



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

05 DECEMBER 2012

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE NARROWS COMPETITION TO
TWO ARCHITECTS**

Following presentations to the jury in mid-November, the Board of Trustees of the Royal Opera House has agreed the next stage of the 'Open Up' competition. The jury, comprising members of the Royal Opera House executive team and a number of external advisors, have invited **Stanton Williams Architects** and **Wetherford Watson Mann Architects** to complete further work in response to a refined brief. The two firms will present again January with a further announcement expected in early February.

'Open Up' aims to make the physical entrances and street level public areas to the building more open and inviting. The project will also develop existing spaces, such as the Linbury Studio Theatre and Paul Hamlyn Hall, to enable the creative and education work of the Royal Opera House to become more visible to more people.

In turn this will enhance the appeal of the Covent Garden building as a destination in itself. The project does not affect the main auditorium.

The **Royal Opera House** will be looking to reduce its use of energy and resources throughout the project as part of an ongoing strategy embedding 'green thinking' into all areas of ROH operations.

Tony Hall, Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House said ‘We were extremely pleased by the richness and variety of the submissions received. All the architects taking part in the competition proposed inspirational ideas for how our public spaces could evolve. We now look forward to working further with **Stanton Williams** and **Witherford Watson Mann** before appointing a chosen firm in February.’

The architects who took part in the competition were:

Amanda Levette Architects

Caruso St John Architects

Diller Scofidio and Renfro

Heatherwick Studio

Jamie Fobert Architects

Stanton Williams Architects

Witherford Watson Mann Architects

ENDS

PRESS OFFICE CONTACTS

Christopher Millard

Director of Press and Communications

Tel: 020 7212 9458

Mob: 07545 502 226

christopher.millard@roh.org.uk