Jury Panel was greatly impressed by each team's response to the challenging Design Brief, the various approaches adopted and the persuasive arguments presented.

The Panel felt that FAT's design

proposal responded most closely to the Stakeholders' aspirations for the scheme, namely the ability of the new Library building to engage the community, to act as a local landmark, set a design benchmark for future developments in Bentley and signal its regeneration.

On hearing the news that they had won the competition, Sean Griffiths (Director of FAT) commented: 'This is the first time we've won a competition for a public building, so we're extremely pleased about that. It's nice to have an opportunity to work in Walsall where there are already great buildings and projects by some very good architects. We hope that our library will add to Walsall's growing collection of fine contemporary buildings and also give the community of Bentley something that they'll be proud of'.



NEW RIBA Scholarships 2008

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) today announced two new scholarships for 2008. The scholarships are being generously funded by Komfort Workspace and Mrs Margot Auger, in memory of her late husband, Boyd Auger. The deadline for receipt of applications for the next round of funding will be 12 June 2008.

The RIBA Komfort Workspace Research Scholarship in Spaces for Health Care supports individuals or teams for medium term projects (ideally between six to twelve months), where the focus is on improving the interior spaces of public areas and patients' rooms in hospitals and surgeries to enhance the quality of life for

patients and health professionals. The RIBA Boyd Auger Scholarship will support one student or a group of students for a period of research of 6 months or longer, to carry out research preferably outside the UK.

Both scholarships, valued at £10,000 each, will support architectural students, graduates, academics and recently-qualified architects to produce a piece of closely defined research in the field of Architecture. Although priority will be given to projects not leading to an academic qualification, the scholarship may be used as part of broader research at postgraduate level, namely towards a Masters or PhD/MPhil programmes.

Birmingham New Street Station: Shortlist for Visionary Concept Designer Announced

As you will have seen in the local press, the rejuvenation of Birmingham New Street Station has finally been confirmed. The £600 million project that is due for full completion in 2013 is intended to provide the new "gateway" to the West Midlands. The intention is to transform the current site into a much needed bright, modern 21st Century transport hub; that will work as a catalyst to the ongoing regeneration and economic development of the surrounding area.

Six practices have been shortlisted for the role of Visionary Concept Designer:

- CRAB Studio
- Foreign Office Architects
- IDOM UK Ltd
- LAB architecture studio
- UNStudio
- Rafael Vinoly Architects

Commenting on the shortlist, Clive Dutton (Director of Planning & Development, Birmingham City Council) said: 'The station is the beating heart of the city. Its design must be breath-taking and lift the spirit. Any one of these architects is capable of creating something mind-blowing. What an unbelievably exciting prospect.' We agree and look forward to keeping you updated on any developments.

Coventry City Centre set for Billion Pound Transformation

A radical move to transform Coventry City Centre has been unveiled. The Jerde Partnership has been appointed to create a blueprint based on the ideas and input of local people. The aim is to update the centre as it has remained relatively untouched since it was rebuilt after the war. If you wish to express an opinion on the development of Coventry city centre please contact Martin Yardley on 02476 831201.

RIBA President Launches MADE*/BCU Talking Cities Lecture Series

Despite the freezing temperatures, Monday 18 February saw a good turnout for the launch of Talking Cities, the Urban Design Public Lecture Series 2008. The inaugural lecture held at Birmingham's award winning, refurbished New Town Hall, was unquestionably a great success.

RIBA President Sunand Prasad, as ever, provided an interesting and thought provoking lecture, which highlighted his vision for a "multi-functional space" and a "permeable city fabric".

The Lecture Series looks to be popular and further events are planned for 9th April, 16th June, 20th October and 4th December. For more information please see the MADE* website www.made.org.uk.



MADE*

ABS Cheque Presentation



Greg Brunt; Norman Webster, ABS; Tony Lloyd

On Thursday 13 December 2007 Tony Lloyd and Greg Brunt, Members of the RIBA West Midlands Regional Council and RIBA Council, presented Norman Webster, the Development Manager for the Architects Benevolent Society, with two cheques totaling £1405 these being the raffle proceeds raised at the RIBA West Midlands Annual Dinner at the refurbished Birmingham Town Hall on the 30 October 2007

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