



NEWS RELEASE

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Diller Scofidio + Renfro win competition for V&A Collection and Research Centre

The V&A has appointed Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R), with Austin-Smith:Lord, to lead the design of a pioneering new Collection and Research Centre planned for Here East in London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

This new centre will transform access to thousands of objects from the V&A's unparalleled collections of art, design and performance not currently on display, and forms part of the expanded V&A East project alongside a new museum planned for Stratford Waterfront, designed by the Dublin-based practice O'Donnell + Tuomey.

The international design competition drew an excellent response from a wide range of practices, with five shortlisted. DS+R's proposal was selected for its clarity, ambition and originality, communicating a vision that will transform engagement with, and access to, the V&A's collections. Their proposals will give visitors, researchers and staff new ways to interact with the richness and potential the V&A's national collections and archives.

V&A Deputy Director and COO Tim Reeve said:

"The field for this design competition was incredibly strong, featuring many of the best architecture practices from the UK, Europe and around the world. The five shortlisted teams were all outstanding, presenting an exciting and high-quality range of proposals that tackled the brief with ingenuity, imagination and vision. We are delighted to announce Diller Scofidio + Renfro as the lead designers for the V&A's proposed new Collection and Research Centre at Here East. They clearly demonstrated their creativity and skill not only as transformative designers in the arts and museums world, but also as thought leaders in how audiences engage with objects and how collections can be made more publicly accessible. We are all looking forward to working closely with DS+R in the months ahead, to develop their winning concept in to a place that will provide creative inspiration and opportunity for generations to come."

DS+R Partner Elizabeth Diller said:

"It is thrilling to contribute to a new wave of rethinking how London's cultural institutions can reconnect to the city - from the Cultural Mile to the developments emerging in Queen Elizabeth Park. We're excited to start experimenting with the V&A on this new model for collection storage and public display at Here East. Planned from the inside-out, V&A East will be like stepping into an immersive cabinet of curiosities—a three-dimensional sampling of the eclectic collection of artefacts, programmed with diverse spaces for research, object study, workshops, and back-of-house functions. We aspire to design an institution that invites the public to unpack and explore the depths of an otherwise hidden collection of remarkable things."

Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R) is a New York-based design studio whose practice spans the fields of architecture, urban design, installation, and multimedia art. Founded in 1981, DS+R is led by four partners—Elizabeth Diller, Ricardo Scofidio, Charles Renfro and Benjamin Gilmer. DS+R is responsible for two of the largest recent architecture and planning initiatives in New York City: the High Line and the transformation of Lincoln Center's performing arts campus. Recently completed projects include Zaryadye Park in Moscow and The Broad in Los Angeles. DS+R is currently engaged in two more projects significant to New York: The Shed, the first multi-arts center designed to commission, produce, and present all types of performing arts, visual arts, and popular culture, and the renovation and expansion of MoMA. DS+R was also selected to design the Centre for Music, a permanent home for the London Symphony Orchestra and conductor Simon Rattle.

The other shortlisted practices were:

- 6a
- Gareth Hoskins Architects
- Haworth Tompkins and AOC
- Robbrecht en Daem and DRDH

The V&A's new Collection and Research Centre will be part of the museum's expanded V&A East project, where it is set to complement the new museum planned for Stratford Waterfront - ten minutes' walk across the Park. The creation of the centre follows the government's 2015 decision to sell Blythe House, where a vast array of objects from the V&A's world-leading collections of art, design, and performance are currently held. Both sites will be open to the public, and united through their displays, research and learning activities, and public programmes, and form part of an Olympic legacy collaboration with other world-leading institutions across culture and education.

Delancey Managing Director, Paul Goswell, said:

“We have been excited to watch the V&A’s plans unfold over the past few years, and we are delighted to have Diller Scofidio + Renfro on board for this next chapter in Here East’s development. Here East, which is designed to spark collaboration and innovation, provides the perfect setting for the project, and having such an icon for UK culture on site will be an exciting addition to the campus. The new Collection and Research Centre will bring the very best of culture, design, and technology to the exciting community of innovators at Here East and we’re looking forward to seeing how the designs take shape.”

Design work will begin immediately, with the new centre expected to open in 2023.

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To download images of the DS+R team and past schemes please visit <https://tinyurl.com/yackas5e>

Notes to Editors

- **Austin-Smith:Lord** is a leading multi-disciplinary design practice, with extensive experience in delivering high quality Arts and Culture projects. Fusing Diller Scofidio + Renfro’s international portfolio with Austin-Smith:Lord’s track record of design excellence and delivery in the UK capitalises on a shared passion and reputation for arts and culture projects. Austin-Smith:Lord delivers the highest degree of creative and practical thought in architecture, landscape, conservation and urban design from their studios in London, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow and Liverpool. Their celebrated history has given rise to many buildings of national importance, and over 150 awards for outstanding architectural and environmental design.
- **Here East** is a leading campus for the creative and digital industries and provides a unique location for organisations to collaborate on projects and exchange ideas. It is already home to Studio Wayne McGregor, UCL/Bartlett School of Architecture and University of Loughborough London. It is located at the heart of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and provides over one million square feet of dedicated and versatile spaces for creative and

digital companies. Here East is designed as a place for start-up entrepreneurial businesses to co-exist and collaborate with global established businesses and support genuine product innovation. The campus includes shared workspaces and public areas to foster a tight community, with space for discussion and events, a landscaped canalside and artisan cafes, shops and restaurants.

Here East is being developed by iCITY, a company owned by clients of Delancey, a specialist real estate investment advisory company.

- **Delancey** is a specialist real estate investment, development and advisory company whose activities encompass retail, residential and commercial real estate across London and the UK. Collaborating on a wide range of assets, partners and clients, Delancey is recognised for its innovative and diverse approach to creating long term value from real estate. Delancey also advises clients on appropriate capital structures, financing and provides asset management and development services. Delancey has a diverse portfolio of retail, residential, office and corporate assets across London and the UK, including the Alpha Plus schools group, Elephant & Castle Shopping Centre and 185 Park Street in Southwark. Delancey is also a pioneer in the private rented sector and has spent much of the last few years bringing the legacy of the London 2012 Olympics to life; it is delivering over 3,000 homes for rent at the multi-award-winning neighbourhood EastVillage, the former London 2012 Athletes Village in Newham.