

Open Call St Paul's Plinth 2020



Lunch break by KHBT in collaboration with Ottmar Hörl, June 2018

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The commission

The London Festival of Architecture (LFA) and Cheapside Business Alliance (CBA) invite you to create St Paul's Plinth, to be installed on an existing frame structure at the traffic island outside St Paul's tube station in Cheapside, City of London.

Following the success of the St Paul's Gateway installation designed by ScottWhitbyStudio and Arup for the London Festival of Architecture 2018, in early 2019 LFA and CBA ran a design competition to reuse the existing frame structure in a new and creative way. Lunch break - an installation of 40 gilded angels resting on swings by KHBT architects and artist Ottmar Hörl was selected as a winning entry and was installed on the pre-existing frame structure outside St Paul's tube station ahead of London Festival of Architecture 2019.

The London Festival of Architecture and Cheapside Business Alliance now invite architects, designers and artists to submit a design proposal for the third edition of the St Paul's Plinth. Supporting City of London's corporate objectives for 2018-2023 which identify energy resilience and the fulfilment of positive environmental outcomes as key issues for the area as well as the festival's 2020 theme of 'Power',

we are seeking for proposals that both resonate with the site's historic heritage but also offer a glimpse of how the City's net zero carbon future might look like.

In the heart of the City of London at the entrance to both Cheapside and London's Culture Mile, this is an opportunity for architects, designers and artists to create a site-specific installation that will be seen by hundreds of thousands of people when it is installed as part of the London Festival of Architecture in June 2020.

Following the competition process, the winning team will be revealed in December 2019 and will work with the Cheapside Business Alliance, City of London Corporation, Arup engineers and the London Festival of Architecture in delivering a fully costed, feasible design and oversee the install ahead of the London Festival of Architecture in 2020 subject to planning permissions.

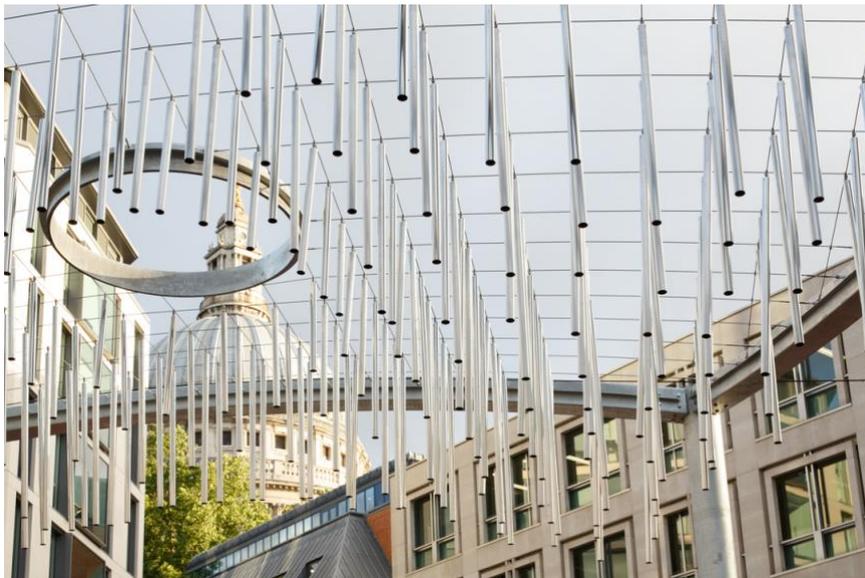
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The Context

The Cheapside Business Alliance in partnership with The City of London are delighted to be working with the LFA 2019 for the third year running.

Cheapside continues to evolve into a leading London destination, with the past year seeing further investment through the opening of more businesses and leisure offerings within the footprint. Many Cheapside Business Alliance (CBA) programmes and projects continue to showcase this fantastic part of the Square Mile.

CBA is committed to continue delivering for the businesses, community and visitors of Cheapside harnessing the great potential of the seven-day destination through supporting their strategic themes - Environmental, Tourism and Culture, Marketing Business Alliance and Employment and Enterprise.



St Paul's Gateway by ScottWhitbyStudio and Arup, June 2018

In 2018, Cheapside Business Alliance commissioned the St Paul's Gateway installation by ScottWhitbyStudio and Arup, to create a different and more exciting

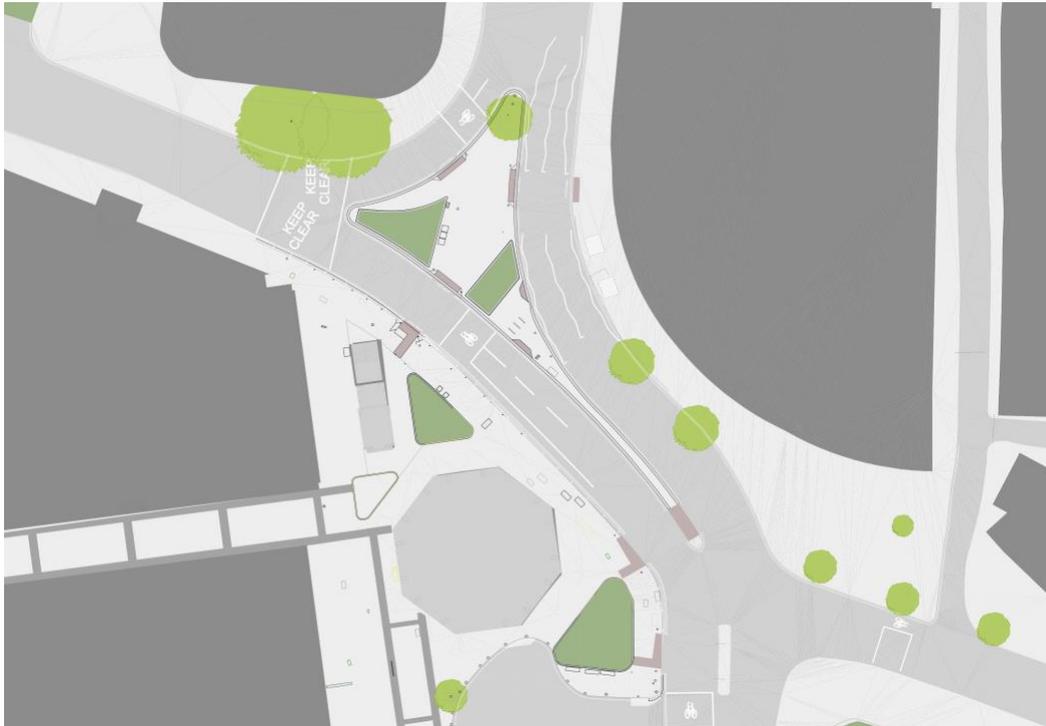
experience for city workers and visitors exiting St Paul's tube station. The installation was made using over 400 highly reflective Anodised Aluminium poles suspended vertically from a simple light weight structural canopy. The 2018 installation was funded by Cheapside Business Alliance with kind support from The William Hare Group. The removal of the suspended part of the installation offered an opportunity for a reuse and reimagining of the trapezoidal gateway structure (frame).

KHBT with Ottmar Hörl overcame the St Paul's Plinth 2019 competition from a field of 22 entries and impressed the judging panel with an imaginative re-use of the pre-existing frame by suspending 40 angels high above passers-by on randomly arranged bars that create a strong conceptual and visual link to St Paul's Cathedral, and the golden cross on top of the dome in particular.

Following the success of previous two projects, the winners of the St. Paul's Plinth 2020 competition will work with Arup engineers to deliver a third life to the structure. As the new installation is attached to the supporting structure, the suspended angels will have to be removed; this will be the responsibility of the selected team to coordinate with KHBT architects and needs to be factored into the installation process.

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The site



Site plan (c) ScottWhitbyStudio

Traffic island in front of the St. Paul's tube station

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Design requirements

We are looking for pieces that act as an attractor to the area and are realistic to the brief (do not become enclosed structures). They must be safe, durable, low-maintenance and offer a low-cost design solution. The proposal must comply with Building Regulations and will be subject to planning permission.

We encourage submissions that take into consideration City of London's environmental aspiration of delivering Zero Carbon by 2050. As an example, this could be done through:

- referencing renewable energy sources
- identifying potential scenarios to achieve zero carbon by 2050
- displaying existing CO2 emissions in the City of London

For more information on City of London environment strategy please see *Outcome 2: The planet is healthier* in Our Responsible Business Strategy: Towards a Sustainable Future, page 7:

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/business/responsible-city/Documents/responsible-business-strategy-2018-23.pdf>

The proposal must use the existing steel frame and could also reuse other existing elements such as the wires and fixings, subject to Arup's detailed checking. Should your proposal involve the wires and fixings needing to be taken down, this would require a crane, which would need to be costed and paid for from the project budget.

Planning drawings for the **original structure** by ScottWhitbyStudio can be found [here](#) (zip). Competition organisers take no responsibility for the accuracy of this information. The winning team should survey the structure carefully before creating their own drawings from which to fabricate the installation.

We are also keen that the winning entry is potentially able to serve a dual purpose. In addition to being an engaging installation as a major part of London Festival of Architecture there is potential for the piece to be later modified for use in the run up to Christmas. Should this be taken forward additional funding would be made available by Cheapside Business Alliance.

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Further Guidance

- *Budget:* If successful, the £12,500 will need to cover all associated production costs (materials, transport, planning application fee, construction and deinstall). You can use salvaged materials or seek in-kind materials sponsorship to reduce expenses. The budget will be managed by the entrant.
- *Health & safety:* The drawings will be checked by a City engineer who will also carry out a risk assessment. On delivery, the installation will be checked to ensure it is safe for public use. You may be asked to make modifications but on sign-off the design will be the property and responsibility of Cheapside Business Alliance.
- *Durability:* The project will exist for 1 year and you should consider the longevity and appearance of your design accordingly, to ensure that no maintenance is required during this period. Subject to durability, the installation may be able to be in place for longer or moved to a different City location for an extended period.
- *Property:* The installation will be the property of the Cheapside Business Alliance for the duration of the installation. During installation and at the point of deinstallation the installation will be the property of the competition winner.
- *Timescale:* The installation is expected to be installed between June 2020 to June 2021.
- *Installation:* Unless otherwise agreed with the Cheapside Business Alliance installation will take place during w/c 25 May 2020.
- *Deinstallation:* Unless otherwise agreed with the Cheapside Business Alliance deinstallation will take place in May 2021.
- *Insurance:* Your practice / collaboration needs to have Professional Indemnity of £1million to be eligible to go through to shortlisting. The project will require Public Liability of £5million.

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Budget

The total budget available for this project for the project is £12,500 + VAT. This is to include all fees, fabrication, installation and deinstallation costs (materials, permits, transport and construction). The budget will be managed by the entrant.

Two thirds of the fee will be awarded in January, on receipt of a signed agreement in which you commit to provide an installation as per your submission and any revisions as requested by Cheapside Business Alliance, City of London Corporation and Arup engineers. The remaining fee will be given in June after delivery and approval of the installation.

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Submission

This submission should include

1. Full name and contact details including postal address, contact number and email of project lead.
2. Brief biographies of all the project team.
3. Coloured photo of the design team (landscape) for promotional purposes
4. A 200-word description about your practice along with any relevant technical expertise acquired through previous experience. Please include images of relevant previous work.
5. Hand or computer drawn 3D design visualisation, plan and sections
6. Construction detail drawn to scale, with key dimensions noted
7. Outline all materials, budget and production process

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Eligibility

The competition is open to architects, designers and artists. We welcome collaborations however the project must be actively led by a named architect, designer or artist.

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Deadline and submission details

- Deadline for submission is 12:00 noon, Monday 02 December 2019. Submissions received after this time will not be considered.
- For competition enquires please contact: rosa@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org
- Please send expressions of interest in a PDF format via: <https://www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org/stpaulsplinth2020/>
- The PDF should be no more than 5MB and 10 A4 pages.
- You will receive an email confirming receipt of your submission.

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Schedule outline

Submissions open: Thursday 31 October 2019

Submissions closed: Monday 2 December 2019

Planning submission: January 2020

Project installed by: 31 May 2020

Project deinstalled by: May 2021

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Judging panel

- Richard Coles (former Communard, co-presenter of BBC Radio 4 Saturday Live and Vicar of Finedon)
- Maria Curro (project manager, Department of the Built Environment, City of London Corporation)
- Ruth Duston OBE (executive director, Cheapside Business Alliance)
- Marc Easton (Senior Structural Engineer, Arup)
- Sarah Jane Enson (senior project manager, Public Realm Team, City of London Corporation)
- George Kyriakon (co-founder, Pella Real Estate Partners)
- Tamsie Thomson (director, London Festival of Architecture)
- Alex Scott-Whitby (director, ScottWhitbyStudio)

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Further information

- Submissions will be judged on originality, demonstration of creativity and relevance to the brief, as well as feasibility and how the proposal works in the context of the site.
- The ownership of Copyright of the design will be in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, that is Copyright rests with the author of the submitted design.
- All designs remain the intellectual property of the designer however the winning designs when built, will be the property of the Cheapside Business Alliance.
- Please bear in mind that the project requires a fast turn around and may have peak moments when your practice will need to dedicate sufficient staff to deliver the project on time, on budget and to the high standard expected by all stakeholders.
- If selected, your practice/collaboration needs to organise: Professional Indemnity, and Employers Liability (in case you have employees)
- Significant efforts are made by all stakeholders of the project to ensure wide media coverage.
- London Festival of Architecture and Cheapside Business Alliance reserve the right to use images from the submissions for promotional purposes in press, social media and publications. All endeavours will be made to ensure accurate accreditation.

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Useful links

City of London Responsible Business Strategy, 2018-23:
<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/business/responsible-city/Documents/responsible-business-strategy-2018-23.pdf>

London Festival of Architecture:
www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

Cheapside Business Alliance
incheapside.com

City of London Corporation
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

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Contact

To submit your entry please go to:
<https://www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org/stpaulsplinth2020/>

For general enquires please contact: rosa@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

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Disclaimer

The competition organisers are not liable for lost, misdirected, or late entries. Decisions of the jury represent their professional judgments and all decisions are final. While it is the intent to construct the winning scheme, the organisers reserve the right to not proceed with construction for any reason. Material submitted by you shall be your sole responsibility, shall not infringe or violate the rights of any other party or violate any laws, contribute to or encourage infringing or otherwise unlawful conduct, or otherwise be obscene, objectionable, or in poor taste. By submitting such material, you are representing that you are the owner of such material and/or have all necessary rights, licenses, and authorization to distribute it.

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The logo for the London Festival of Architecture, featuring the text "LONDON FESTIVAL OF ARCHITECTURE" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered within a solid magenta rectangular background.

London Festival of Architecture

The London Festival of Architecture was founded in 2004, and is now firmly established as Europe's biggest annual architecture festival. The London Festival of

Architecture 2018 will feature events across the capital from 1-30 June, and this year will explore the theme 'identity'. The London Festival of Architecture celebrates London as a global hub of architectural experimentation, practice and debate, provoking questions about the contemporary and future life of the city, and promoting positive change to its public realm. The London-wide programme is delivered by a diverse mix of architecture and design practices and practitioners, cultural and academic institutions, artists and many others.

www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

Twitter: @LFArchitecture

at the City's heart
CHEAPSIDE

Cheapside Business Alliance

The Cheapside Business Alliance takes a more innovative approach ensuring the area thrives and prospers over the coming years as a 7 day destination. The number of smaller businesses in the area, whose contribution and presence make a valuable contribution in shaping the location, is recognised by the business community as an important element of our activity. As such we want to ensure that we support small businesses through a range of projects that help to promote their services and further enable them to thrive as part of our local economy and community. From inward investment through to increased footfall and spend we will work hard to develop and influence a strong mix of assets to maximise the areas potential.

<https://incheapside.com/>

Twitter: @CheapsideBA