Compétitions

Architects sought to design ‘unique’ UCL East campus on Olympic Park site

**Client** UCL and LLDC  
**Budget** £40 million and £80 million  
**Sector** Higher education  
**Deadline** 1pm on 30 March  
**Brief** University College London (UCL) and the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) are seeking two architects for the first phase of a new campus on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Separate contracts have been simultaneously tendered for Pool Street – a £40 million mixed-use academic and residential facility south of Zaha Hadid’s London Aquatics Centre; and Marshgate – an £80 million academic complex south of the Anish Kapoor-designed ArcelorMittal Orbit.

The two schemes are the first phase of the university’s UCL East masterplan, drawn up by LDA Design with Nicholas Hare Architects and Studio Weave, for a new estate on the site.

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**Q&A**

**Martin Summersgill,** head of development (UCL East) at UCL

**How many new buildings will you be delivering at UCL East?**

LLDC and UCL are currently drafting the masterplan for UCL East which will cover 4.5ha and provide about 150,000 m² of space. It will include several new buildings providing both residence and university uses. The masterplan will form part of an outline planning application that we expect to submit at the end of the year. UCL East represents the largest single expansion of UCL since the university was founded nearly 200 years ago.

Design of the first phase will start in late summer and completion dates will be confirmed in due course.

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**What other campus developments are you impressed by?**

We have taken a look at a number of university developments in Europe, the US and the UK, and are still looking and learning. There are some impressive examples to learn from, ranging from O’Donnell + Tuomey’s Saw Swee Hock Student Centre at LSE, to Twelve Architects’ Diamond building at Sheffield University and SOM’s New School building in New York.

However, none have really been developed under the circumstances that we are dealing with. We expect UCL East in many ways to be unique.

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**What sort of architects are you hoping to work with?**

UCL East is envisaged as a new model of how a university campus can be embedded in the local community and with businesses, as well as providing world-leading research, education, entrepreneurship and innovation. It will also form part of the significant development of Olympicopolis.

So this presents a unique opportunity for UCL to recast its relationship with London and to fulfill its promise as London’s global university.

We are looking for two teams that can help us achieve this vision – delivering high-quality design and helping us to establish an enduring legacy.

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*Gatwick Airport launches design and planning frameworks*

**Client** Gatwick Airport  
**Budget** £75 million  
**Sector** Transport  
**Deadline** 4pm on 23 March  
**Brief** Gatwick Airport has launched a trio of frameworks covering development at the West Sussex airport up to 2021. The £30 million low-complexity framework – covering projects worth less than £5 million such as new builds, extensions, fit-outs and refurbishments – features a lot specifically calling for architects. The £40 million high-complexity framework and £5 million planning framework are meanwhile open to multidisciplinary outfits and airport planners respectively.

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*Architects wanted for Sydney Metro over-station developments*

**Client** Transport for NSW  
**Budget** TBC  
**Sector** Transport  
**Deadline** 23 March  
**Brief** Transport for New South Wales is recruiting architects for six over-station developments on its new Sydney Metro, City & Southwest rail line. Teams may bid for all six sites – Barangaroo, Chatswood, Martin Place, Pitt Street, Victoria Cross and Waterloo – but will be awarded a maximum of two of the anticipated high-rise mixed-use schemes.

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*Norway launches design contest for new art gallery*

**Client** Kristiansand Municipality  
**Budget** TBC  
**Sector** Culture  
**Deadline** 12 May  
**Brief** The National Association of Norwegian Architects has announced a design competition for a new 6,815 m² art gallery inside a listed 1934 grain silo, and for...
a surrounding arts quarter in Kristiansand. A £100,000 prize fund will be shared between winners of the open first round. Up to five contestants chosen for the second stage will receive approximately £16,500 each.

### Highland Council wants architect for Inverness regional sports centre

**Client:** Highland Council  
**Budget:** £27.5-£34.5 million  
**Deadline:** 12 noon on 24 March  
**Brief:** The Highland Council is looking for an architect for a new regional sports centre in Inverness. Planned to complete in 2019, the project will create a complex featuring a velodrome, tennis courts and gymnastics area next to an existing leisure centre in Bught Park.

### University of Glasgow seeks team to upgrade Adam Smith Business School

**Client:** University of Glasgow  
**Budget:** £18 million  
**Deadline:** 12 noon on 21 March  
**Brief:** The University of Glasgow is looking for an architect-led, multidisciplinary design team to upgrade its business school. The winner will create a new home for the Adam Smith Business School within the university’s Grade-A listed Gilbert Scott Building.

### Design competition for Gozo Museum, Malta

**Client:** Ministry for Gozo  
**Budget:** TBC  
**Deadline:** 26 April  
**Brief:** Heritage Malta has opened a design contest for its new Gozo Museum. The facility will be built inside a Joseph Huntingford-designed 1950s former school within the island’s capital, Victoria. The winner will receive the design contract, and there will also be a second place prize of around £950 and third prize worth approximately £620.

### Cap Group holds competition to revamp Milan headquarters

**Client:** Cap Group  
**Budget:** £13.25 million  
**Deadline:** 3 May  
**Brief:** Cap Group has opened a design competition to overhaul its corporate headquarters in Milan. The project will deliver a new office complex and public realm for the company, which manages water networks and plants across the Lombardy region. The competition language is Italian but phase one applications may be completed in English.

### Milton Keynes police station seeks consultant for overhaul

**Client:** Thames Valley Police  
**Budget:** TBC  
**Deadline:** 21 March  
**Brief:** Thames Valley Police is recruiting a lead consultant for an overhaul of Milton Keynes police station. Designed by Buckinghamshire County Council Architects Department in the early 1950s, the redbrick North Row building currently features divisional offices, residential accommodation and stable blocks.

### Civic society requires conservation architect to restore Abingdon Abbey

**Client:** Friends of Abingdon Civic Society  
**Budget:** £4 million  
**Deadline:** 5pm on 21 March  
**Brief:** Friends of Abingdon Civic Society is seeking a conservation architect for an overhaul of the town’s Grade I-listed abbey. Up to six teams will be shortlisted for the £350,000 contract which is expected to last four years.

### Bucks County Museum to be upgraded and extended

**Client:** Bucks County Museum  
**Budget:** £5.5 million  
**Deadline:** 12 noon on 1 April  
**Brief:** Bucks County Museum is looking for an architect to overhaul its Grade II-listed home in Aylesbury. The winner will ‘upgrade, adapt and extend’ the existing structure, located inside the footprint of a former Iron Age hill fort. Up to six teams will be shortlisted for the £320,000 contract, expected to run for four years. Bids will be assessed 80 per cent on quality and 20 per cent on cost.

### Chelsea FC holds competition to design new gates at Stamford Bridge

**Client:** Chelsea Football Club  
**Budget:** TBC  
**Deadline:** 12 noon on 24 March  
**Brief:** Chelsea Football Club has launched an open design competition for a new set of gates. Part of Herzog & de Meuron’s proposed Stamford Bridge stadium enlargement, the gates will be erected on a new, enlarged pedestrian bridge connecting the club to nearby Fulham Road.

### Architect wanted for Sea Survival Training Centre in Ireland

**Client:** Irish Sea Fisheries Board  
**Budget:** £1.2 million  
**Deadline:** 5pm on 4 April  
**Brief:** The Irish Sea Fisheries Board is recruiting an architect for a new Sea Survival Training Centre at the National Fisheries College in Greencastle, County Donegal. Planned to complete in 2017, the facility will feature a 15m-long swimming pool with wave machine and fans to simulate extreme weather conditions.

### Wokingham Council looking for design consultant to expand Loddon Primary School

**Client:** Wokingham Borough Council  
**Budget:** TBC  
**Deadline:** 2.30pm on 30 March  
**Brief:** Wokingham Borough Council is seeking a lead design consultant to expand Loddon Primary School in Earley. The project will increase the capacity at the Silverdale Road school from two-form entry to three-form entry.

### Competitions insider

If you ever wanted to work for Urban Splash now could be the time to send the developer your portfolio. The brownfield specialist is reportedly in early talks about a major new housing scheme in Wirral Waters, Merseyside.

- **Design units and a care home,** the scheme is being tipped as a potential ‘springboard’ for the 200ha regeneration zone in Birkenhead which has yet to take off since winning planning six years ago. Meanwhile over at Park Hill in Sheffield, Urban Splash is in talks with local outfit S1 Artspace – or ‘Kunsthalle’ – within the next phase of development. Hawkins Brown and Studio Egret West have drawn up some initial plans but it is thought a design contest could be on the horizon.

In the capital, the London School of Economics has revealed the six rival visions drawn up by a star shortlist including Amanda Levete and David Chipperfield – for its new £100 million Paul Marshall Building. This is the prestigious university’s third major competition – following those that selected O’Donnell + Tuomey’s Stirling Prize-nominated Saw Swee Hock Student Centre and RSHP’s £120 million Global Centre for Social Sciences – and is unlikely to be its last.

It is understood a further competition could be launched later this year although the LSE’s hemmed-in Aldwych campus means ‘opportunistic’ acquisitions are required to enable expansion, and so there is no masterplan to indicate where the next project will be.

Contact competitions editor Merlin Fulcher with your competition news at Merlin.Fulcher@emap.com