

David Chipperfield Architects to develop master plan for the Geffrye Museum

The Geffrye, the UK's only museum of the home, today announced the appointment of David Chipperfield Architects to begin work on a master plan leading to the preparation of outline designs for an extension to the museum.

The museum's Architect Selection Committee agreed unanimously that David Chipperfield should be appointed to prepare outline designs to RIBA Stage B for an extension to the museum, whilst making improvements to visitor access and circulation. The extension will enable the creation of a new library and additional learning and exhibition spaces whilst enhancing the Geffrye's existing public areas. It will provide approximately 2,500 square meters on land owned by the museum, immediately adjacent to the existing buildings and fronting onto Cremer Street and Geffrye Street. The museum aims to complete the project in 2015.

"This is an important step for the museum", says the Geffrye's director, David Dewing. "It is the beginning of an exciting journey. We are delighted to be able to appoint David Chipperfield and look forward to developing our ideas and ambitions for the museum with him".

David Chipperfield says "'We are very pleased to be commissioned by the Trustees of the Geffrye Museum. For us, this project is not about simply designing another piece of architecture for the Geffrye's campus, but engaging with the organisation, to fortify and consolidate the existing museum's strengths and the character of this unique London institution."

Trustees and staff of the Geffrye are committed to ensuring that all interventions to the existing Geffrye site and the new building will be to the highest design standards while at the same time providing public spaces which are inviting and comfortable. Dewing says "the Geffrye's existing buildings have a quality and integrity which must be reflected in any future developments. We anticipate a design which is challenging, innovative and eye-catching; it should be a significant architectural statement which takes account of the surrounding urban landscape, but raises the bar because it will be part of a cultural institution of national and international standing. The new building must be designed with sustainability, low maintenance and low energy as fundamental maxims and it must use environmentally friendly materials."

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The museum has developed significantly since 1990, both as an organisation and in terms of its buildings, displays and gardens. A new entrance and reception building was opened in 1993, and a major extension designed by Branson Coates Architecture was completed in 1998, providing galleries for 20th century displays and temporary exhibitions as well as new education facilities. All of the early period rooms have been successively replaced with new displays reflecting current standards and scholarship. Gardens have been created to the rear of the almshouse buildings in the form of a walled herb garden and a series of period garden rooms. One of the historic almshouses has been faithfully restored to show the living conditions for pensioners in the 18th and 19th centuries.

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Notes to Editors

- i) For further information, please contact Nancy Loader, Press Officer: nloader@geffrye-museum.org.uk or 020 7739 9893.
- ii) The outline designs by David Chipperfield Architects will form part of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund in September 2010. The Geffrye will seek to appoint architects for the remainder of the project in February 2011 or soon thereafter, subject to the outcome of the application. This second appointment will be by a competitive interview process run by the RIBA and will be advertised in the OJEU and be subject to EU regulations. It will be open to all, including the architects appointed for Stages A-B.
- iii) The Architect Selection Committee comprised:
 - Penny Egan, Trustee of the Geffrye Museum, Chairman of the selection committee and Executive Director of US-UK Fulbright Commission
 - Marina Vaizey, Trustee of the Geffrye Museum and former Art Critic
 - Tanvir Hasan, Trustee of the Geffrye Museum and Architect
 - Mary Shand, former Trustee of the Geffrye and Furniture and Interior Designer
 - David Dewing, Director, Geffrye Museum
 - Christine Lalumia, Deputy Director, Geffrye Museum
 - Richard Hunting, Chairman of the Geffrye Museum's Board of Trustees
- iv) The Geffrye explores the home from 1600 to the present day. The museum's focus is on the living rooms of the urban middle classes in England, particularly London. A chronological sequence of period rooms shows how homes have been used and furnished over the past 400 years, reflecting the changes in society and patterns of behaviour as well as style, fashion and taste. The museum is set in the former almshouses of the Ironmongers' Company, Grade I listed, early 18th-century buildings. It is surrounded by attractive gardens, which include an award-winning herb garden and a series of period gardens showing the changing style of town gardens.