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STEVEN HOLL ARCHITECTS WINS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN'S FUTURE CAMPUS COMPETITION



Jury Chair praises US-led team for their exhilarating Centre for Creative Design and a masterplan that features seven new quadrangles designed around historic features and woodland

University College Dublin (UCD) and Malcolm Reading Consultants (MRC) announced today [7 August 2018] that the team led by acclaimed New York and Beijing-based studio Steven Holl Architects (SHA) has won the *Future Campus - University College Dublin International Design Competition*.

The international jury – which included Sir David Adjaye, Principal, Adjaye Associates; Ann Beha, Principal, Ann Beha Architects and Member, Harvard University Design Advisory Panel; acclaimed urban planner Joe Berridge, Partner, Urban Strategies, Inc.; Dermot Desmond, Chairman, International Investment & Underwriting; Sean Mulryan, Founder, Chairman and CEO, Ballymore; and Dr Paul Thompson, Vice-Chancellor, Royal College of Art, London amongst other distinguished figures – was hugely impressed by SHA's design proposal for a *Centre for Creative Design and Entrance Precinct Masterplan* vision for a circa 24 ha area of the overall campus.

Holl's placemaking strategy focuses on creating an exhilarating *Centre for Creative Design* as a gateway presence which cues to seven new quadrangles of open green space, designed to enhance the campus' historic features and woodlands. A new pedestrian spine, parallel to the campus' original spine, creates an H-plan organisation, lined with weather canopies that double as solar connectors, forming the infrastructure of an energy network. Cafés and social spaces are located along paths for informal gathering; landscape spaces are animated by water-retention ponds, rain- and wind-protected seating areas and preserved specimen trees.



© Steven Holl Architects



The Centre, set by a plaza and a reflecting pool, displays prismatic forms inspired by the geology of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Giant's Causeway. It features abundant use of natural light, which is captured by two vertical structures angled at 23 degrees, mirroring the earth's tilt. The auditorium echoes the shape of UCD's iconic dodecahedral 1972 water tower; the Centre's towers respond to the water tower's pentagonal pillar.

The Centre is intended to encourage creative collaboration and interaction with a 'circuit of social connection' that allows students, faculty and visitors to peer into maker and classroom spaces through glass walls but also respects deep creativity by providing spaces for concentration and silence.

Holl's studio was supported by Dublin-based Kavanagh Tuite Architects, US analysts Brightspot Strategy, structural engineers Arup, landscape architects and urban designers HarrisonStevens and climate engineers Transsolar.

Professor Andrew J. Deeks, President of University College Dublin and competition Jury Chair, said:

"Holl's vision is intriguing and striking – combining an iconic design for the Centre for Creative Design with a masterplan distinguished by a few considered, highly intelligent moves that open up the centre of the campus and use creative landscaping to intensify its natural beauty.

"The Centre for Creative Design promises to be an exhilarating presence, announcing UCD from afar, creating a new Dublin landmark, and giving visitors, students and faculty a definite sense of arrival.

"We are fortunate to have an expansive campus which brims with potential. We searched globally for the best talent and were rewarded. Now we can create the world-class environment UCD deserves."

Professor Hugh Campbell, Professor of Architecture at University College Dublin and member of the competition jury, said:

"The competition was all about design excellence and we had an intimation at the shortlisting stage with the quality of studios applying that we would need to respond to a world of choices. We thank all the finalists for their commitment and work. Holl's winning proposal combines the striking form of the Centre for Creative Design building with a clear and robust masterplan.

"The Centre for Creative Design will allow UCD to harness and develop the creativity of its students in responding to the challenges and opportunities facing society. Holl's emphasis on daylight and social connection promises a building which will enable and encourage collaboration and interaction, a building which is open and welcoming, a building in which cutting-edge technologies and core creative practices can fruitfully combine."



Malcolm Reading, Competition Director, said:

“Both the jury and UCD have shown great receptivity and imagination – they have listened intently to the architects and shown terrific realism about seizing the moment.”

The winning team’s design proposals can be seen on the competition website at:

competitions.malcolmreading.com/universitycollegedublin

Steven Holl Architects (SHA) is an innovative architecture and urban design office with extensive experience in the arts, educational and residential sectors and with offices in New York City and Beijing. Founder Steven Holl was named by Time Magazine in the early 2000s as America’s Best Architect, for “buildings that satisfy the spirit as well as the eye”. His most famous building is the much-celebrated addition to The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri; his extensive awards include the Praemium Imperiale Award, the AIA Gold Medal and the Alvar Aalto Medal. Highlights of the practice’s portfolio of outstanding university buildings include the Lewis Arts Complex, Princeton University; Visual Arts Building, University of Iowa; the Reid Building, the Glasgow School of Art; Simmons Hall at MIT; and the Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University.

The practice describes SHA’s distinctive approach as “the ability to shape space and light with great contextual sensitivity and to catalyse the unique qualities of each project to create a concept-driven design at multiple scales, from minimal dwellings, to university works, to new hybrid models of urbanism”. SHA emphasises sustainable building and site development as fundamental to innovative and imaginative design.

Steven Holl, Founder, Steven Holl Architects, said:

“We are very honored to win. It’s a very important and inspiring project for Steven Holl Architects and we look forward to working with UCD.”

“Our masterplan and the new UCD Centre for Creative Design are not just iconic objects – they reflect on the history and quality of UCD’s campus, responding to the particulars of the site to create place and space.”

The jury praised all the finalists for their hard work and commitment and awarded a special commendation to the team led by John Ronan Architects for “a masterplan of great clarity that was beautifully thought through and a *Centre for Creative Design* that had gravitas and a gentle, rational strength”.

The four other finalists comprised, Diller Scofidio + Renfro (US), O’Donnell + Tuomey (Ireland), Studio Libeskind (US) and UNStudio (Netherlands). The original shortlist was expanded from the expected five to six in recognition of the outstanding response from the international design community.



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The first stage of the competition attracted expressions of interest from 98 teams in 28 countries. Known as Ireland's Global University, University College Dublin is the country's largest and most internationally-engaged higher education body, the destination of choice for international students coming to Ireland. It is also the most popular choice for Irish students seeking a university place in their home country.

Founded as an independent university 160 years ago by the visionary John Henry Newman, UCD has been a vital and influential force in shaping modern Ireland, both politically and culturally. UCD's ability to foster creativity and expressiveness is reflected by alumni including the 20th century's outstanding author, James Joyce; film maker Gabriel Byrne; and comedian Dara Ó Briain; as well as many successful architects and designers.

UCD benefits from a parkland and wooded campus, 133 ha in total, which is close to Dublin's city centre. The campus has a serious architectural pedigree with a mid-20th-century core that was designed by Polish architect Andrzej Wejchert, and world-leading facilities include the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science, UCD Sutherland School of Law, UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business and the James Joyce Library. UCD's new Confucius Institute for Ireland is due to open in September this year.

The competition was run by Malcolm Reading Consultants in accordance with EU procurement rules and the Republic of Ireland's S.I. No. 284/2016 European Union (Award of Public Authority Contracts) Regulations 2016. This competition was advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).

ENDS

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FOR IMAGES

Images of the design proposal from the winner can be downloaded here:
www.dropbox.com/sh/en4eprfrxn4auu7/AAC0vtPbYAP1ViNU_UsuqBeha?dl=0



07 AUG 2018



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NOTES TO EDITORS

Winning team's details

Steven Holl Architects (US) with Kavanagh Tuite Architects, Brightspot Strategy, Arup, HarrisonStevens and Transsolar

Steven Holl Architects (SHA) is an award-winning architecture and urban design office based in New York and Beijing. Founded in 1977, the firm has extensive international experience in the arts, campus and educational facilities, and complex urban projects. With each project the firm explores new ways to integrate an organising idea with the programmatic and functional essence of a building. Rather than imposing a style upon different sites and climates, the unique character of a program and site becomes the starting point for an architectural idea. Past campus projects include the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Expansion and Glassell School, the Lewis Arts Complex at Princeton University, and the Reid Building at the Glasgow School of Art.

SHA has assembled an internationally acclaimed team with local partners Kavanagh Tuite Architects; industry-leading engineers Arup; innovative strategists Brightspot Strategy; award-winning climate engineering firm Transsolar; and creative, sustainable landscape architects HarrisonStevens.

www.stevenholl.com

Competition jury

- **Professor Andrew J. Deeks (Jury Chair)**, President, University College Dublin
- **Sir David Adjaye**, Principal, Adjaye Associates
- **Ann Beha**, Principal, Ann Beha Architects and Member, Harvard University Design Advisory Panel
- **Joe Berridge**, Partner, Urban Strategies, Inc.
- **Professor Hugh Campbell**, Professor of Architecture, Head of Subject and Dean, School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy, University College Dublin
- **Dermot Desmond**, Chairman, International Investment & Underwriting
- **Professor Orla Feely**, Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact and Professor of Electronic Engineering, University College Dublin
- **Professor David P. FitzPatrick**, Principal, College of Engineering & Architecture and Dean of Engineering, University College Dublin and Provost, Beijing-Dublin International College
- **Professor Michael Monaghan**, Vice-President for Campus Development, University College Dublin
- **Sean Mulryan**, Founder, Chairman and CEO, Ballymore
- **Dr Paul Thompson**, Vice-Chancellor, Royal College of Art, London

The jury's Administrative Chair was **Malcolm Reading**, Architect and Competition Director.



University College Dublin

Founded over one hundred and sixty years ago, UCD is one of Europe's leading research-intensive universities; an environment where undergraduate education, masters and PhD training, research, innovation and community engagement form a dynamic spectrum of activity.

UCD is also Ireland's most globally engaged university with over 33,000 students drawn from over 120 countries, and includes 5,500 students based at locations outside of Ireland.

UCD is the university of first choice among Irish undergraduate students. The university has the highest proportion of graduate students in Ireland, including over 1,500 PhDs.

Beyond its education and research remit the University is renowned for its sporting achievement. Eight UCD students took part in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games making up 10% of the Irish national team. They represented Ireland in athletics, hockey, modern pentathlon, and rowing, bringing home a silver medal in the men's lightweight double sculls.

www.ucd.ie

Project Background

UCD's main campus, known as the Belfield Campus, is located just four km from Dublin city centre and is notably green and expansive. The first campus masterplan was conceived by Polish architect Andrzej Wejchert, the winner of a competition held by UCD in 1963.

Today, the campus covers 133 ha and contains over eight km of woodland walks, some of which are flanked by mature trees that date back to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Through this project, UCD aims to increase the sense of arrival to the University by creating a highly-visible and welcoming entrance with greater presence from the road as well as looking to the future, creating an urban design vision that values high quality placemaking, architecture and public realm. The *Centre for Creative Design* will be located in a prominent position within the masterplan area and will be a charismatic new building that expresses the University's creativity – a making and learning lab.

UCD is working closely with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the National Transport Authority on the *Entrance Precinct Masterplan* initiative. UCD has secured initial funding and will continue to fundraise for the project, targeting a mixture of private sources and public grants.

A previous competition for development on the UCD campus, including its entrance, was launched in 2007. This project was to be led by UCD in conjunction with a development partner, but was subsequently cancelled due to the global economic downturn in 2008.

The new project will be led and financed by UCD exclusively.

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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 creating and managing international design competitions. 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 (London), Science Island (Kaunas, Lithuania), the Royal College of Art (London), the V&A (London), the Mumbai City Museum, and new buildings in the UK for New College, Oxford and Homerton College, Cambridge.

MRC's highly successful design competition for the AU\$250m Adelaide Contemporary art gallery and public sculpture park has recently concluded, and the consultancy is currently advising Exeter College, Oxford and preparing the British Library's Design Brief for London's Knowledge Quarter, as well as running a number of private invited competitions.

malcolmreading.com