

Forgotten Spaces

An RIBA London, Design for London
and Qatari Diar ideas competition

Forgotten Spaces

In the lead up to the Olympics, the drive to enhance public space and broaden local engagement is on the rise. Despite high demand for real estate in London, there still remain pockets of estranged land, which could be developed to provide improved links and amenities for local communities. Complementing the Mayor's Great Spaces initiative, aimed at improving public realm across London, Forgotten Spaces seeks out under used areas of London, the places that do not yet have a place in the minds and hearts of local communities, and explores their possibilities.

In most cases it is the people living and working locally who are best placed to pinpoint hidden sites and who can also outline the needs of the neighbouring area. Forgotten Spaces asks architects, artists, engineers and landscape designers living and working in Greater London to nominate an existing local site, build a case for what the community really needs and propose ideas for how this could be translated into a conceptual design scheme.

The 'forgotten space' could be small or large - a grassy verge, a wasteland, an unused car park, a derelict building or an underpass or a flyover. The proposal could be simple or complex, commercial or public, a piece of public art or a new building; the only requirement is that it answers a need in the area and serves a function for the local community.

Competitors should consider accessibility, sustainability, inclusivity, cost relative to the site, possible multi-programming and durability. The proposals will not be constructed; however the best designs will be exhibited in a public exhibition at the National Theatre on London's Southbank (25 May – 4 July 2010), allowing people from all over London and visitors from further afield to view the best proposals.

Forgotten Spaces is intended to provoke discussion amongst landowners, local authorities and investors across the London boroughs. It will unearth places not previously regarded as profitable or worthy of development. It is about regeneration via a diverse grass roots approach, allowing local artists, architects and designers who care about their quarter of the city to come up with solutions for individual sites using sustainable and viable means, as an alternative to a top down approach.

Three top prizes and up to five commendations will be awarded to the best schemes.

1st Prize: £5,000

2nd Prize: £2,000

3rd Prize: £1,000

A shortlist of up to 40 of the best proposals will be shown in an exhibition at the National Theatre 25 May – 4 July 2010 (dates tbc) providing a platform for architects, artists and designers to promote their work to a wider audience.

Project partners Design for London, Qatari Diar and RIBA London will jointly announce the winners at a launch event on 25 May (date tbc) at the National Theatre to an invited audience of 250 architects, artists, designers, developers and local authority representatives.



Entry Requirements

Eligibility

The competition is open to students, artists and design professionals living and working in Greater London.

Competition registration:

All entrants are required to register for the competition by 12 February 2010. After the registration date, entrants will receive the submission board template and an authorship declaration form. Competitors then have until 11 March to finalise and submit their competition entries. Competition registration incurs a one-off £10 administration fee.

Competition Entry Submission:

You are invited to submit two A1 landscape formatted boards together with an authorship declaration form and separate CD of up to 10 medium sized JPEG images for press and publicity use. The submissions should follow the template provided and should not include any corporate branding or identify the author to ensure fair judgement of the competition. Submission boards should be labelled with the author / practice name on the back of the board for identification purposes. The first board will concentrate on the existing site; the second will focus on your design proposal.

A selection of the entries for this competition will be displayed in a public exhibition at the National Theatre, so it is important that they are of a high standard and the visual and written language used on the boards is comprehensive to lay people. We need to understand the essence of your proposal, your response to the brief, how spaces will be configured and used and how it will engage local people.

Board 1 – Site survey

The first board should clearly describe and locate your chosen site within Greater London. The site should be local to the competitor's workplace or home.

- The site must be vacant with no current applications for redevelopment in planning.
- The site should be accessible to the public and access points should be indicated on the entry.
- The submission should include a site plan at 1:500 including road names and any transport nodes (bus stops, train and tube stations).
- You should photograph the site from all accessible sides to give a clear understanding of the site as it stands and how it is currently used.
- You should include basic site history, contextual photographs with accompanying text to explain the local area and build a case for your design proposal which will be illustrated on the second board.
- You should define the specific need of the local area that you are responding to.
- You should endeavour to establish who the owner of the land is and whether the plot is managed by a commercial or private owner or a local authority.

Board 2 – Proposal

The second board will show the site with your proposal situated on it.

- You should create a realistic artistic impression of the scheme that will give an atmospheric representation of the proposal.
- Explain clearly and succinctly what the proposal is and what service it provides.
- Provide a plans and sectional drawings to show the spatial relationships of the scheme.
- Illustrate the scheme in use.
- Show how it meets the site borders and its surroundings.
- Demonstrate how you have created an intervention that people will enjoy engaging with and why it would win the approval of local businesses and residents.
- Your proposal should consider viable construction, indicate use of materials and

- consideration for durability.
- You should demonstrate sustainable design.
- Your scheme must be accessible to all.

Both boards should follow the A1 submission template that will be issued to competitors after receipt of entry registration. All competitors need to register for the competition by midday on Monday February 12th 2010. The competition will close on Thursday 11 March; all final submissions must be received at RIBA by 4pm on 11 March 2010.

Disk of images:

The images from both entry boards should be provided as individual medium sized JPEGs with the scheme name and author included in the file name eg:

HackneyParkSiteSurvey©JoeBloggsArchitect.

HackneyParkProposal©JoeBloggsArchitect.

The images could be used on the RIBA website and for press purposes and so should have full copyright clearance.

The submissions will be judged over two half days by a panel of six industry

Judging

specialists across the property, arts and architecture sectors; they will include:

Mark Brearley, Head of Design for London.

Jeremy Titchen, Development Director of Qatari Diar.

Paul Finch, Chair of CABE, Director of World Architecture Festival.

Tamsie Thomson, Director RIBA London.

A shortlist of the best schemes will be selected to be shown in an exhibition at the National Theatre 25 May – 4 July 2010 and three top prizes will be awarded. The shortlisted entries will be notified in April and may be asked to produce additional work to explore the scheme in more detail for the public exhibition. This could be in the form of a 3D model or further exhibition boards, and materials and print will be agreed in advance and paid for by RIBA London.

The exhibition in the Lyttelton Foyer of the National Theatre will showcase the

Exhibition

shortlisted schemes and the three winning projects. The display will incorporate the original submission boards along with additional illustrations and 3D representations of selected schemes. A mixture of models, images and diagrams will explain the proposals in an accessible format to appeal to members of the public and designers alike. The exhibition will be designed to inspire the audience with exhibits that aspire to stimulate new partnerships and investments.

The exhibition will be launched with an opening party to which London developers, investors, land owners, local authorities, project partners and competition entrants will be invited.

Competitors who are shortlisted should be available on the evening of 25 May 2010 for the announcement of the winner.

Key Dates

Date	Activity
January	Competition launch
12 February	Registration deadline
15 February	A1 board submission templates available to entrants
11 March	Competition closes - all entries must be received by RIBA London by 4pm
7 April	Shortlist announced
8 April - 7 May	Shortlisted entries may be asked to produce additional work for the public exhibition
18 - 24 May	Exhibition installation at the National Theatre
25 May	Exhibition launch, winner announcement and prize giving
25 May - 4 July	Exhibition open to the public

Contact

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The Westway sport centre uses left over space under the A40 to provide local sports facilities.