



WEST LAKES RENAISSANCE



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## FINAL THREE FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE TO BATTLE FOR EGREMONT CASTLE GLORY

DESIGNERS from the United Kingdom, Switzerland and United States will battle for glory in a competition to transform a ruined West Cumbrian castle into a unique all weather events venue.

Creative Egremont – a public art regeneration strategy – has announced a final shortlist of three for the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) International Open Design Competition for Egremont Castle. Jean Gilles Decosterd, from Lausanne, Switzerland; Yehre Suh and Justin Kwok, from Brooklyn, USA; and Moxon with Built Engineers from London, were selected from 27 entrants from across the globe.

The competition is to design a removable performance pavilion that can be erected inside the central bailey of the 12th Century Castle to host concerts, plays and other public events, regardless of the weather. All three of the shortlisted designs (attached) demonstrated an innovative approach to balancing the need for a striking performance area with the historically sensitive and dramatic surroundings of the castle.

Creative Egremont is a public art strategy devised by Grizedale Arts in partnership with the Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership. This strategy aims to improve opportunities for arts and culture in the town as part of its ongoing regeneration. The RIBA competition has been funded by Urban Regeneration Company West Lakes Renaissance and Arts Council England.

Ann Morton, from the Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership and Friends of the Castle, said “By working closely together our organisations have brought to fruition a long standing dream to have an all weather venue for events that compliments sympathetically the Castle’s original architecture and ambience”

Alistair Hudson, of Grizedale Arts, said: “All three of the short listed entries have the potential to provide a landmark piece of architecture that is also of great benefit and use to the community and West Cumbria.

“What I found particularly exciting was the application of the latest technical building techniques to ensure the sensitive treatment the castle structure and to bring this historic building back into the life of the community.”

Ann-Marie Cowperthwaite, Project Manager at West Lakes Renaissance, said: “The competition is really starting to heat up now.

“Providing new facilities for culture and the arts is an important part of the regeneration push in Egremont for the benefit of the local community and visitors alike. We are now looking forward to seeing them further developed as concepts and this exciting project moving closer towards becoming a reality.”

The shortlist announcement comes a fortnight after the 27 entries were displayed at Egremont’s Methodist Church Hall, giving local residents the chance to view them and then indicate their favourite.

The overall winner of the competition will be announced in November following an interview presentation to a board of judges. The winning design will be chosen to be put forward for funding and taken forward as part the Egremont Regeneration strategy.

## **Ends**

*Attached*

- 1) *Entry from Jean Gilles Decosterd, from Lausanne, Switzerland*
- 2) *Entry from Yehre Suh and Justin Kwok, from Brooklyn, USA*
- 3) *Entry from Moxon with Built Engineers*

## *NOTES TO EDITORS*

Egremont Regeneration’s international open ideas competition, for the design of a new performance structure within the castle keep at Egremont Castle in Cumbria, was run with the support of RIBA Competitions Office and Grizedale Arts who implement Egremont’s creative strategy.

Competition entries were invited from architects, designers, engineers and students of these disciplines to take part in the competition.

The Competition, part of the Creative Egremont public art strategy, was promoted by Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership and Grizedale Arts. The aim was to find an innovative new design for a removable structure which will allow the castle to be used for concerts and public performances. This project is part of an ambitious regeneration strategy for Egremont and is funded by West Lakes Renaissance and Arts Council England.

The competition was open internationally to architects, designers, engineers and students of these disciplines. Collaboration between disciplines was actively encouraged.

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2) West Lakes Renaissance is leading the regeneration of Furness and West Cumbria. We are:

- Investing £200 million in Furness and West Cumbria over the next 10 years to stimulate economic growth and create 5,000 new jobs
- Co-ordinating regeneration activity across an 80 mile long area in order to attract private sector investment
- Creating a knowledge-based economy based on new skills and business growth

For more information on West Lakes Renaissance visit [www.westlakesrenaissance.co.uk](http://www.westlakesrenaissance.co.uk)

3) West Lakes Renaissance is supported by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), which leads the economic development and regeneration of England's Northwest and is responsible for: Supporting business growth and encouraging investment; Matching skills provision to employer needs; Creating the conditions for economic growth; Connecting the region through effective transport and communication infrastructure; Promoting the region's outstanding quality of life. [www.nwda.co.uk](http://www.nwda.co.uk)

4) Cumbria County Council is a founding partner of and the accountable body for West Lakes Renaissance. [www.cumbria.gov.uk](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk)