

New Mosque

near Preston, Lancashire

Open Design Competition



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Introduction

A local charity is seeking a talented and ambitious architect to develop ideas for a new Mosque on the northern outskirts of Preston, Lancashire.

The design solution should be of the highest quality, both enduring and at the same time modern and reflective of current trends. As such, the design team should seek to create a landmark building.

Examples of landmark buildings of worship in the local area include:

- **Preston England Temple** in Chorley, Lancashire – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- **Fairhaven United Reformed Church** in Lytham St Annes
- **Church of St Walburge's** in Preston – boasts the third tallest spire in the country

Location

The site for the proposed Mosque is at the western end of D'Urton Lane on the northern edge of the City of Preston. The site has been cut off by the recent completion of the Broughton bypass alongside the junction of the M55 and M6 and as such sits in a particularly prominent and elevated location.

Drone footage of the site is available to view here:

<https://youtu.be/WBULmT9-KUw>



Design Guidance

The intention is to produce a strong and bold design that is clearly identifiable as a place of worship but not necessarily to the extent that it is dominated by the traditional Islamic designs. Similarly, it is acceptable to have an element of Islamic flair or features but this is not paramount and if the building has minarets they should be subtle and modern in appearance. The building should have a clear focal point or strong design features which gives character and visibility at some distance. It should not be so institutionalised as to simply have the look of a contemporary office building.

Consideration should be given to the potential for the creation of an external courtyard area or sahn which would be part of the public realm and available for informal meetings or relaxation.

Detailed consideration should be given to the appropriate use of materials as part of the design but also in terms of the future maintenance and operating costs of the building which will be run by a charity. For example, it may be that a material such as marble or other high quality stone is acceptable whereas timber, although having the potential to add a contemporary element to the design, is not due to the ongoing maintenance requirements. Simple composite panels and cladding are unlikely to be the solution and the preference is most probably for the use of more traditional materials such as brick or stone, including marble.

Maintenance should also be considered not simply over 25 years but much longer.

Scale

It is expected that the mosque will extend to the equivalent of three storeys, with a large prayer hall of double or triple height and a capacity for some 450 prayer mats plus circulation space. This area should be open to allow clear views for all worshippers. There should be no columns in this area, but the prayer hall does require a domed roof to accommodate a double or triple height grand space.

In addition to the prayer hall, there should be three floors of other accommodation including a ladies' prayer hall on a separate floor with a separate entrance and clear views into the main prayer hall. This area should extend to approximately half the overall footprint of the building.

The charity's retained architects have prepared an indicative sketch of how the site may be laid out. This demonstrates a footprint of at least 730m² is achievable but this should not be regarded a minimum or maximum requirement.

Interior

The building should make maximum use of natural light where possible.

At this stage it has not yet been determined how the interior design will be addressed. Entrants are therefore encouraged to put forward their general ideas for the interior design which should be simple and not ornate with a general open and contemporary approach.

Sustainability

The architect should seek to achieve a zero carbon development or as close to this as is reasonably possible, subject to the demonstration of costs and benefits. This may include the achievement of a BREEAM Excellent rating or the equivalent but should look at all opportunities for the incorporation of renewable energy, enhanced thermal efficiency and sustainable materials where possible. However, such renewables should not be visually dominant and should not be clearly visible in views of the building.

Prominence

Given the location of the site, the potential is there for this to be a visually prominent building and the design should take advantage of this. It will be visible from both motorways, the surrounding area and, of course, close up.

It is therefore essential that the building makes a real visual statement from whichever angle it is viewed. It should become a real focal point and landmark building for North Preston and the approaches to it.

Landscaping

Consideration should be given to the potential for landscaping of the site. This should take into account short and longer distance views of the site to maximise the quality of the setting within which the building will sit. There is a preference for the landscaping to incorporate a majority of evergreen species, but it should also address the emerging requirement for a 10% biodiversity uplift.

There may be an opportunity to combine the scheme of landscaping with that to be undertaken by the highway's authority on adjacent land. Maintenance of the grounds should be taken into consideration also.

Parking

The layout should maximise the opportunities for parking with a minimum of at least 140 spaces including disabled spaces and electric charging points. There should be no underground parking. Cycle parking should also be provided and thought should be given to the overall pattern of travel and accessibility to the site.

The parking should respect the landscaping scheme and not dominate the site.

Objectives

The intention is that the mosque will be designed in accordance with the principles of great British architecture as evidenced by the many examples of grand places of worship throughout the country of a variety of denominations which take and apply a variety of influences which in this case can include Islamic style.

With a location close to the main built up area but in its own, prominent setting, visible from a large part of the surrounding area including key routes into Preston, there really is an opportunity for a great design to be achieved which will become a proud element of Preston's skyline for many years to come.



Competition Conditions



1. Competition Client

The competition client is a registered charitable trust based in Preston. The competition is being managed and administered by RIBA Competitions to whom all queries relating to the competition should be addressed.

2. Eligibility

The competition is open internationally to registered architects. Architects should be registered with the Architects Registration Board (ARB) in the UK, or an equivalent, recognised overseas regulatory authority.

No member or employee of the promoting body, the evaluation panel, or any partner, close associate or employee of them is eligible to compete or assist a competitor.

3. Competition Format

The competition will follow the open design competition format and will be organised in the following:

Phase 1:

Submission of concept designs assessed anonymously.

Phase 2:

A shortlist of up to five designs will be selected and teams will be invited to develop their ideas and present them to the evaluation panel.

4. How to Register and Enter

You may only submit an entry to the competition if you are officially registered through RIBA Competitions and in possession of a Unique Registration Number (URN). The competition is subject to a non-refundable registration and administration fee of £35+VAT.

Please visit www.architecture.com/competitions and scroll down the page to select the appropriate competition and click on the register to enter button.

Once your payment has been processed, you will be issued with a Unique Registration Number (URN) and a Declaration of Authorship Form.

5. Declaration of Authorship & Acceptance of Competition Regulations

The declaration form acknowledges authorship of the design ideas, and by signing it, entrants agree to abide by the competition conditions and the decision of the Evaluation Panel as final. The completed declaration form should be uploaded to the digital entry system along with the design submission.

Please note the team members stated on the declaration form will be used as the credits in all promotional activity so please ensure this is reflected accurately.

6. Evaluation Panel

The Evaluation Panel (which may be subject to change) is expected to comprise:

Fanos Panayides	RIBA Competition Architect Adviser, Director John McAslan + Partners
David Cockrell	Retired Architect, Cassidy + Ashton
Jonathan Carter	Director, Rolfe Judd Architecture
TBC	Preston City Council Representative
x3	Client Representatives
* Joanne Wallis	RIBA Competitions (observer only)

* Joanne Wallis from RIBA Competitions will attend the assessments to document the competition process and provide procedural support.

In the event of an Evaluation Panel member being unable to continue to act through illness or any other cause, the client, in consultation with the RIBA, reserves the right to appoint an alternative Panel member.

7. Competition Timetable

The anticipated programme, which may be subject to variation, is as follows:

Deadline for entrants to raise questions	Friday 12 March 2021
Response to questions issued	Friday 19 March 2021
Deadline for Phase 1 Designs	14:00, Thursday 22 April 2021
Evaluation session of Phase 1 Designs	w/c 3 May 2021
Notify shortlist and unsuccessful entrants	w/c 10 May 2021
Briefing for shortlisted designers	w/c 10 May 2021
Deadline for Phase 2 Designs	Tuesday 15 June 2021
Final Interviews/Presentations	w/c 21 June 2021
Notification and result announced	End June 2021

8. Questions

Questions relating to the competition Brief and conditions must be submitted to RIBA Competitions at riba.competitions@riba.org before close of business on **Friday 12 March 2021**. A statement in response to all questions raised will be emailed to registered entrants by **Friday 19 March 2021**.

9. Anonymity

All Phase 1 submissions will be evaluated anonymously, via use of the Unique Registration Number (URN) issued at the time of registration. The URN should be prominently displayed on each of the design submission sheets, report and declaration form. Please refer to the section How to Register to obtain a URN.

Any submission that has identifying marks (including logos, text, insignia, or images that could be used to identify the submission's authors) will be automatically disqualified.

10. Disqualification

Submissions shall be excluded from the Competition:

- If an Entrant shall disclose his or her identity, or improperly attempt to influence the decision;
- If received after the latest time stated under Phase 1 Submission Method;
- If, in the opinion of the Evaluation Panel, it does not fulfil the requirements of the Competition Brief;
- If any of the mandatory requirements of the Competition Brief and Conditions are disregarded.

11. Phase 1 Submission Requirements

There are **four** elements to the design submission, each of which should bear the Unique Registration Number (URN) only. Entrants should refer to the Anonymity requirements and submit the following material digitally:

- 1. A maximum of 2x landscape sheets** (equivalent to A3 in PDF format only)
- 2. A written design statement** (maximum 1000 words)
- 3. A completed declaration form**
- 4. One visual image**

Competition Conditions

11.1. A maximum of 2x landscape sheets (equivalent to A3 in PDF format only) to comprise:

The layout of the sheet/s are left up to competitors' discretion however please demonstrate clearly the main characteristics of the scheme.

The proposals should be presented in a clear and succinct manner to enable Evaluation Panel members to readily understand the essence and design drivers behind the scheme.

Please note that the submissions may be viewed on a tablet, laptop or large screen and may also be printed out at A3 for the purposes of assessment, so this should be taken into consideration when putting together the submission.

The URN should be prominently displayed on the front face of each design sheet in the top right hand corner, together with the order in which the sheets should be viewed (1 of 2 etc).

Physical architectural models will not be accepted as part of the Phase 1 submission. However images of models used to develop the design proposal may be included on the design sheet(s).

11.2. A written design statement (maximum 1000 words) in support of the submission.

11.3. A completed declaration form which should bear the URN in the dedicated section on the form. Please note the team members stated on the declaration form will be used as the credits in all promotional activity so please ensure this is reflected accurately.

11.4. In addition, to the pdf of the design sheets, **one visual image** of the design concept should be provided for publicity purposes. The image should be representative of the ideas proposed and be readily identifiable as such. The image should be submitted in JPEG format, in a low resolution (72ppi) with an image width of at least 1000px.

11.A. Phase 1 Submission Method

Each Phase 1 design submission should be uploaded to the RIBA Competitions digital entry system before 14:00 hours (BST) on **Thursday 22 April 2021**. Further details and a unique secure link will be issued to registered competitors.

Please note that the total upload should not exceed 20MB.

Late entries will not be accepted and the digital entry system will not permit uploads after the deadline. The digital entry system will allow you to amend or delete the information you upload until the stipulated deadline date and time. You are strongly advised to familiarise yourself with the system and to allow adequate time for your submission material to successfully upload.

11.B. Phase 2

Further briefing information will be provided to the shortlisted teams and they will be provided with feedback from Phase 1 and asked to further develop their initial design ideas. The shortlisted teams will be invited to an interview to discuss their design ideas further with the Evaluation Panel.

Entries for both phases must be submitted in English.

12. Evaluation Criteria

Phase 1

- Overall quality of the design approach
- Response to the brief
- Inventiveness and imagination
- Clarity of presentation

Phase 2

- Design interpretation, response to feedback following Phase 1 assessment and Phase 2 briefing
- Viability of the submission
- Creativity and Innovation
- Clear presentation and communication of ideas to explain the ethos behind the proposals

13. Notification of Result / Publicity

The competition results will be published after all competitors have been notified. Please note that any requests for feedback should be submitted to RIBA Competitions within one calendar month of a shortlist, or a result being announced.

Entrants must not release their designs for publication to any 3rd parties until permission has been granted from the RIBA. Entrants should note that by entering the competition they are expected to honour the request for confidentiality to prevent information of the shortlist or the winning team being leaked to the Press before any official announcement is made.

The RIBA reserve the right to publicise the competition, any design submission, and the result in any promotional activity, including all social media channels, they consider fit. Illustrations of any design – either separately, or together with other designs, with or without explanatory text – may be used without cost. Once anonymity has been lifted, authors will be credited and recognised in all associated media and publicity. This information will be taken from the declaration form so please ensure the details are accurate.

14. Honoraria

It is intended that five teams will be selected to proceed to the second phase. Each shortlisted team who submits a Phase 2 entry will each receive an honorarium of £4,000 +VAT. The client undertakes to pay these honoraria payments within six weeks of the conclusion of the competition. Invoices for payment should be submitted to RIBA Competitions.

15. Copyright

The ownership of copyright will be in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 - i.e. Copyright rests with the author of the submitted design.

16. Post competition Commitment

It is the intention, funding permitting, to commission the author of the winning scheme to develop and implement their winning design, working in association with the client to take the scheme forward and through to completion.

In the event that no scheme meets the requirements set out in the Competition Brief, the client reserves the right not to proceed beyond the competition stage.

Progression of the winning scheme will be dependent upon successful planning and funding applications.

The role of RIBA Competitions is limited to the administration and management of the competition process. The RIBA will have no further role once the winner has been selected and entrants notified.

17. Enquiries

The competition is being managed and administered by RIBA Competitions on behalf of the client.

All enquiries relating to the competition should be directed to:

RIBA Competitions

+44 113 203 1490

riba.competitions@riba.org

Members of the evaluation panel, client representatives or the RIBA Adviser should not be contacted for information as this may lead to disqualification from the competition.

