



Design Competition

POWERHOUSE PRECINCT AT PARRAMATTA

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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One of the most exciting cultural projects in Australia, the Powerhouse Parramatta is the largest investment in arts and culture in New South Wales since the Sydney Opera House.

The AUS\$400m initiative will transform and renew the Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences, one of Australia's oldest and most important cultural institutions and is intended to create a new global icon.

The project demonstrates a change in how Sydney thinks about itself, its culture and its communities – for the first time, a State cultural institution will be sited in Western Sydney, in Parramatta, one of the fastest-growing parts of the region.

The open two-stage competition, launched in January 2019, welcomed both Australian and international design teams and encouraged creative collaborations between established and emerging talent.

At the close of 2019, French/Japanese and Australian team, Moreau Kusunoki and Genton, was announced as the winner, beating 73 other teams to triumph with their multi-faceted Powerhouse vision. This returns the river to the community, creates generous open space where nature and people can interact, and presents the museum as an innovative cultural platform that is activated by visitors and locals.

NSW Minister for the Arts, Don Harwin, said:

The Powerhouse will enrich the cultural heart of Parramatta. It will be a place that drives and champions cultural creativity and social connection. Through the design leadership of Moreau Kusunoki and Genton, it will be a distinctive architectural statement and a landmark cultural destination of international significance in one of Australia's fastest-growing and most culturally diverse regions.

The process was endorsed by the Australian Institute of Architects.

The Shortlist

AL_A (UK)
Bernardes Architecture (Brazil)
BVN Architecture (Australia)
CHROFI (Australia)
Moreau Kusunoki (France)
Steven Holl Architects (US)

Won by

Moreau Kusunoki (France)