

DESIGN COMPETITION LAUNCHED FOR THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM'S GROUNDS



Designers invited to create a new civic realm for much-loved London Museum

The Natural History Museum today launches a design competition to find an inspired team to redesign and re-imagine its grounds.

The major project will aim to create an innovative exterior setting that matches the architectural excellence of the iconic 19th Century site whilst ensuring that the Museum grounds are easily accessible to all visitors.

Attracting over five million visitors annually, the Natural History Museum is one of the UK's top visitor attractions and known worldwide as a leader in scientific research, housing over 70 million specimens from around the world. The Museum's Grade I Listed Waterhouse building is admired worldwide as a model of the Victorians' passion for celebrating and classifying the natural world.

The recent transformation of the Exhibition Road Cultural Quarter has provided further impetus to promote a renewal of the Museum's own civic realm. The competition is devised and managed by specialist competition organiser Malcolm Reading Consultants, in association with Deloitte, the Museum's project manager for the redevelopment.

Dr Michael Dixon, Director of the Natural History Museum, said:

The Natural History Museum is renowned for inspiring architecture that celebrates the natural world and is one of London's most iconic buildings. The grounds surrounding the building make an important contribution to how people experience the Museum. This competition offers the very best of the architectural industry the opportunity to set the Museum in a modern context, so it continues to be one of the UK's most recognised and admired destinations.'

Malcolm Reading, Architect and competition organiser commented:

This is a wonderful design challenge with great promise. This is one of a handful of landmark settings in London and the Waterhouse Building will get a landscape to complement its extraordinary look. We are aiming this competition at the brightest talent, internationally - in particular active collaborations between architects and landscape designers.'

A website providing full details and how to respond to the two-stage competition is launched today:

<http://competitions.malcolmreading.co.uk/naturalhistory>

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 28th October 2013. The shortlist for the second stage will be announced in mid to late November and the winning team is expected to be announced in February 2014, following a public exhibition of the entries.

ENDS

ENQUIRIES

For media enquiries and further information on the project, please contact Jacqui Savaker on +44 (0)20 7831 2998 or via email at jacqui.savaker@malcolmreading.co.uk

For information relating to the Natural History Museum, please contact The Natural History Museum Press Office on +44 (0)20 7942 5654 or +44 (0) 7799 690 151 or via email at press@nhm.ac.uk

AVAILABLE IMAGES



For images: please email Oliver McGhie at ollie.mcghie@malcolmreading.co.uk

All images have a resolution of 300 dpi

NOTES TO EDITORS

- **The Natural History Museum**

Winner of Best of the Best in the Museums + Heritage Awards 2013, the Natural History Museum welcomes five million visitors a year. It is also a world-leading science research centre. Through its collections and scientific expertise it is helping to understand and maintain the diversity of the planet, with groundbreaking partnerships in more than 70 countries.

At its heart is a unique, national collection of some 70 million natural history specimens and six million rare books and artworks. The original building was designed by the renowned Victorian architect Sir Alfred Waterhouse and opened to the public on 18 April 1881.

For more information go to www.nhm.ac.uk

- **Malcolm Reading Consultants**

A specialist architectural consultancy providing pre-project services, briefing and strategic and master planning advice on capital projects in the UK and worldwide. MRC specialises in the arts, culture, heritage and public realm, helping clients achieve world-class design for their buildings through selecting, briefing and managing teams. It is the leading independent organiser of international architectural competitions based in the UK. Recent competitions include those for Canterbury Cathedral, Oriel College, Oxford, the Olympic Park Legacy Company, the Cadogan Estate, the Victoria and Albert Museum's Exhibition Road project, the UK Pavilion for Shanghai Expo 2010 and the Glasgow School of Art.

For more information go to www.malcolmreading.co.uk