

MEDIA RELEASE

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Design teams bring world of experience to the Gold Coast

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate has announced the three teams which will compete for the opportunity to design the Gold Coast's landmark cultural precinct.

"They include Japan's largest architectural firm, a strong local and international consortium, and a team with some of Australia's most notable cultural projects in their portfolio," he said.

From a field of 75 entries, drawn from across the globe, an expert jury has shortlisted (*Details over page*):

- **ARM ARCHITECTURE**
- **CRAB_VOGT_DBI**
- **NIKKEN SEKKEI**

Each shortlisted team will be awarded \$250,000 to participate in an intensive 12-week Stage Two design period.

Mayor Tate said the teams would earn 'every cent' of the fee, as they were being asked to deliver comprehensive designs which would require engineering, planning, landscaping, acoustics, digital, cultural, theatre design and a range of other investigations.

"This competition has trained some of the world's best design minds on our city and what will be our future cultural heart."

Mayor Tate, who was among four local representatives on the eight-member jury, said there were many submissions worthy of selection and the jury had a real challenge choosing just three.

"There was great diversity in the designs. Concepts ranged from single-roof structures to clusters of buildings and those with buildings dispersed across the site."

He said the three shortlisted teams had demonstrated that they understood the city's vision for a distinctly-Gold Coast, landmark precinct which could evolve over time to become the natural heart for arts and culture for the Gold Coast.

"As well as a New Arts Museum and a Living Arts Centre, the teams were challenged to make a landscaped Artscape integral to their designs. These will become our natural civic gardens, connecting to the green bridge which is planned to connect to Chevron Island."

Cr Tate said it was important to guarantee a fair competition, by protecting the intellectual property of each competitor until the winner could be announced later this year.

"That is why we can only announce the names of the teams at this stage of the competition."

Team profiles

ARM ARCHITECTURE

<http://www.a-r-m.com.au/>

Team leaders, Melbourne-based national and international architectural firm ARM Architecture, is responsible for many of Australia's best-known cultural projects, including Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance Visitor Centre, Melbourne Theatre Company, Canberra's National Museum of Australia and Perth Arena.

ARM is partnered with landscape architects TOPOTEK1 (Berlin), theatre planners Shuler Shook (US and Melbourne), acoustic engineers Marshall Day (Melbourne), sustainability and engineering consultants Arup (global), museum and exhibition designers Cunningham Martyn Design (Melbourne) and indigenous and cultural consultants Duncan Gibbs and Michael Aird (Gold Coast).

CRAB_VOGT_DBI

www.crab-studio.com

This team creates a local and international architectural alliance between respected Gold Coast-based DBI design and global architectural firm CRAB Studio (London). Landscape architecture will be led by Zurich/London-based VOGT. CRAB is among the most recognisable names in global architecture and is known locally for its design of the nearly completed Soheil Abedian School of Architecture at Bond University.

The team will also partner with structural engineers Bollinger and Grohmann (Frankfurt), sustainability consultants Max Fordham (London), acoustic consultants Marshall Day (Melbourne), theatre consultants Theatreplan (London), urban informatics Arup (Sydney), light installation artist Bruce Munro (UK), lighting designer Andre Tammes; and a support team of Gold Coast-based companies: GMP quantity surveyors, Habitat ecological engineers, AECOM transport, building and acoustic consultants, UPS urban planning, CERTIS accessibility consultant, Robert Bird structural engineer and TDLD lighting consultants.

NIKKEN SEKKEI

www.nikken.co.jp/en/

Japan's largest architectural firm, Nikken.JP (Tokyo) is partnered with landscape architects Earthscape (Tokyo) and art museum managers Mori Art Museum (Japan) to form the core team. Nikken Sekkei's many cultural projects include Japan's Hoki Museum, Pola Museum and Hyogo Performing Arts Centre.

Additional expertise will be sought through a support team including civil engineers Nikken Sekkei Civil, sustainability consultants Nikken Sekkei Research Institute, and Brisbane architects Lambert and Smith and quantity surveyors Mitchell Brandtman (Australia).