



Open Ideas Competition for a designer to create a:

Temporary exhibition structure

at

**Manchester Craft and Design
Centre**



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1. Introduction

Manchester Craft & Design Centre is *the* place to make, see and buy contemporary craft in the North West. Alongside our independent artist studios, we host ambitious and innovative temporary exhibitions which showcase the very best of craft and design talent.

The Centre is housed in a former Victorian fishmarket building in the heart of Manchester's creative Northern Quarter. The exhibition, café and studios are open to the public seven days a week, offering visitors the unique opportunity to buy directly from our 30 resident makers.

For the first time in MCDC's exhibition history, our eyes are turning towards spatial design and architectural brilliance. Our small central exhibition stage has seen over 40 craft and design shows, from ceramics to wood via textiles, glass, paper, metal, plastics, and lighting.

This design competition invites North West architects and architecture students to look at our challenging exhibition space with fresh eyes, showcasing their creativity in a unique setting.

The winning structure will be constructed on our exhibition stage. This is a unique and exciting opportunity for a designer or team to transform the small and often awkward space into a vibrant new temporary installation.

It should not imitate or intimidate its surroundings, and should hold its own within our large open atrium. The winning design could (for example) be a temporary pavilion structure, a sculpture or an interactive public artwork. We are open to your ideas, creativity and design expertise.

This competition is not only for ideas – the winning proposal will be commissioned for construction and exhibited at MCDC for three months (14/02/15 – 10/05/15).

A budget of £2,000 (inc VAT) is available for the build and installation. MCDC will also host an exhibition launch day (14/02/15) and conduct a full marketing and PR campaign.

2. Vision

MCDC are proud to be working alongside RIBA North West to find our winner. The winning project should:

- Re-imagine and transform our challenging exhibitions space in a way not seen before at MCDC
- Engage and interact with the public through offering a Visitors Choice vote and by challenging our visitors' preconceptions of the building
- Make creative use of the installation budget – using sustainable, low-cost materials to create a robust and high-quality structure

3. Exhibition of entries

Entries will be on display at MCDC for the whole of November 2014. Visitors will be invited to vote for their favourite proposal which will be announced as the Visitors Choice in January 2015. The Visitors Choice proposal board will then remain on display at MCDC throughout the exhibition period.

When submitting competition entries, entrants should consider that proposals will be viewed by a wide audience of public and designers alike, therefore should be straightforward and presented in an accessible format.

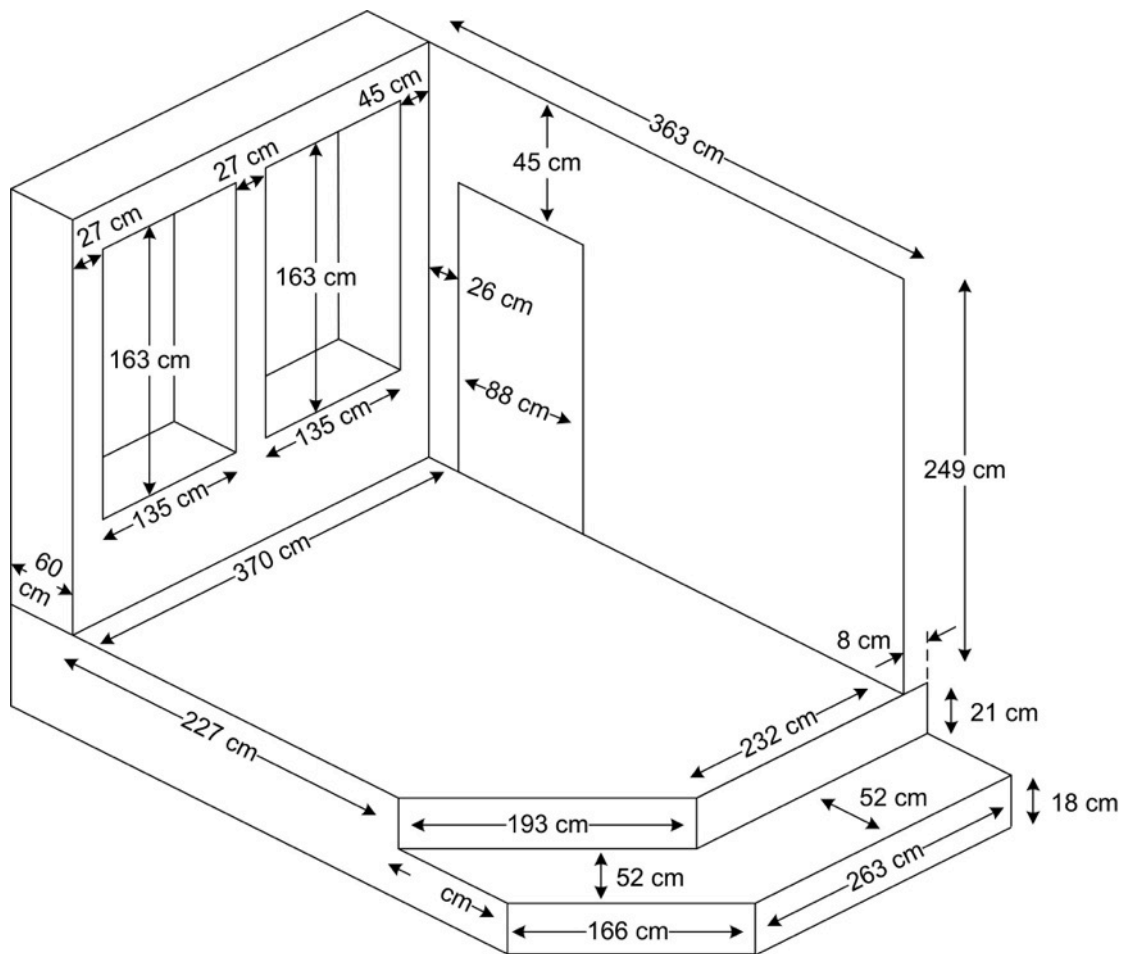
4. The Brief

Further plans and photographs of the space are available at www.craftanddesign.com or by emailing exhibitions@craftanddesign.com.

Image of exhibition space:



Plan of exhibition space:



Designs should consider the following:

- Our vision:
 - The installation should comply with the three key visions in section 2: to “re-imagine” the challenging space, interact with our audience, and use low-cost and sustainable materials.
- Basic requirements:
 - The structure should be dynamic, ambitious and present something new and unexpected for MCDC’s visitors.
 - The structure will be on display to the public for three months (February to May) – therefore should be robust and take into account the indoor weather conditions that come with our glass-roof: it can be extremely cold with low lighting at the end of winter (i.e. February/March).
 - Installation must be designed, fabricated, constructed and uninstalled for £2,000 maximum.
 - The project must be installed at MCDC in a maximum of 10 days, and be uninstalled in up to 5 days (pre-construction offsite may take place).
 - Following the judging process, the brief and requirements will be discussed in more depth with the winner.
- Constraints of the space:

- The exhibition space sits on an elevated platform, at a height of 39cm (accessible by a step).
- The door (on back wall) must remain accessible to MCDC staff so this should be considered in the design.
- The structure should be confined to the exhibition space, and must not intrude on the café (behind the platform) or the artist's studio next to it.
- Access and walkways around the exhibition stage must not be compromised.
- Two steel cables hang over the exhibition space – these can be removed, ignored or utilised in the project.

5. Assessment criteria

Design proposals will be assessed against the following:

- Quality of the design
- Innovative application of ideas
- Aesthetics of design
- Durability, accessibility and affordability of the design
- Response to the context and visions outlined in this brief
- Ability to deliver project within set time frame and budget (as outlined in this brief)

6. How to enter

This open call process is intended to be simple, straightforward and quick to complete.

This project is open to all RIBA Chartered Members and students of architecture in the North West. Proposals are welcome from both individuals and teams. Schools, community groups, civic societies or members of the public who would like to enter the competition are advised to work with a Chartered Architect to translate their ideas into a proposal.

Competitors should submit the following:

- 1 x A2 lightweight ideas board, outlining the design proposal by whatever type or types of 2-dimensional graphics the entrant chooses (e.g. drawings, sketches, photo-montages, computer-generated images, etc)
- A written statement (max 1000 words on A4 paper) to describe the concept. This should also assess the financial viability of the proposals and demonstrate how the proposal reflects this brief.
- A CD or USB containing an electronic copy of the design board (PDF format, less than 10MB) and design statement (word format), up to 3 electronic images for use in printed and electronic media (JPEG; 72dpi and 300dpi versions; filename must include name of designer(s) and any copyright information).

Please note that MCDC are unable to return proposal boards and CDs/USBs

to entrants following the competition, however they may be collected if pre-arranged with MCDC Management.

3-dimensional architectural models will **not** be accepted, although they may be used in photographs on the 2-D proposal board.

The budget for this project is limited and we are looking for an ingenious and creative architect or designer who can achieve maximum impact on a set budget.

Applications must be delivered to MCDC, addressed to: RIBA Competition, Manchester Craft & Design Centre, 17 Oak Street, Manchester, M4 5JD. If delivering in person, please drop at the Management Office (first floor at the above address). Electronic submissions without a proposal board **will not** be considered.

All proposals must be delivered by 5pm on Friday 31/10/14.

7. Judging panel

A jury including the following will select the winning proposal:

- Charlotte Myhrum – Places Matter Design Review Manager
- John Bridge – Chair of RIBA NW Communications Committee

8. Timeline

The anticipated timeline for this project is as follows:

15 September 2014 Open competition announced

5pm, 31 October Entries close

3 – 30 November Public exhibition of entries

1 – 15 December Judging

January Winner announced

January – February Detailed plans and costings developed, offsite production begins (if required)

3 – 13 February Onsite build and installation at MCDC

14 February **Exhibition opens to the public, 2-5pm**

11 – 15 May Dismantle and uninstallation

9. Announcement of award

Following the closing date for submissions (5pm, 31/10/14), a public exhibition of proposal boards will be open in the space2 project space at MCDC for one month. Electronic competition proposals (submitted PDFs and images) will also be exhibited online at manchestercraft.wordpress.com.

Visitors will be invited to vote for their favorite proposal. Formal judging will take place during December. The winner will be contacted in January, and publically announced following individual communication.

10. Questions, visits and enquiries

Enquiries about this competition must be addressed to:

Kaylee Jenkinson, Exhibitions & Events Officer, Manchester Craft & Design Centre, 17 Oak Street, Manchester, M4 5JD – or alternatively emailed to: exhibitions@craftanddesign.com. Please ensure that you have read this brief fully before submitting your questions.

If you wish to visit MCDC to view the exhibition space before submitting your proposal, please be advised that the Centre is open to the public from Monday – Saturday (10-5:30pm) and Sundays (11-5pm).