



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

06 FEBRUARY 2013

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE SELECTS STANTON WILLIAMS ARCHITECTS FOR 'OPEN UP' FEASIBILITY STUDY

Following final presentations to the jury at the end of January, the Board of Trustees of the Royal Opera House has selected **Stanton Williams Architects** to carry out a feasibility study for the 'Open Up' project.

This decision marks the culmination of a six month competition process involving seven firms of architects. The jury, comprising members of the Royal Opera House executive team and a number of external advisors, had invited **Stanton Williams Architects** and **Wetherford Watson Mann Architects** to complete further work in response to a refined brief issued in December.

'Open Up' will 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, and make the creative, technical and education work of the Royal Opera House 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.

Simon Robey, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Opera House, said 'Stanton Williams have demonstrated a clear vision for what the next evolution of our building can achieve showing sensitivity, skill and creativity. There is such potential to open our building to wider audiences throughout the day and we look forward to working in partnership with Stanton Williams to develop these plans over the next few months.'

Stanton Williams added 'We are really excited about working with the Royal Opera House on their vision to open up this exceptional building to a wider public. We look forward to developing our ideas further in the coming months.'

The architectural competition and feasibility process is being funded by private supporters of the Royal Opera House. On completion of the feasibility study, the funds necessary to move to the next phase of the project will also need to be raised from private sources.

-ENDS-

Stanton Williams

Stanton Williams is an award winning international architectural practice based in London. The firm has developed its portfolio from an initial focus on museums and galleries towards a wide variety of projects, all of which demonstrate the practice's over-arching objective of putting the user's experience of space, light and materials at the forefront of the agenda. Recently completed projects include the Stirling Prize winning Sainsbury Laboratory in the University of Cambridge's botanical gardens, the new Campus for the University of the Arts London at Kings Cross and the Eton Manor site for the London Olympics 2012. Current projects include King's Cross Square, the Grand Musée d'Art in Nantes and a number of major residential projects in London.

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