
RIBA London News release

15 January 2008

Arts Space of the Future Competition

This ideas competition set by RIBA London and Arts Council England asked London architects and students to consider the shape and form of future arts spaces. With changes in technology and rapidly altering notions of what culture actually is, including ideas about making the arts a less elitist affair, architects were encouraged to ask fundamental questions: what kind of arts space will be relevant to future generations? How can spaces better reflect the nature of the arts being produced within them? Do art spaces need to be transformed into something quite new?

Winners and shortlisted entries to the competition "Arts Spaces of the Future" will be on display in an exhibition at the Lyttelton Foyer of the National Theatre along with RIBA award-winning arts buildings from the last three decades. The competition proposals embrace a range of ideas such as "virtual resource planning", local power generation and portability. The exhibition will also showcase architectural icons such as the National Theatre, the Barbican and the Design Museum. As all these buildings demonstrate, ideas surrounding the arts constantly evolve, and this exhibition aims to contribute to the debate about the meaning of the arts and how we can all experience it.

Arts Space of the Future winners announced

First prize, a cheque for £5,000, was awarded to a collaborative project, *Art Spaces lead global ecology of ideas*, by architects, Manuel Shvartzberg and Yiannis Kanakakis with writer Fabian Faltin. Their winning entry took the form of Financial Times news pages, addressing arts spaces, environmental issues, and challenging the concept of architectural competitions. In the view of the judges the winning entry was: "A sophisticated challenge to the brief, nailing the real issues.... A very thorough response - positive but critical, a commentary and critique connecting art to the personal, public and political."

Second prize, £2,500, was won by David Kohn, Director, David Kohn Associates for *Heterotopia*. The judges commented that Kohn, had "seriously taken on the issues raised by the brief and shown a light flexible approach to the Thames Gateway".

Third prize, £1,000, was won by Ashley Seaborne, a student at the University of East London for *Hoodies*, described by the judges as "ingenious and imaginatively presented".

The winners were announced at the National Theatre on 10 January at the launch of a major exhibition of the 11 shortlisted entries, seen alongside RIBA London Award winning arts buildings, such as the Young Vic Theatre; the Roundhouse; the Great Court at the British Museum and the National Theatre. The exhibition is open to the public from 11 January – 16 February.

RIBA London

66 Portland Place
London W1B 1AD
Tel 020 7307 3681
Fax 020 7307 3788
riba.london@inst.riba.org
www.riba-london.com

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The 2008 RIBA Gold Medallist, Ted Cullinan said: “I congratulate the winners. This competition is a great example of what RIBA London should be doing to support London’s young and emerging architects. It is most important to remember that architecture is an art.”

The competition judges were Sarah Weir (Executive Director, Arts Council England, London), Steve Tompkins (Director, Haworth Tompkins Architects), Tricia Austin (Course Director, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design), Sarah Featherstone (Director, Featherstone Associates), Dr Ben Todd (Engineer and Executive Director of Arcola Theatre) and Edwin Heathcote (Architecture Critic, Financial Times).

Other projects short-listed and included in the exhibition are:

Amongst the everyday and out of the ordinary - Moxon Architects

Artand’s Tabernacle - Tony Broomhead and Nicky Kirk, Amenity Space

Void on the Thames - Kabage Karanja (student, University of Westminster)

Arts Space Infrastructure - Hatch

Art Space - Danielle Tinero, ETALAB

Cavendish Square digital open café - Yoshiko Torii (student, London Metropolitan University)

Public (Art) Prison - Jerome Tsui (student, Architectural Association) and Wendy Abetxuko (sociologist)

Techno Pods - Daniel Ward (student, London Southbank University)

Ends

Note to Editors:

1. Further information about “Arts Space of the Future” competition is available from www.architecture.com/ribalondon and from: www.artscouncil.org.uk or contact: Antonia Faust, Events and Projects Manager, RIBA London, t: 0207 307 3624, e: antonia.faust@inst.riba.org
2. RIBA London supports the membership by providing high quality support services, organising regular activities and training. It seeks to increase the political and professional influence of RIBA within the region and works to raise public awareness of architecture as a profession. It encourages improvement in the built environment by delivering cultural activities and by encouraging architectural debate in the public arena. To find out more about what we do visit www.architecture.com/ribalondon
3. Arts Council England works to get more art to more people in more places. We develop and promote the arts across England, acting as an independent body at arm’s length from government. Between 2006 and 2008, we will invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and the National Lottery in supporting the arts. This is the bedrock of support for the arts in England. We believe that the arts have the power to change lives and communities, and to create opportunities for people throughout the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk