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DILLER SCOFIDIO + RENFRO AND WOODS BAGOT WIN ADELAIDE CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION



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Acclaimed New York architects with leading Adelaidean practice convince jury with concept design to create a dynamic new art space on Adelaide's celebrated North Terrace

Arts South Australia and competition organisers Malcolm Reading Consultants announced today [5 June 2018] that the team led by Diller Scofidio + Renfro (US) with Woods Bagot (Australia) has won the Adelaide Contemporary International Design Competition.

The winning team's concept design reconciled the brief for a dynamic people-friendly new place with a skilfully-organised gallery, while also incorporating a performance lab, a dramatic 'Super Lobby', floating top-floor sky galleries and a suspended rooftop garden. The garden, inspired by 'Minkunthi', the Kurna word 'to relax', would display the planting of a pre-colonised South Australian landscape, linking the idea of the contemporary to Kurna ecological and cultural history.

The building was described by the team in their presentation as a charismatic soft beacon on North Terrace that would reflect the sky by day and, at night, glow with galleries – allowing visitors to glimpse the art collection as they passed the building outside formal opening hours and, in this sense, ‘giving the art back to the city’.

The nine-strong international jury, chaired by Michael Lynch AO CBE, found the concept design to be resonant to Adelaide, and its famous festival culture, promising to create spectacle and attract new audiences with dynamic, multipurpose spaces while also displaying a sound understanding of current art practice and offering a flexible but distinctive gallery configuration on a nine-square model.

The decision follows a seven-month global search for an outstanding team to design a new cultural destination on part of the former Royal Adelaide Hospital (oRAH) site. The competition attracted submissions from 107 teams made up of circa 525 individual firms from five continents.

The new gallery and public sculpture park is envisaged as one of the most significant new arts initiatives of 21st-century Australia, providing a national focal point for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and cultures as well as new spaces for major exhibitions, and the opportunity to unlock the hidden treasures of South Australia’s State collections.



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Peter Louca, Executive Director of Arts South Australia, said:

"I'd like to join the jury in thanking all six finalist teams for their high calibre presentations and congratulate Diller Scofidio + Renfro and Woods Bagot on their inspired design.

The overwhelming global attention this process has invited from design, creative and infrastructure leaders and the world's media has put the creation of Adelaide's next great cultural destination on the international map.

This was reflected in the high calibre of teams and proposals which challenged the international jury."

Michael Lynch AO CBE, chair of the jury and the Art Gallery of South Australia Board's Special Advisor, said:

"The winning team's concept design responds to this once-in-a-generation opportunity for a landmark building in the heart of the city, positioned on the edge of the Botanic Garden. In a city famous for its festivals, the design creates a new place that embraces art in all of its forms and appeals to a broad audience, both local and international.

The design foregrounds South Australia's exceptional collections and capitalises on the momentum of the Art Gallery of South Australia's recent successes in celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture.

The jury was impressed by the winning team's assured understanding of the future of art, performance and 21st-century programming, as well as its flair for placemaking.

It was an inspired insight by the winning team to conceive the building stepping down along the topography of the site and so creating a genuine connection to site and Country, respectful to the Kurna people as well as integrating the Botanic Garden into the design."

Malcolm Reading, Competition Director, said:

"The competition centred on healing Adelaide's civic realm: the former hospital created a physical disconnect between the cultural boulevard and the Botanic Gardens - what better way to connect the two than by using art?"

The winning scheme is tightly-engineered, works the site hard, but is also a lot of fun. It has the potential to speak to new generations who are developing their own cultural identity, and offer a new focus for the city, much needed as Adelaide continues to grow and flourish.

We would like to thank everyone who followed and entered the competition, and especially the five runners-up. There has been huge international interest - this is a moment for Adelaide."

New York-based Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R) is consistently ranked as one of the world's leading practices, famous for its role in creating the High Line in New York; the Broad contemporary art museum in Los Angeles; The Shed, New York's first multi-arts centre; and the renovation and expansion of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York. The Adelaide win follows DS+R's success last month in an international competition for the design of a new V&A collection and research centre to be located in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in East London.



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Woods Bagot, a leading Australian design firm, founded in Adelaide, has attracted global attention with its innovative SAHMRI building in Adelaide, and has developed its international profile by delivering projects for Apple and Google.

The winning concept design can be viewed on the competition website at

competitions.malcolmreading.com/adelaidecontemporary/shortlist

The runner-up teams were (in alphabetical order): **Adjaye Associates** (London, UK) **and BVN** (Sydney, Australia); **BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group** (Copenhagen, Denmark) **and JPE Design Studio** (Adelaide, Australia); **David Chipperfield Architects** (London, UK) **and SJB Architects** (Sydney, Australia); **HASSELL** (Melbourne, Australia) **and SO-IL** (New York, USA); **and Khai Liew** (Adelaide, Australia), **Office of Ryue Nishizawa** (Tokyo, Japan) **and Durbach Block Jaggars** (Sydney, Australia).

Adelaide is located on the traditional lands of the Kurna people and the project site, close to the Art Gallery of South Australia and part of the former Royal Adelaide Hospital site, is rich in Kurna heritage.

All the finalist schemes went on show to the public on 12 May in an exhibition at the Art Gallery of South Australia that runs until 10 June; they are also available to view online through the competition website. The website received more than 242,000 page views from users in 148 countries during the process.

The competition was run by independent organisers, Malcolm Reading Consultants, in accordance with the procurement and major project requirements of the Government of South Australia; the Conditions for the second stage of the competition were formally endorsed by the Australian Institute of Architects.

ENDS

COMPETITION MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Malcolm Reading Consultants

Catherine Reading

catherine.reading@malcolmreading.co.uk

+ 44 (0)207 831 2998

ADELAIDE CONTEMPORARY MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Arts South Australia

Kate Griffith

kate.griffith@sa.gov.au

+61 (0) 477 387 301

FOR IMAGES

Images of the winning design can be downloaded here:

dropbox.com/sh/fjp38l9r5dkxjyo/AACfK3xm9hdFh71d-6fTNwOta?dl=0

NOTES TO EDITORS

Adelaide Contemporary International Design Competition Jury:

- **Michael Lynch AO CBE (Chair)**, Chair, Sydney Community Foundation and Chair, Circa
- **Lee-Ann Tjunypa Buckskin**, Deputy Chair, Australia Council for the Arts, Managing Director, L-AB & Associates and Executive, Aboriginal Strategy, South Australian Film Corporation
- **Beatrice Galilee**, Daniel Brodsky Associate Curator of Architecture and Design, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
- **Walter Hood**, Creative Director and Founder, Hood Design Studio
- **David Knox**, Deputy Chair, Economic Development Board of South Australia and Member, Adelaide Botanic Gardens Foundation Committee
- **Toshiko Mori**, Founder and Principal, Toshiko Mori Architect and Robert P. Hubbard Professor in the Practice of Architecture at Harvard University Graduate School of Design
- **Lisa Slade**, Assistant Director, Artistic Programs, Art Gallery of South Australia
- **Sally Smart**, Vice-Chancellor's Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne and renowned contemporary artist
- **Tracey Whiting**, Chair, Art Gallery of South Australia Board

The competition jury was advised by **Malcolm Reading**, Competition Director, and fully supported by a panel of technical advisers.

Jury Biographies are available on the competition website at:

competitions.malcolmreading.com/adelaidecontemporary/jury

Full Details of winning team

Diller Scofidio + Renfro and Woods Bagot with Oculus, Pentagonam, Right Angle Studio, Klynton Wanganeen, Dustin Yellin, Studio Adrien Gardère, Australian Dance Theatre, Deloitte, Ekistics and Katnich Dodd

The team of Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R) and Woods Bagot has combined their significant experience delivering civic and cultural projects around the world; this collaboration will result in a premier arts destination for Adelaide where Woods Bagot was founded.

DS+R's work includes the adaptive reuse of an obsolete, industrial rail infrastructure into the High Line, a 1.5-mile-long public park; the Broad contemporary art museum in Los Angeles; The Shed, New York's first multi-arts centre; and the renovation and expansion of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York.

Woods Bagot is synonymous with high profile, award-winning projects in Australia, Asia, Europe, North America and the Middle East and has delivered worldwide projects for Apple, Google, and other iconic clients including SAHMRI in Adelaide, recognised with notable awards for design, sustainability and innovation.

dsrny.com

woodsbagot.com



Arts South Australia

Arts South Australia is the State Government agency charged with supporting the making of work by South Australian artists, the national and international promotion of South Australian art, and the care of the State's collections and the buildings and assets that house them.

The State Government recognises and capitalises on economic opportunities arising from the diverse arts and cultural organisations, practitioners, events and physical assets in the State by developing programmes that build on cultural heritage and creativity, and providing financial support to the creative industries.

Arts and cultural development in South Australia is characterised by a diversity of practice and practitioners, unique and historic assets and facilities, world renowned collections and a commitment to arts for all, regardless of geographic location or circumstance.

For more information visit

arts.sa.gov.au

Malcolm Reading Consultants

Malcolm Reading Consultants (MRC) is a strategic consultancy that helps clients to imagine and define contemporary environments, both built and natural. MRC is the leading specialist in devising and managing design competitions internationally. MRC believes in the power of design to create new perceptions and act as an inspiration.

Recent work includes competitions for the Illuminated River Foundation (UK), the M.K. Čiurlionis Concert Centre (Lithuania), the Royal College of Art (UK), the V&A (UK), the Mumbai City Museum (India), Gallaudet University (USA), Art Mill (Qatar) and new buildings in the UK for New College, Oxford and Homerton College, Cambridge.

MRC is currently running the design competition for University College Dublin's Future Campus, as well as working on invited competitions. The consultancy is also advising Exeter College, Oxford and preparing the British Library's Design Brief for London's Knowledge Quarter.

For more information visit

malcolmreading.com