

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# DESIGN CONCEPTS FOR NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM'S CENTRAL HALL REVEALED



Top row, left to right: 6a architects; Atelier d'Architecture Philippe Prost.  
Bottom row, left to right: Carmody Groarke; Feilden Fowles; heneghan peng architects.  
© Malcolm Reading Consultants and the respective teams.

- Finalist design concepts by emerging star architects displayed in online gallery, and at an exhibition at York's National Railway Museum from 13 February 2020
- Public comments welcomed at exhibition or via email
- Michael Squire, founder of architectural practice Squire and Partners, announced as final Juror
- Competition winner to be revealed in March 2020



The National Railway Museum and Malcolm Reading Consultants (MRC) today [Thursday 13 February 2020] unveiled the five design concepts created by international and UK teams for the museum's emblematic new Central Hall.

The designs by emerging star practices are now available to view on the [competition website](#) and at a free public exhibition in the National Railway Museum's Great Hall, which will run from 13 February to 29 March 2020.

Members of the public are invited to share their views on the five proposals until Sunday 23 February – by filling out a comment slip at the exhibition or by [emailing](#) the competition organisers.

With a construction budget of £16.5 million, the new Central Hall will transform the visitor arrival experience with an appealing and compelling entrance space, integrating the museum estate for the first time in its history. This 4,500 sqm centrepiece building will also create a spectacular 1,000 sqm gallery intended to showcase innovative technology and introduce the museum's world-class collection.

Central Hall will open in time for the museum's 50th anniversary in 2025. The initiative will enable the museum, which aims to become the 'world's railway museum', to welcome an estimated 1.2 million visitors annually, as well as renew its presence and identity as it becomes the cultural anchor for York Central, one of the largest city centre brownfield regeneration projects in the UK.

**Judith McNicol, Director of the National Railway Museum, said:**

**'I am very pleased to share the five design concepts for our new Central Hall which will showcase our collection and future innovations from the rail industry in an inspirational, purpose-built gallery.'**

**'I encourage people to visit and to share their feedback. Although the final designs are some way off, the winning team will go on to create the final building which will be the cultural focal point at the heart of York Central.'**

**Karen Livingstone, Science Museum Group Director of Masterplan and Estate, said:**

**'I am thrilled with the responses from all the finalist teams, which have exceeded our expectations in their variety and imagination.'**

**'All five have offered intriguing takes on form and materials which respond to the brief in different ways, ranging from curvilinear to rectilinear shapes; which are by turns, strongly coloured, sensory and tactile.'**

**'I am particularly pleased that all five teams have taken seriously our ambition to create a sustainable building, which will be open for all, and be part of the landscape of this historic site.'**

**Malcolm Reading, Competition Director, said:**

**‘We always knew this was a very special shortlist – five exceptional small to medium-sized practices, from diverse backgrounds and brimming with talent.**

**‘These are charismatic design concepts – the best concepts here have the potential to be iconic, to catch the eye and hold it.**

**‘The Jury will be fascinating.’**

The concept designs on show are the work of five teams shortlisted in November 2019 (in alphabetical order):

- **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)

The five teams were responding to a brief that included a need for Central Hall to be environmentally sustainable as well as sensitive to the railway heritage of surrounding buildings and the city of York.

The finalist teams were selected from a field of 76 entries by a panel led by **Dame Mary Archer DBE**, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Science Museum Group. No design was sought at the competition’s first stage – competitors made submissions based on past experience and team composition.

The shortlisted teams then attended a site visit and had three months to develop their designs.

Each finalist team that submits a compliant proposal will receive a £30,000 honorarium at the conclusion of the competition.

Later in the month, the teams will be interviewed by the distinguished Jury, who will evaluate the proposals and then select a winner. The Jury will receive a summary of all public comments collected by Sunday 23 February.

**Michael Squire**, founder of architectural practice Squire and Partners, has been confirmed as the final member of the Jury.



The full Jury is as follows:

- **Dame Mary Archer DBE**, (Chair), Chair of the Board of Trustees, Science Museum Group
- **Sir Ian Blatchford FSA**, Director and Chief Executive, Science Museum Group
- **Gitta Gschwendtner**, Director, Gitta Gschwendtner Design Consultancy
- **Zoe Laughlin**, Director, Institute of Making
- **Karen Livingstone**, Director of Masterplan and Estate, Science Museum Group
- **Judith McNicol**, Director, National Railway Museum
- **Michael Squire**, Senior Partner, Squire and Partners
- **Malcolm Reading**, Competition Director (Jury Adviser)

The National Railway Museum is ranked amongst the most popular attractions in the UK and welcomed 782,000 visitors in 2018-19. Located close to the centre of York, the museum sits within a larger industrial site that was originally developed in the mid- to late-19th century by the North Eastern Railway Company. Surrounded by the remnants of this industry, the museum is today dominated by railway heritage and infrastructure.

However, York Central — a 45-hectare redevelopment comprising of a series of new city centre residential and business neighbourhoods — will transform the surrounding disused railway estate. This wider regeneration, which is expected to give a £1bn+ boost to the local economy, has already achieved outline planning consent, including an envelope for the new Central Hall.

The competition is being organised by independent specialists Malcolm Reading Consultants and is being run in accordance with EU procurement guidelines and the UK Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

For further updates please follow the [competition website](#).

**ENDS**

**COMPETITION MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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**NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM ENQUIRIES**

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**IMAGES**

Images can be downloaded here:

[dropbox.com/sh/u26ndsfuvns2g1h/AACdg2xSHJ-L5GQar-9UFJnQa?dl=0](https://dropbox.com/sh/u26ndsfuvns2g1h/AACdg2xSHJ-L5GQar-9UFJnQa?dl=0)**NOTES TO EDITORS****National Railway Museum Central Hall Exhibition**

A free-to-enter temporary public exhibition of the shortlisted design concepts is being held in the Great Hall, National Railway Museum, from 13 February to 29 March 2020.

The exhibition will be open 10am – 5pm daily.

Visitors are invited to share their opinions on the proposals by filling out a comment slip at the exhibition or by emailing the competition organisers ([railwaymuseum@malcolmreading.com](mailto:railwaymuseum@malcolmreading.com)).

**Shortlisted Teams****• 6a architects and OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen**

6a architects and OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen will collaborate on the competition for the new Central Hall at the National Railway Museum in York, joined by Price & Myers, Ritchie+Daffin and MSAFE.

The architects, based in London and Brussels, are two of Europe's leading voices in contemporary architecture and teaching. 6a is best known for its contemporary art galleries, educational buildings and artists' studios, and earlier this year completed the major expansion of MK Gallery in Milton Keynes. 6a's Photography Studio for Juergen Teller was nominated for the RIBA Stirling Prize in 2017.

OFFICE has established a reputation as one of Belgium's most successful and renowned practices and one of the world's truly original voices in present-day architecture. Among their most influential work is Solo House, Spain, Traditional Music Centre, Bahrain and the headquarters of Swiss Radio and Television Company in Lausanne, Switzerland.

[6a.co.uk](http://6a.co.uk)[officekgdvs.com](http://officekgdvs.com)

- **Atelier d'Architecture Philippe Prost**

Atelier d'Architecture Philippe Prost (AAPP) is a prestigious architectural practice in Paris specialising in historical monuments. After having dedicated himself to architectural research for ten years, Philippe Prost was called for help in 1991 on a 15-year adventure at the citadel of Belle-Ile-en-Mer. Since then he has gathered a team of about fifteen architects with a strong commitment to quality. They provide, from building conception to completion, sensitive restoration schemes and bold contemporary design in historic contexts.

The main qualities of their work are a deep historic heritage knowledge, brief and context appraisal skills, a constructive and sustainable build design, and finally a regular monitoring of the building site. The notions of memory and context are the basis of all the projects they carry out, on a wide range of scales of project.

Philippe Prost teams up with Urban Fabric Architects, Price & Myers, Skelly & Couch.

[www.prost-architectes.com](http://www.prost-architectes.com)

- **Carmody Groake**

Carmody Groarke, Arup, and Max Fordham are delighted to be shortlisted for the National Railway Museum Central Hall Project.

Carmody Groarke is a London-based architectural practice founded in 2006 by Kevin Carmody and Andy Groarke. The practice has developed a strong reputation for working internationally on a wide range of arts, cultural and heritage projects.

Carmody Groarke have designed critically acclaimed buildings including Windermere Jetty Museum, the Hill House Box and Maggie's Cancer Care Centre Clatterbridge. The studio's clients include The National Trust for Scotland, the BFI and the Royal Academy of Arts. Current projects include a new gallery for the Museum of Science and Industry, an extension to the Design Museum Gent and a new international arts venue at Park Hill, Sheffield.

The practice has earned international recognition, winning several architectural competitions and awards.

[carmodygroarke.com](http://carmodygroarke.com)





- **Feilden Fowles**

Feilden Fowles is thrilled to have been shortlisted for this nationally significant scheme which builds upon an incredible collection, offer and our team's passions and experience working in museums and galleries across Yorkshire. Central Hall is both a tremendous challenge and provides a unique opportunity to create a new face and connected experience for the museum. Our team will rise to this challenge and design a new arrival experience which inspires wonder and transforms this exceptional museum so close to the heart of York.

As a young and dynamic team, we bring energy, the highest design standards and a desire to listen closely to the needs of everyone involved.

[feildenfowles.co.uk](http://feildenfowles.co.uk)

- **heneghan peng architects**

heneghan peng architects are a design-based practice who have produced award-winning designs that are both iconic and subtle, often in historic urban areas or sensitive contexts. The practice was founded by Shih-Fu Peng and Róisín Heneghan in New York in 1999 and in 2001 relocated to Ireland. We take a multi-disciplinary approach to design and have collaborated with many leading designers and engineers on a range of projects which include large scale urban master plans, bridges, landscapes and buildings.

We have won competitions and carried out projects in four world heritage sites, including the Grand Museum of Egypt in Giza, the Giant's Causeway Visitors' Centre on the Antrim coast, the Stockwell Street building at the University of Greenwich in Maritime Greenwich, and the Mittelrheinbrücke in the Rhine Valley. The practice has recently been awarded the 2019 Aga Khan Award for Architecture for the Palestinian Museum in Birzeit.

[hparc.com](http://hparc.com)



**RAILWAY  
MUSEUM**

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### **About the National Railway Museum**

The National Railway Museum in York has the largest collection of railway objects in the world and attracts more than 750,000 visitors per year. The collection includes over 260 locomotives and rolling stock, 600 coins and medals, as well as railway uniforms, equipment, documents, artwork and photographs.

The museum forms part of the Science Museum Group, along with the Science Museum in London, the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester, the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford and Locomotion in Shildon. Admission to the National Railway Museum is free.

[railwaymuseum.org.uk](http://railwaymuseum.org.uk)

### **About Malcolm Reading Consultants**

Malcolm Reading Consultants (MRC) is a strategic architectural consultancy that helps clients to imagine and define contemporary environments; MRC is the leading global specialist in devising and managing international design competitions.

Since 1996, we have developed an extensive global network of contacts, an outstanding portfolio of completed projects, and an international reputation for fairness and transparency. MRC believes in the power of design to act as an inspiration.

Recent work includes competitions for the Houston Endowment (US); MK:U (UK); the Powerhouse Precinct at Parramatta (Australia); the Cambridge to Oxford Connection (UK); University College Dublin (Ireland); Gallaudet University (Washington, D.C., US); Kaunas M.K. Čiurlionis Concert Centre (Lithuania); the Royal College of Art (UK); the V&A (UK); the Mumbai City Museum (India); and new buildings for the UK's New College, Oxford and St Catharine's College, Cambridge.

[malcolmreading.com](http://malcolmreading.com)