

Press release 18.12.17

World-Class Architecture Competition comes to Liverpool

Prix Versailles 2018 launched to inspire a sustainable city: Designs for the World Heritage Docks and a new Stadium in Liverpool

The prestigious Prix Versailles competition for students of architecture around the world will focus on the city of Liverpool for 2018. The 2018 focus for the prize has today been announced in Paris, with the purpose of designing a new Stadium in Liverpool and land in the Central and Northern Docks of the World Heritage Site Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City.

This is the first time that the Prix Versailles has decided to offer an award based on a particular modern city, and will set a precedent for future competitions.

In partnership with the International Union of Architects, the competition will attract submissions from students at universities and schools all over the world. What is unusual about the Competition is that the projects are required to be creative, to respect the exceptional character of the sites, and to be at the cutting edge of technology and environmental performance.

This competition is also supported by UNESCO - the idea to focus on Liverpool came out of recent visits to the city by UNESCO representatives, arranged by Engage Liverpool CIC, as part of a series of seminars concerned with the future of Liverpool's endangered World Heritage Site Status.

Gerry Proctor, Chair of Engage Liverpool CIC said "We are delighted to have played our part in bringing this amazing opportunity to Liverpool. The aim of the competition is to bring the best and brightest minds throughout the architectural world to support the efforts of developers and planners in Liverpool to become a world-famous city for the quality of its sustainable architecture. This prize instantly puts Liverpool's World Heritage Site and football culture onto an international stage."

"The call is for students to send in ideas and drawings about how they would take the large expanse of open docks in the World Heritage Site of Central and North Docks Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City and develop it in such a way as to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. It also calls for ideas for a new FIFA-standard football stadium that would be the most eco-friendly in the world and able to sit alongside the World Heritage Site without destroying its Outstanding Universal Value."

Once the Panel has completed its deliberations, **the winning project will be announced at the World Ceremony of the Prix Versailles on 15 May 2018 at the UNESCO Headquarters.**

In a brand-new departure, the Competition is aimed at stimulating creative thinking and ideas around listed sites. The winning project will not necessarily be actually used. The Competition is conceived as an extension of the **Prix Versailles**, reserved for

students. Each year, it will invite the world youth to react and propose applied solutions by taking a concrete case: how is the heritage today an issue of renewal and development of cities? It is possible to contribute to the well-being and prosperity of the city without compromising our cultural and natural heritage.

In keeping with the belief of the inevitability of change and the continued evolution of cities, **the aim is certainly not to promote a pastiche of by-gone days but to solicit contemporary urban and architectural expressions that would be in harmony with the values of the World Heritage Sites.**

This heritage of global value can serve as a springboard for Liverpool's future development and socio-economic welfare of its inhabitants. This event will add to the series of events celebrating Liverpool's 10th Anniversary of being European Capital of Culture 2008.

Download the regulations for submissions of the 2018 Prix Versailles 'Student competition'

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Prix Versailles

The Prix Versailles is the world architecture award for stores, hotels and restaurants. Projects will be submitted first of all to a continent-wide selection process during April 2018 in six Grand Regions: Africa and West Asia – Central America, the South and the Caribbean – Central Asia and the Northeast – South Asia and the Pacific – Europe. The Worldwide Final will be held at the UNESCO Headquarters on 15 May 2018. The World Judges Panel is multi-disciplinary. It has welcomed in 2017: François de Mazières (Chairman), Manuelle Gautrand, Guo Pei, Toyō Itō (2013 Pritzker Prize), Gilles Lipovetsky, Guy Savoy, Wang Shu (2012 Pritzker Prize) and Minja Yang. This process is along the lines of an Architecture and Design Olympic Games.

Engage Liverpool