



The Open Ideas Competition

Introduction

The RIBA has a dedicated unit to help clients and procurement professionals select the best designer or design solution for their particular projects. Established for over 25 years, RIBA Competitions has an international reputation for organising selection processes that encourage excellence in design in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design and the public realm. RIBA Competitions has managed bespoke design competitions for a diverse range of clients, project types (buildings, structures, public realm/artworks) and budgets. The impartial nature of the service ensures that design professionals compete with one another on an equal and fair basis, with RIBA Competitions acting as the designated point of contact between the client, the RIBA Adviser and competitors. Competitive processes organised by RIBA Competitions can dovetail with and satisfy the requirements of European Union procurement legislation.

A list of RIBA Competitions' past clients, testimonials and case studies is available via www.architecture.com/competitions

The Open Ideas Competition

Ideas competitions carry no commitment by the client to appoint a winning designer. An Ideas Competition is used primarily as a design exercise to stimulate ideas and encourage 'blue-sky thinking' by exploring specific areas of architecture, planning, engineering and design.

An Open Ideas Competition format provides any eligible design professional with the opportunity of applying for the competition brief and submitting a design proposal. The competition may be open to architects and/or people from related disciplines (such as landscape architects, urban designers, engineers, public artists etc). Where appropriate, students of these design disciplines can also be encouraged to apply. Designs are judged anonymously and a first, second and third prize is awarded. Where there is a possibility that the client may commission the winning designer in the future, then it may be appropriate to introduce a second stage involving interviews with a shortlist before a winner is selected.

If there is a possibility of the project being taken forward post-competition then EU procurement regulations may apply. Responsibility for compliance with EU procurement legislation rests solely with the client body.

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Competition Format

1. Competition publicised

RIBA Competitions publicises the competition in the architectural press, via the RIBA website and social networking links. Other relevant trade journals may also be targeted. The launch information directs applicants to RIBA Competitions for further information.

2. Brief available

Anyone eligible to enter from the design disciplines indicated would be able to take part in the competition and submit a design, upon payment of a documentation fee (usually around £75.00 + VAT, with a reduced fee for students). Income from these fees is retained by RIBA Competitions and is used to offset the time and expenses associated with the open competition format.

RIBA Competitions is able to co-ordinate production of the competition brief. An indication of the likely charge for a web based brief is provided in the Costs section.

3. Design period

Approximately eight weeks is usually given for the design phase. Within the design period, competitors are given the opportunity to raise written questions on the brief, via RIBA Competitions. Replies to all questions are circulated to all competitors (to ensure all participants have access to the same information).

4. Submission of designs

Designs are submitted in a given format and by a given deadline. Stage one schemes are generally submitted and assessed anonymously. Submissions generally take the form of A1 or A2 design boards accompanied by a short written report. Architectural models do not form part of a standard submission.

5. Assessment

The Jury Panel (see below) meets to assess the (anonymous) entries and make their selection. A first, second and third prize is then selected.

In RIBA Competitions copyright always rest with the author of the design. However images of any design may be used for promotional purposes associated with the competition

Jury Panel, appointment of an RIBA Adviser & Jury Report

The Jury Panel should be named at the time of the competition launch, or at least the make-up of the Panel should be stated. The Panel should be kept to a reasonable number (ideally no more than seven people) and provide a broad representation of skills and expertise. RIBA Competitions will provide you with a tailored shortlist of

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architects for you to select an adviser. The adviser is a critical part of the process, providing you with an independent viewpoint and an appreciation of a wide spectrum of possible approaches to your project. The appointed RIBA Adviser is usually invited to be a voting member of the Jury Panel.

At the conclusion of the competition a Jury Report is sent to all competitors. The report provides evidence of a fair process of judgement, a record of decisions made and reasons for them. A draft Jury Report is prepared by the RIBA Adviser in conjunction with RIBA Competitions and circulated for client and panel approval before issue.

Scope of Services / Additional Service Packages

We would work with you to tailor the scope of services to meet your competition requirements. RIBA Competitions is also able to provide a range of additional PR and marketing opportunities - further details of which can be provided on request.

Timetable

We would work with you to establish a competitive process to fit your timescale. An Open ideas competition typically takes about 18 weeks from competition launch to selection of a winner.

Based on an Open Ideas Design Competition route

Prepared for City of York Council draft Timetable V3

Nominations for role of RIBA Adviser	w/c 16 April 2012
Appoint RIBA Adviser	June/July 2012
Finalise Competition Brief/Website	August 2012
Competition Launch	w/c 10 September 2012
Submission Deadline	Tuesday 6 November 2012
Assessment of Stage One Designs/Shortlist Identified	w/c 12 November 2012

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Shortlist notified	w/c 19 November 2012
Exhibition of Shortlisted Designs / Public Consultation	w/c 26 November 2012
Final Interviews / Presentations	w/c 10 December 2012
Result	December 2012