

Aecom and Grimshaw team wins in Brisbane

Multidisciplinary partners chosen to create 'airport city' masterplan

Elizabeth Hopkirk

A team led by Aecom has won the design competition to create a 1,000ha masterplan for Brisbane's "airport city".

The multi-disciplinary team, which features Grimshaw, beat entries by Wilkinson Eyre and ARM working with fellow Australians Arkhefield.

The winning team will now work with Brisbane Airport Corporation to work up a detailed masterplan by December for all its developable land.

The airport's first property masterplan, it will also look at how to better connect the airport with the city through physical infrastructure and urban design.

The company is anxious to be prepared for Queensland's future needs which include a rapidly expanding mining and resource sector.

The competition followed a two-day atelier in April at which a large number of Brisbane-based architects, planners, urban designers and engineers came up with a number of visions for different parts of the site.

Almost 30 expressions of interest followed, which were eventually reduced to a shortlist of three, each of which will receive an honorarium.

A source close to one of the three said the competition had been fierce.

The news comes hot on the heels of another big win for Aecom, which is the biggest architect in the world according to BD's

World Architecture 100.

The practice beat BDP to win a £4 billion masterplanning competition in Kuala Lumpur.

It was among five shortlisted teams for the River of Life project which will transform two polluted rivers in the centre of the Malaysian capital.

The longlist of 22 had to submit a comprehensive masterplan showing how 10km of waterfront along the Klang and Gombak rivers could be turned into a focus for development.

They also had to come up with detailed proposals for two of the 11 precincts earmarked for redevelopment.

The jury, which included the UK architect and Stirling Prize winner Stephen Hodder, voted unanimously for Aecom's scheme.

All five shortlisted firms – which included one Korean and two Malaysian firms – will receive a £60,000 honorarium.



Aecom's shortlisted plan for the River of Life, Kuala Lumpur.

Gensler's Istanbul theme park looks to city's past

Gensler has won a design competition for a 150ha mixed-use development in Istanbul.

It will contain the region's first theme park as well as residential, office, retail, and hospitality and 60ha of open spaces and parks.

"This is a masterplanning project that essentially creates a city within a city, and we're thrilled to be a part of it," says Marty Borko, principal and leader of Gensler's mixed-use practice.

The City of Seven Gardens masterplan was inspired by Istanbul's nickname, the City

on Seven Hills.

Turkey's largest city, which stands at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, has a history stretching back 2,000 years.

"As the plan developed, we kept both 'new' and 'old' in mind," said design director Tom Sze.

"We're incorporating best practices around planning, design and sustainability – building around existing transportation routes, maximising proximity and views to the lake, creating dynamic open spaces – while respecting the region's rich history and culture."



DRDH starts on Bodø hall

DRDH Architects has broken ground on a £65 million concert hall and library within the Arctic Circle in Norway.

The buildings will fill the last two empty blocks in Bodø city centre, on the harbour edge.

Much of Bodø was destroyed by the Luftwaffe in the second world war. More than half its 6,000 inhabitants lost their homes in a single night in 1940.

DRDH won a competition for the city's cultural urban framework in 2008 and later triumphed in competitions for the plan's two principal buildings.

The buildings will open on May 17 2014, Norway's 200th anniversary.



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