



Friday June 15 2012
Issue 2018 £2.90 bdonline.co.uk

'Wouter Vanstiphout is being rather hard on the poor hipsters and their markets'

Hank Dittmar

OPINION PAGE 7



Sport for all
Brisac Gonzalez's inclusive Parisian sports centre **P.18**



Bomber Command memorial under fire
Readers respond to the latest addition to Green Park **P.6**

BUILDING DESIGN ARCHITECTS' BEST LOVED WEEKLY

Hadid emerges as frontrunner to buy London's Design Museum

Architecture gallery proposal is favourite out of eight bids for site

David Rogers

Zaha Hadid emerged this week as the favourite to buy the Design Museum in London after impressing with her plans to turn it into an architecture museum.

BD understands that the two-time Stirling Prize winner's bid is with a private backer and is one of eight potential buyers eyeing the site at Shad Thames, which is up for sale ahead of the museum

moving into its new home in 2014.

It is understood the 1950s building, originally used to ripen bananas, is expected to fetch between £4 and £7 million.

As it stands, the museum lends itself well to architecture exhibitions, with recent headlining shows from John Pawson, Richard Rogers, David Chipperfield and Hadid herself.

Hadid, who is already working

on a museum scheme in London to extend and refurbish the Magazine Storeyard in Kensington Gardens, declined to comment but under the architect's proposals the museum is expected to be filled with a series of models of contemporary architecture.

Stephen Bayley, who set up the Design Museum with Terence Conran, said that the building would be "perfect for someone who wanted a ready-made museum".

The building has exhibition space over two floors and a restaurant on the first floor, which under the current terms of the sale



The asking price for the Shad Thames building could top £7m.

has to stay on the site.

Local authority Southwark Council is keen the building remains a museum. The borough

already boasts 14 museums including the Imperial War Museum, Clink Prison Museum and Fashion & Textile Museum.

It has been occupied by the Design Museum since 1989 with the lease owned by the Conran Foundation — the charity headed by Terence Conran which bankrolls the running costs of both the Design Museum and is a benefactor for the Royal College of Art. Last year it handed over £826,500 to the pair.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to help fund the £80 million cost of the Design Museum's new building at the RMJM-designed

Commonwealth Institute in Kensington. Pawson is redesigning the interior of the grade II* listed building while OMA is drawing up plans for surrounding residential development.

The museum's new home will have three times the space at the current site — which will be used to increase the amount of architectural content it displays — and is expected to draw 500,000 visitors every year.

The Design Museum's sale is being handled by property agent Cushman & Wakefield, which this week confirmed the process was still ongoing.

Magma hits its Olympic target

Berlin-based Magma Architecture's Olympic shooting venue in Woolwich, south-east London, has been completed.

The venue, at the Royal Artillery Barracks, has already seen a series of test events and will host the Olympic shooting, Paralympic shooting and Paralympic archery across its indoor and open-air ranges this summer.

The three indoor ranges sit inside PVC tents featuring extruded circular ventilation shafts in pink, blue and red.

The temporary venues will be dismantled once the 2012 Olympics are finished and will be used for Glasgow's 2014 Commonwealth Games.



WOOLWICH PHOTO: JALIZENL; DESIGN: MAGNUM ARCHITECTURE

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