

**MEDIA  
RELEASE**

26 JANUARY 2017



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Trust

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 09.30 THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2017

## NATIONAL TRUST TO LAUNCH INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION FOR CLANDON PARK ON 9 MARCH 2017



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The National Trust announced today that in March it will launch its global search for a world-class multi-disciplinary design team to restore and renew Clandon Park, its 18th-century Palladian house, which suffered a major fire in April 2015.

The Clandon Park International Design Competition will run for six months, concluding in early September.

Just over a year after the Trust announced ambitious plans to bring the Grade I listed house back to life, in what will be the charity's biggest conservation project in a generation, **Clandon Park's Project Director, Paul Cook, said:**

*This international design competition is the first to be held by the Trust for such a significant historic building; signalling our desire to attract the best design talent to work with us.*

*Clandon Park represents a ground breaking moment in British architecture, moving from Baroque to Palladianism. It is this significance that we hope will inspire both British and international architects to enter the competition and bring Clandon back to life through the careful restoration of significant historic rooms with the re-imagining of other spaces, on the upper floors.*

The open two-stage competition will be run by independent competition experts, Malcolm Reading Consultants (MRC). MRC specialises in competitions for museums and arts, heritage, and non-profit organisations and recently organised high-profile contests for the Illuminated River, the Museum of London and Tintagel Castle Bridge.

**Malcolm Reading, Architect and Chairman, Malcolm Reading Consultants, said:**

*We're delighted to manage this competition for the National Trust. Even shrouded in scaffolding, Clandon's Palladian proportions are compelling in their purity. This is an exceptional proposition for architects, engineers and landscape designers: to recreate Clandon so that it lives up to both its past and its future.*

Final preparations for the competition are in progress, with full details to be announced at the launch on 9 March. To sign up to receive information about the competition, go to:

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

**Ends**



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All images can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ajvbr8tggk0u6m5/AAAYy5sdCVYCRbGS6FT9J19ta?dl=0>

**NOTES TO EDITORS****National Trust**

The National Trust is a conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people who saw the importance of our nation's heritage and open spaces, and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. More than 120 years later, these values are still at the heart of everything the charity does.

Entirely independent of Government, the National Trust looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 775 miles of coastline and hundreds of special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

More than 20 million people visit every year, and together with 4.5 million members and over 62,000 volunteers, they help to support the charity in its work to care for special places forever, for everyone.

**Clandon Park**

Since the fire in April 2015, National Trust specialists, supported by external consultants and contractors, have completed the enormous task of scaffolding, protecting and stabilising the house. In addition, significant surviving architectural features have been protected in-situ, and the rooms have been cleared of debris, up to 8ft high in places. This process was undertaken very carefully to recover both architectural fragments and items from the important historic collection.

**Background / history**

Clandon Park was one of the country's most complete examples of a Palladian mansion designed by Venetian architect Giacomo Leoni (c.1686 - 1746). Its architectural and historic significance is recognised in its Grade I listing.

Clandon is one of only five surviving buildings by Leoni in England. Its decorative schemes were highly significant, particularly the ornate plaster ceilings attributed to European stuccadors Giuseppe Artari (d. 1769) and Giovanni Bagutti (1681 - c.1730) and the Carrara marble over mantels by sculptor John Michael Rysbrack (1694 - 1770).





Leoni marked his arrival in England by publishing the first English translation of the work of his Venetian predecessor; architect Andrea Palladio (1508 - 1580). This had a significant cultural impact amongst English patrons and architects and brought Leoni to the attention of Lord Onslow probably through the Duke of Kent, younger brother of George I. The arrival and adoption of authentic Palladianism brought an end to the English Baroque architectural style which had been prevalent since the Restoration.

### **The family at Clandon**

Clandon was built for Thomas, 2nd Baron Onslow, to replace the Elizabethan house his great-grandfather had acquired in 1641. The Onslows traditionally followed political careers; the three who served as Speakers of the House of Commons were commemorated in portraits in the Speakers' Parlour which survived the fire.

Clandon Park was given to the National Trust in 1956, by Gwendolen Guinness, Lady Iveagh, the daughter of the 4th Earl. The house was refurbished during the 1960s to include a collection of 18th-century furniture and porcelain given to the National Trust, along with a generous endowment, by collector Hannah Gubbay.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/clandon-park](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/clandon-park)

### **Malcolm Reading Consultants**

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

MRC is the leading specialist in design competitions in Europe. Recent work includes competitions for the Illuminated River Foundation, the Museum of London, the gold medal-winning UK Pavilion at Milan Expo 2015, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, Tintagel Castle Bridge, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park's Culture & Education Quarter, the Mumbai City Museum, the Natural History Museum and New College, Oxford.

<https://malcolmreading.co.uk>