



Design Competition

MK:U

Malcolm Reading Consultants (MRC) specialises in achieving outstanding design for clients with capital projects. Expert in all methods of selecting and appointing architects, we believe in the power of design to act as an inspiration.

Whatever the commission – cultural or commercial, high-profile or discreet – MRC creates a unique search strategy around it. We devise original intellectual and visual content for our project briefs in order to engage designers and attract the best minds.

We are the leading independent organiser of design competitions based in the UK, with a dedicated global following and an unrivalled reputation for finding new talent.

**Malcolm Reading
Consultants Limited**

T +44 (0) 20 7831 2998
F +44 (0) 20 7404 7645
office@malcolmreading.com

malcolmreading.com

A new model university in the ‘Smart City’, Milton Keynes (MK), MK:U is intended to transform thinking about higher education.

MK:U will create an environment where innovation is a given and where students can learn alongside business mentors and in business situations. Through its ambitious curriculum focused on digital economy skills, MK:U will honour the innovative spirit of nearby Bletchley Park and further MK’s pioneering work in ‘Big Data’, transport innovation and urban design. Headline subjects include robotics and artificial intelligence; smart cities; business and entrepreneurship; and design thinking.

Benefiting from a prominent 10-hectare site, the last major undeveloped site in the city centre, MK:U will have an exceptionally strong relationship to MK because the city’s long-term future depends on retaining and attracting talent.

Through a ‘living lab’ approach, MK’s citizens and businesses will be able to participate in the university’s research, education and social activities.

An international team led by London-based Hopkins Architects was unanimously selected as the winner of this two-stage competition.

Jurors were persuaded by the clarity and confidence of the concept design, as well as the team’s collaborative approach to creating exceptional higher educational buildings.

Councillor Pete Marland, Leader of Milton Keynes Council, said:
Hopkins impressed the jury with their concept design for MK:U, but we also admired their attitude and their range of work, most recently at Harvard. MK:U will be a huge asset for Milton Keynes and the next chapter in our development.

The Shortlist

Co:MK:U – WilkinsonEyre and AECOM with Spaces that Work, Mecanoo, dRMM, Publica, Contemporary Art Society and Tricon

Hawkins\Brown with KCAP, Grant Associates, BuroHappold Engineering and Sam Jacob Studio

Hopkins Architects with Prior+Partners, Expedition Engineering, Atelier Ten, GROSS. MAX. , Buro 4, RLB Schumann, GRFN, Caneparo Associates, QCIC, Nick Perry Associates, Access=Design, Cordless Consultants, Sandy Brown Associates, FMDC and Tricon

Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands with Architecture 00, Heyne Tillett Steel, Hoare Lea, Bradley-Hole Schoenaich Landscape Architects, Ken Baker, Steer, Icen, Abell Nepp, Mark London, FMDC, People Friendly Design, PFB Construction Management and FiD

OMA with BuroHappold Engineering, Planit-IE, Nicholas Hare Architects, Carmody Groarke, Galmstrup, Approved Consultant Services and Russell Partnership

Won by

Hopkins Architects