



V&A Announces Architects to Lead Exhibition Road Project

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28 March 2011

Today the V&A announces that Amanda Levete Architects (AL_A) have won the international design competition for the Museum's Exhibition Road development.

AL_A were one of seven shortlisted architectural teams, selected from over 110 expressions of interest for the Exhibition Road competition. The project will create new galleries for the V&A's internationally renowned exhibitions, a public courtyard for installations and events, and an entrance into the Museum from the newly landscaped Exhibition Road.

To watch a film of the announcement visit:

http://www.vam.ac.uk/channel/people/architecture/exhibition_road_project_competition_winner/

Paul Ruddock, Chairman of the V&A Board of Trustees, said: *"The Exhibition Road project is an essential development for the future of the V&A. The V&A produces the very best international design exhibitions and the existing exhibition courts, arranged over three separate rooms, are no longer fit for purpose. This new development will transform the way the V&A is able to present its major exhibitions and will enable us to reveal and restore the magnificent south courts. AL_A's proposal will create a wonderful new space that cleverly combines the elegance of the V&A's Grade I listed buildings with contemporary design. They are a worthy winner."*

Sir Mark Jones, V&A Director, said: *"We were very pleased by the quality of the international response to this project and I'd like to thank all of the shortlisted designers for the enormous amount of work which will have gone into creating such intelligent responses to this complex site. We are confident that AL_A are the right practice to lead this crucial V&A development and that they will create a building that will delight our visitors."*

On winning the competition, Amanda Levete said: *"The V&A is a hugely prestigious museum and it has special meaning for me because it's the home of art and architecture. I've dreamt of working on a major public and cultural project ever since I started as an architect, and it doesn't get much better than this. This isn't just about a gallery, it's an opportunity to create a new public space for London – South Kensington's Drawing Room. The pattern of the courtyard derives from the structure and the richness of the V&A's collection, and*

continues the didactic tradition of the V&A buildings. AL_A is a young office – we've only been established for two years – and for us this is a defining project because it expresses the way we think – for the V&A we've made the invisible visible."

A jury, chaired by Steve McGuckin, made their decision after examining all of the shortlisted schemes in detail, interviewing each of the teams, visiting their studios and previous projects as well as obtaining client references.

AL_A will now work with the V&A to develop a more detailed design. The project is expected to take five years from the design stage to completion and the total budget will be £35 million.

The Exhibition Road project is part of the V&A's ongoing FuturePlan to transform the Museum and will contribute to the development and semi-pedestrianisation of Exhibition Road led by The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The international design competition was organised by Malcolm Reading Consultants.

The architectural models by each of the shortlisted teams are on display in the V&A's Sackler Centre until 3 April 2011.

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Notes to Editors

About Amanda Levete Architects (AL_A)

AL_A is the international design and architecture studio of Stirling Prize-winning architect Amanda Levete. A former partner of Future Systems, Levete has received world-wide acclaim for seminal designs such as the Selfridges department store in Birmingham, and the media centre at Lord's cricket ground – the world's first aluminium building. A diverse range of current projects, from a 1.5 million sq ft luxury retail outlet and six star hotel in Bangkok, to a new city-defining subway station in Naples, designed in collaboration with the artist Anish Kapoor, demonstrate AL_A's depth of conceptual thinking and commitment to design excellence. www.amandalevetearchitects.com

The shortlisted teams:

- Amanda Levete Architects (AL_A)
- Heneghan Peng Architects
- Jamie Fobert Architects
- Jun Aoki & Associates
- Michael Maltzan Architecture (MMA)
- Snøhetta & Hoskins
- Tony Fretton Architects

The Jury:

Chair: Steve McGuckin – V&A Trustee, Chair of the V&A Building Strategy Committee, UK

Managing Director of Turner and Townsend PLC

David Adjaye – Director, Adjaye Associates

Moira Gemmill – Design Director, V&A

Sir Mark Jones – Director, V&A

Paul Ruddock – Chairman of the V&A Board of Trustees

- The official UK website for the V&A competition can be found at www.malcolmreading.co.uk/vanda
- The competition was advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)
- The competition organisers Malcolm Reading Consultants provide independent advice and support to clients involved in building projects. MRC specialises in cultural, education and regeneration work. It is the leading private organiser of architectural competitions in the UK and also works internationally.

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