

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.

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Design Competition

NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM

Located in the heart of York, one of the world's most important railway cities, the National Railway Museum is poised to become the cultural anchor for *York Central*, one of the largest city centre brownfield regeneration projects in the UK.

This open two-stage competition sought teams to design the museum's new emblematic Central Hall, which forms part of the museum's strategy to become the 'World's Railway Museum' by 2025, its 50th anniversary.

The 4,500 sqm Central Hall will bridge the space between the museum's two main exhibition halls, integrating the museum estate for the first time in its history and creating an appealing and compelling arrival experience.

The new building, which has a £16.5 million construction budget, will also include reception spaces, as well as a spectacular 1,000 sqm exhibition gallery.

From 76 entries, five outstanding teams were shortlisted and asked to produce design concepts. These were available to view on the competition website and at a free exhibition, with members of the public encouraged to share their views.

The team led by award-winning practice Feilden Fowles was declared the winner in March 2020. The jury praised the team's design concept for its elegance, its ambitious energy strategy and its intriguing new visitor journeys.

Fergus Feilden, Director of Feilden Fowles, said:

We're thrilled to win this nationally significant competition. The brief combined three of our passions – museum architecture, great railway architecture of the 19th century, and working in Yorkshire.

'Central Hall is both a tremendous challenge and a unique opportunity to create a new face and connected experience for the museum. We can't wait to start work with such a fantastic client.'

Finalists

6a architects (UK) and OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen (Belgium)
Atelier d'Architecture Philippe Prost (France)
Carmody Groarke (UK)
Feilden Fowles (UK)
heneghan peng architects (Ireland)

Won by

Feilden Fowles (UK)