

UK firms to design Czech housing scheme

Seven British architects among those selected to work on The Oaks, a €400 million, 220-home development on the outskirts of Prague

A clutch of the UK's most exciting architects have been selected to work on a new 220-home scheme in the Czech Republic.

The Arendon Development Company has selected Coffey Architects, Duggan Morris Architects, Eldridge Smerin, Hall McKnight, Haptic, John Pardey Architects and McGarry-Moon Architects to work on projects on the outskirts of Prague, together worth €400 million (£314 million).

The seven British firms were chosen alongside Czech practices ADR, AI Design and Cigler

Mazani from more than 100 northern European practices in an invited contest organised by Malcolm Reading Consultants.

The scheme, masterplanned by US practice Edward Durell Stone Jr and Associates (EDSA), is set to break ground in spring 2015 and expected to take five years to complete.

The 140ha site lies within a hunting estate in Popivřický about 20km south-east of Prague.

Robert Davies, formerly of Treasury Holdings and now chief executive of Czech-based

Arendon, said: 'As we did our research it became clear that Czechs value well-crafted, contemporary design, both local and international.'

'Also, we were aware of a rich tradition of new residential communities in the country from the inter-war period, such as the Bata development in Zlín. So there was an opportunity to showcase good residential design, both from the Czech Republic and from across Europe, and give young designers a leg-up.'

Richard Hittie @rshittie



JOHN PARDEY ARCHITECTS



HAPTIC



DOGGAN MORRIS ARCHITECTS



COFFEY ARCHITECTS



MCGARRY-MOON ARCHITECTS



HALL MCKNIGHT



ELDRIDGE SMERIN

COMPETITIONS FILE



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New Taipei City Government is on the hunt for an architect to design a 25,000m² museum of art. International firms are invited to partner with Taiwanese practices for the job which has been announced three years after Peter Bossoli and Jean-Loup Baldacci won an initial ideas contest for the museum [Deadline for applications 14 January]

Camden Council is seeking architects for seven residential infill projects on sites across the north London borough. The £56 million project – tendered as six separate contracts – will create 122 new homes within highly sustainable, maintenance-efficient and well-designed buildings [Deadline for requests to participate 5 December]

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is looking for a masterplanner to overhaul Threshfield Quarry in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The winning team will transform the disused facility into a nature reserve with a visitor centre and business units for local craftsmen and artists [Deadline for tenders 12 December]

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thoff.co.uk/competitions

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