

RIBA 

Arts Space of the Future Competition

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Arts Space of the Future

Competition

RIBA London / Arts Council England

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RIBA London and Arts Council England invite the capital's architects to respond to the challenge of creating our arts spaces of the future; spaces which reflect changing lifestyles, expectations and forms of participation, new and developing arts practice, the need to address climate change and issues of sustainability and the move towards more flexible, publicly-engaged buildings.

With the development of digital technology, new forms of artistic practice are emerging and the boundaries between performance spaces, galleries and creative workshops are increasingly less defined. Arts spaces need to be more flexible, to allow amateur and professional artists, participants and audiences to engage with each other differently,

and to house diverse creative spaces and activities in one building.

We have started to see examples of combined programming and use of space in buildings such as David Adjaye's Idea Stores in London, where library meets café meets bookstore, or in Rem Koolhaas' Prada store in New York where retail meets performance space. How can this mixing of building-use result in a new building typology, and maximise public access and engagement in new ways?

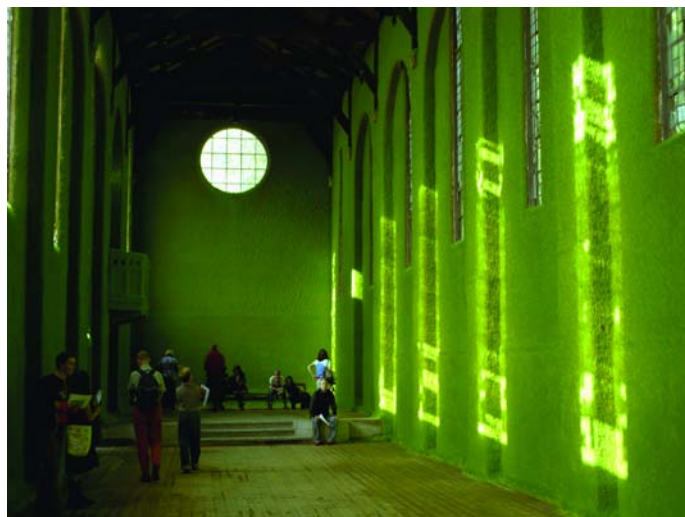
www.architecture.com/ribalondon
www.artscouncil.org.uk



Interior view of Colourscape, Clapham Common 15th anniversary year (2004). Photo: courtesy of Colourscape Music Festival

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Interior view of Colourscape, Clapham Common (2007). Photo: Tony Blurton

Dilston Grove, by Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey, Claire College Mission Church, London SE16 Photo: Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey



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Key drivers for change

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Personalisation, democratisation and co-production

We have become used to having influence within society; our personal experience and new technologies allow us to create, curate, participate in and enjoy art. What does this mean for the design and management of arts spaces?

Shared spaces

The Idea Stores are examples of a multi-use spaces, which is designed around the way people live, work and learn. Similar collaborations are seen across the private and public sectors. In the arts field, current partnerships include hospitals, primary care health centres, general practice surgeries and schools. In the future who will be our key partners and what will the successful spaces look like?

Live and digital

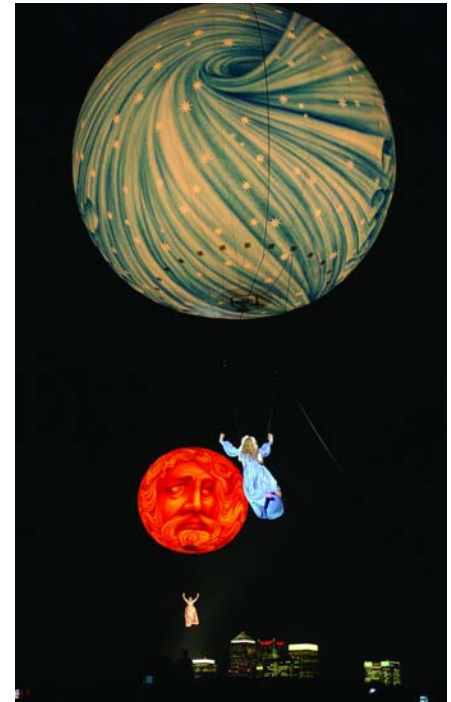
Social and artistic networks are forming around digital art and this is changing the nature of the live experience. Watershed Media Centre in Bristol is one example of an arts media venue, fostering new links between the live arts and digital industries. Increasingly, organisations are diversifying their forms of distribution and audience development. The Metropolitan Opera New York is beaming live performances to 700 locations around the world and reaching a global audience. How will physical spaces adapt and respond to these opportunities and what potential is there for greater interface between the live and the digital, the artist and the audience?

New and changing communities

Thames Gateway is Europe's largest regeneration project. The scale of growth for the Thames Gateway is 180,000 jobs, and 160,000 new homes. The communities which grow into the Thames Gateway will not be static and we can't prescribe their future cultural needs. How will art spaces offer new opportunities for families, communities and artists to come together?

Climate change and sustainability

Art has the power to shift public perceptions and behaviour. Artists are already responding to and expressing the challenge of climate change and sustainability; for example, through the Cape Farewell research voyages, and in Hackney, Arcola has become the world's first carbon neutral theatre. How can arts spaces become leading examples of sustainable development?



The Dancing Sky by Studio Festi at the 10th Greenwich+Docklands International Festival in June 2006. Photo: Alastair Muir



The Roundhouse, London NW1
RIBA Award winner 2007
Architect: John McAslan + Partners
Photo: Hufton + Crow

Participants inside PeacePod at the Idea Store, Chrisp Street, London E14
Photo: Steve Bliss



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What is required

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We are looking for concept designs that embrace the afore mentioned and other changes in the way in which we live and engage with culture.

You are invited to submit two A1 landscape light weight 5mm foam boards together with a separate CD of up to five medium sized jpeg images for press and publicity use.

Within your submission boards, you should describe as simply and clearly as possible, your approach to a stimulating, innovative and exciting framework for a new art space. You should also address the issues in the brief and your approach should include details of how you have created an architecture that people will enjoy engaging with, as creator, participant and audience.

A selection from the entries for this competition will be displayed in a public exhibition at the National Theatre, so it is important that the visual and written language used on the boards is comprehensive to non-architects. Please note, we need to understand the essence of your proposal, your response to the brief, how spaces will be configured and used and how they will have flexibility for future change.

Competitors who are shortlisted and included in the exhibition should be available on the evening of 10 January 2008 for the announcement of the winner.

Following the exhibition, a seminar will be held in January for leading figures in the arts profession to discuss the winning and commended schemes and how they might inform future thinking. The successful entrants will be asked to present their ideas to the audience and to answer questions on their proposal.

How you will win

- **Surprise, inspire and enthuse the judges**
- **Push the boundaries of the brief, be bold and questioning in your approach**
- **Show spaces that will inspire artists, curators, participants and audiences, and help to develop new creative dialogues**
- **Convey ideas clearly and simply**
- **Address and respond fully to issues of access both physical and intellectual.**

What you could win

Winners will be awarded the following prizes:

1st Prize £5,000

2nd Prize £2,500

3rd Prize £1,000

A further number of commendations of a discretionary sum may also be selected for schemes that demonstrate innovation in a particular area (eg sustainability).

Judges

Tricia Austin

Lecturer and Course Director, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design

Sarah Featherstone

Director, Featherstone Associates

Edwin Heathcote

Financial Times Architecture Critic

Kwame Kwei-Armah

Actor and playwright

Charlie Leadbeater

Leading authority on innovation and creativity

Dr Ben Todd

Engineer and Executive Director of Arcola Theatre

Steve Tompkins

Director, Haworth Tompkins

Sarah Weir

Executive Director, Arts Council England, London

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Details

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Timetable

Call for entries
26 September 2007

Close of entries
12 noon, 22 November 2007

Shortlist announced
6 December 2007

Exhibition set up
4-9 January 2008

Announcement of winner
10 January 2008

Exhibition open to public
11 January – 16 February 2008

Seminar
January 2008

Eligibility

This competition is open to RIBA London members only. Student, Graduate and Chartered members are all welcome to submit work.

Submission

The design of each competitor (either as a team effort or individual) is to be contained in a single package and sent to:

'Arts Space of the Future Competition'
RIBA London
66 Portland Place
London W1B 1AD

To arrive no later than 12 noon on **Thursday 22 November**. Each entry should be accompanied with the correct entry fee. Competitors may enter more than one submission, however the fee must apply accordingly. Competitors requiring proof of delivery should enclose with their package a stamped, sealed envelope addressed to a third party. This will be posted on receipt of submission.

Entry Fees

Individual Student Members
£23.50 (£20 + VAT)

Individual Graduate Members
£58.75 (£50 + VAT)

Chartered Members
£117.50 (£100 + VAT)

Anonymity

The design and accompanying material should be sent without name, logo or distinguishing mark of any kind, accompanied by an entry form placed in a sealed envelope. The RIBA will place a number on each board, drawing and envelope and the envelopes will not be opened until the shortlist has been selected.

Announcement of the winners

The judges will shortlist up to 20 proposals. Notified parties will be invited to submit a further A1 board and potentially a model for inclusion in the public exhibition at the National Theatre.

The shortlist will be published after all competitors have been notified.

The winners of the competition prizes will be announced at the exhibition opening at the National Theatre on 10 January 2008, to which all representatives of all shortlisted entries are required to attend.

The promoter reserves the right to publicise the competition and result in any way or any medium they see fit.

Enquiries

For the latest information on the competition please see **www.architecture.com/ribalondon**

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