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18 FEBRUARY 2016



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ST MARY REDCLIFFE DESIGN COMPETITION SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

FINALISTS EXCELLED IN SHOWING CLIENT-CENTRED APPROACHES ALONG WITH FUNDRAISING AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE



Image © Malcolm Reading Consultants/Emily Whitfield-Wicks

St Mary Redcliffe and Malcolm Reading Consultants (MRC) today [February 18, 2016] announced the five finalist teams selected to develop concept designs in the second stage of the St Mary Redcliffe Design Competition. The Grade I listed Bristol church, both a national landmark and a living church, is the equivalent of many European cathedrals and one of the largest parish churches in England.

The finalist teams are (in alphabetical order):

**Carmody Groarke**

**dRMM**

**Eric Parry Architects**

**Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios**

**Purcell**

Fifty-three practices entered the competition and of these international studios accounted for nearly twenty per cent. The decision of the selection panel which included representatives of the jury, St Mary Redcliffe and competition organisers, Malcolm Reading Consultants was unanimous.

The £12-15m project will give the church new community, social and support facilities. The initiative is linked to wider regeneration plans, placing the church at the heart of a new urban village within Bristol's city centre.

Finalist teams will be attending the forthcoming public symposium *'Architecture and the contemporary church - imagining the new in the context of the old'* which will be hosted at the church on 23 February 2016. Speakers include Loyd Grossman, journalist, broadcaster and Chairman of The Churches Conservation Trust, and the Right Reverend Nick Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury. (See Notes to editors below for further details).

Finalists have until mid-April to produce their concept designs.

**The Reverend Dan Tyndall, Vicar of St Mary Redcliffe, said:**

“

*We would like to thank all the architects who entered the competition - we were hugely impressed by their seriousness and dedication, the standard of submissions was very high.*

*Our development project is focused on expanding our local outreach and mission whilst increasing people's awareness and enjoyment of the church and now that the design phase of the competition is underway, we want to share that excitement. Next week's symposium will be an opportunity for the local community to meet representatives of the shortlisted architects.*

”

**David Hamilton, Architect and Director of Projects at MRC, said:**

“

*In selecting the finalist teams, what distinguished the successful applicants was their client-centred approach and previous experience in fundraising and stakeholder engagement. This was demonstrated through a diverse range of previous projects that have all made a positive contribution to setting and place-making, and through this to transforming local communities.*

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Following a public exhibition of the concept designs, the winning team is expected to be announced in late May 2016.

St Mary Redcliffe is notable for its connection with many important historical figures, including George Frederick Handel and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. It has links with America through artefacts relating to John Cabot's voyage of 1497 and Admiral Penn – the latter, the namesake of Pennsylvania, is buried within the church.

Elizabeth I described St Mary Redcliffe as *'the fairest, goodliest and most famous parish church in England'*. The church attracts tens of thousands of visitors and tourists annually. Built, and then rebuilt, over a 300-year period from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the church embodies magnificence, but has always lacked sufficient community and support spaces for its vital work in one of the most deprived wards in the country.

The development project, the focus of this design competition, will incorporate a range of facilities within a building or buildings: administrative and support spaces, exhibition spaces, a café, a shop, a meeting hall, and an expanded/new community centre.

The initiative will run concurrently with a wider regeneration project, The Redcliffe Neighbourhood Development Plan, which positions the church as the focus of a new urban village within the Redcliffe area.

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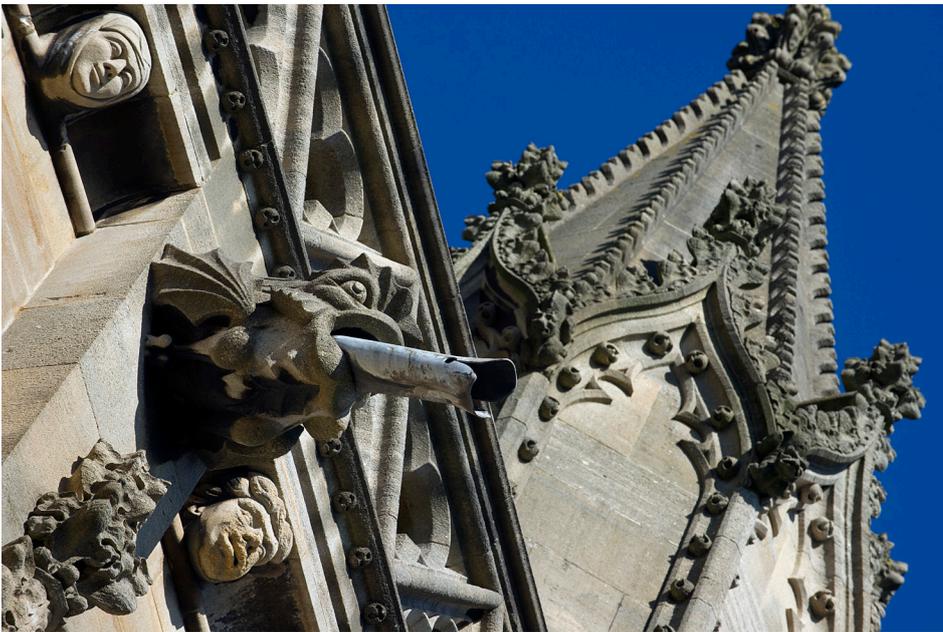
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For media enquiries regarding St Mary Redcliffe, and interviews with the Reverend Dan Tyndall, please phone Rhys Williams on +44 (0)117 231 0068 or contact by email at: [rhys.williams@stmaryredcliffe.co.uk](mailto:rhys.williams@stmaryredcliffe.co.uk)

For media enquiries regarding the St Mary Redcliffe Design Competition please phone Catherine Reading on +44 (0) 20 7831 2998 or contact by email at: [catherine.reading@malcolmreading.co.uk](mailto:catherine.reading@malcolmreading.co.uk)

For images please contact Sarah Mattok by email at: [sarah.mattok@malcolmreading.co.uk](mailto:sarah.mattok@malcolmreading.co.uk)



Images © Malcolm Reading Consultants/Emily Whitfield-Wicks

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

- ***Architecture and the contemporary church - imagining the new in the context of the old*** will be hosted at the church on Tuesday, 23 February 2016 from 10:00 to 17:00 (GMT).

Speakers include Loyd Grossman, journalist, broadcaster and Chairman of The Churches Conservation Trust; the Right Reverend Nick Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury; Jon Cannon, historian, author and broadcaster and Andrew Kelly, Director of Bristol Cultural Development Partnership and Bristol Festival of Ideas. Tickets cost £20.29 and are available via the link below.

[eventbrite.co.uk/e/architecture-for-the-contemporary-church-imagining-the-new-in-the-context-of-the-old-tickets-20012077663](http://eventbrite.co.uk/e/architecture-for-the-contemporary-church-imagining-the-new-in-the-context-of-the-old-tickets-20012077663)

- **Shortlisted Teams' Media Statements**

**Carmody Groarke**

The work of the studio has won several international awards including: UK Young Architect of the Year 2007 (YAYA), International Emerging Architecture Award 2010 (Architectural Review), several RIBA Awards, as well as Civic Trust and D&AD Yellow Pencil Awards. Many of the studios projects are won through international competition. The first monograph of the work of the studio has recently been completed for Spanish publisher 2G. Completed projects include: 7 July Memorial, the new Architecture Gallery at the RIBA headquarters, a studio for artist Anthony Gormley, the Maggie's Centre Clatterbridge in the Wirral, and a temporary gallery for White Cube at Glyndebourne. Current projects include the Windermere Jetty Museum in the Lake District, a major renovation of Dorset County Museum, the Specials Exhibitions Gallery at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, the new members' room for the V&A Museum, a studio for artist Julian Opie and a new headquarters and entrance building for the Royal Horticultural society at Wisley. For this unique opportunity, the team is comprised of Carmody Groarke (Architecture, Lead consultant), ARUP (Structures, Civil, MEP Services, Planning), DJAO-RAKITINE (Landscape), Hamilton-Baillie (Urbanism), Ettwein Bridges Architects (Ecclesiastical Conservation), Gardiner & Theobald (Cost Quantity Surveying), and Counterculture (Creative Business Planning and HLF Funding)

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

**dRMM**

dRMM is a London-based, international studio of architects and designers founded in 1995 by Alex de Rijke, Philip Marsh and Sadie Morgan. We are renowned for creating architecture that is innovative, high quality and socially useful. Our work has received significant praise and has been recognised by numerous awards. These include successes at the RIBA Awards, Wood Awards, and Brick Awards. We were named Building Design (BD) Architect of The Year 2013-14, Building Design (BD) Education Architect of the year 2013-14, and Building Design (BD) Housing Architect of the Year 2014-15. dRMM was a runner up for the prestigious RIBA Stirling Prize for our work on Clapham Manor Primary School - a chromatically vibrant extension to a Grade II\* listed building. We are proud of our reputation, and owe it to a talented and resourceful team who work in the belief that outstanding architecture comes through client collaboration, creative design, environmental awareness and building innovation. We work simultaneously on large and small-scale projects for private clients, local authorities and developers, and always aim to exceed standard expectations. We are both systematic and pragmatic, continually prioritising the user while exploring the communicative, spatial and tactile qualities of architecture. Real sustainability and cost control have always informed our working methods, and our are led by concept, site and process rather than formulaic or style-based decisions. We have a track record of creating vibrant buildings that serve to revive and energise the communities in which they exist. Clients trust us because we go out of our way to understand and realise their needs through detailed research and careful practice. The construction industry respects us because we imaginatively use standardised, cost-effective materials and building methods to make innovative architecture.

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

**Eric Parry Architects**

Eric Parry Architects is an established and award-winning practice with a portfolio of notable work. The practice has gathered together talented individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds and a wide range of experience and as a result, the practice operates easily within any frame of reference, whether the Far East or continental Europe. Eric Parry founded the practice in 1983. It is based in London, and employs over 90 staff. The practice also has an office in Singapore, where we have a number of residential schemes in the region. Eric Parry maintains a key involvement in all projects, particularly in their design development stages. The practice approaches all work with intellectual rigour, and also seeks to integrate the highest level of craftsmanship in all schemes it undertakes. The practice is responsible for several highly prestigious commercial projects in the City of London and the West End.

We have also completed a number of cultural projects involving highly sensitive historic buildings including a significant new wing for the Holburne Museum of Art in Bath, and are currently working on a new recital hall and associated teaching spaces for Wells Cathedral School. We completed the restoration and renewal project for the historic St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in Trafalgar Square in 2008. Notable previous work includes the home of the London Stock Exchange at 10 Paternoster Square in the City of London and the acclaimed office buildings at 30 Finsbury Square and 5 Aldermanbury Square.

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

### **Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios**

Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios (FCBStudios) is an award-winning architectural practice with an international reputation for design quality, for pioneering environmental expertise and a progressive architectural approach. Established in 1978, and with offices in Bath, London, Manchester and Belfast, FCBStudios has grown steadily to our present strength of 24 partners and over 160 staff. We were one of the first practices in the UK to develop expertise in sustainable design and have consistently remained at the forefront of research and innovation in the built environment. We were the first architectural practice in the UK to win the Queen's Award for Sustainable Development. Our work has been recognised with a substantial number of major awards. We are proud to be named the top RIBA National Award winning architect of the past 10 years. As well as the 2008 Stirling Prize, we have a total of 44 RIBA Awards, including the RIBA Sustainability Award. In 2014 we were also voted the AJ 'Client Choice' Award, with twice as many votes as any other practice. FCBStudios works across all sectors, and has particular experience in designing for education, housing, masterplanning and urban design, as well as places for art and culture, and the conservation and creative reuse of historic buildings. The success of our work is dependent on creative collaboration, both internally within our open studio culture and externally with our clients, consultants and contractors. We actively work with wider stakeholders as participants, not only to ensure practicality and economy, but to ensure we produce designs that are owned and loved. Sharing knowledge with clients, fellow consultants and the world at large is part of our mission. We publish occasional books and pamphlets where we explore ideas and projects in greater detail. Our first publication 'Feilden Clegg Bradley: The Environmental Handbook' included a Primer section which provides in an open source format the pragmatics of environmental design. It is based on a number of papers which summarise FCBStudios' 'received wisdom' learnt over the last 25 years.

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

**Purcell**

Purcell was founded in 1947 and is one of the top-ten largest architectural practices in the UK. We have 15 offices in the UK and in emerging markets overseas. Our reputation has been built on heritage expertise, local knowledge and award-winning design skill. Purcell is currently working on high profile national projects such as Battersea Power station, the Palace of Westminster and the National Gallery. We also care for and help develop many of the country's most loved places of worship such as Salisbury, Durham and Canterbury cathedrals. From our Bristol office we have been responsible for the award winning regeneration of Arnos Vale Cemetery and the Bristol Architecture Centre, and in the local region our award-winning projects include Tudor House Museum in Southampton, the Welsh Wildlife Centre, Wells Cathedral Visitor Centre, the Hyde at Dillington House and the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre. Our current projects in and around Bristol include the exciting roof experience project at Dyrham Park Mansion for the National Trust, the new Concorde Museum and Bristol Aero Collection at Filton Airfield and the major repair project at Clifton Cathedral. We believe in new, innovative and imaginative design to compliment the quality of historic buildings. We support clients with our expertise and funding acumen, and we offer enthusiasm, skill and commitment. Our supporting consultants work with us regularly. Not only are they experts in their fields, but they have a passion for their roles which is infectious, and fills us with excitement on what we can jointly achieve.

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

- **St Mary Redcliffe Design Competition**

The competition is being run in accordance with European Union procurement guidelines under the Restricted Procedure. The competition jury includes journalist, broadcaster and author Simon Jenkins, and Bristol-based contemporary artist Luke Jerram, who was responsible for the Park and Slide installation, which last year turned Bristol's Park Street into a giant water slide. Malcolm Reading will advise the jury.

The competition has a dedicated website at:

<https://competitions.malcolmreading.co.uk/stmaryredcliffe>

- **St Mary Redcliffe**

The Christian community has worshipped continuously on the site occupied by St Mary Redcliffe Church for nearly 900 years. The first church here was built in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. The present church is a treasure of international importance. A Grade I listed building that is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture – a wall of glass surmounted by a roof of glittering gilded roof bosses of exquisite beauty, elegant 18<sup>th</sup> century ironwork, carved wood and stone, all framed by light flooding in through vast clerestory and stained glass windows. The oldest parts of the present building date from 1185 although most of the nave, transepts and choir was created by highly skilled yet unrecorded stonemasons in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The building's floor plan is the traditional cruciform shape – symbolic of the cross used for crucifixion, the Roman method of execution by which Jesus Christ died. The physical location is fundamental to the historic maritime and mercantile importance of Bristol generally and the district of Redcliffe in particular. To the north side of the church lies the line of the medieval Portwall, to the west the quayside and harbour plus the red coloured sandstone cliffs from which the area derives its name. Indeed the church's boundaries to west, south and east have remained fundamentally unchanged from its medieval plan. All of this makes the location itself of both national and regional significance.

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

- **Malcolm Reading Consultants**

London-based Malcolm Reading Consultants (MRC) is a strategic architectural consultancy which specialises in the selection of contemporary designers. MRC believes in the power of design to create new perceptions and act as an inspiration – whether at the local level, or internationally.

The consultancy offers a service to find the very best designers for clients with capital projects, whether through open-international, or private-invited competitions. Recent competitions include those for the Guggenheim Helsinki, the Art Mill, Qatar, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park's Culture & Education Quarter, the Mumbai City Museum, the gold medal-winning UK Pavilion at Milan Expo 2015 and New College, Oxford.

[www.malcolmreading.co.uk](http://www.malcolmreading.co.uk)