

Competition Conditions

1.0 Invitation

Grizedale Arts in conjunction with Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership (under the project title Creative Egremont) invites submissions for an international open design competition for the design of a new performance structure within the castle keep at Egremont in Cumbria.

The competition is organised with the support of the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Competitions Office.

2.0 Objective

The new performance structure will hold events and activities for both the local community and visitors to the town. The new structure will have to be removable or collapsible in order to ensure the sympathetic treatment of the castle structure (it is a scheduled monument managed by English Heritage). It is hoped that the new structure will form part of a wider regeneration of the area, providing a landmark architectural project and increasing the volume of tourists visiting the town.

3.0 Intention to Build

It is intended that the winning scheme will be taken forward for capital funding and realisation.

4.0 Competition Format

Submission of designs which will be assessed anonymously and three designs selected for further development. One of these designs will be chosen to be taken forward as part of the town's regeneration strategy.

5.0 Eligibility

The competition is open internationally to architects, designers, engineers and students of these disciplines. Collaboration between disciplines is actively encouraged. No member or employee of the promoting body nor the jury panel shall be eligible to compete or assist a competitor.

6.0 Jury Panel

Robin Snell, Snell Associates, RIBA Adviser
Alistair Hudson, Grizedale Arts
Ann-Marie Cowperthwaite, West Lakes Renaissance
Ann Morton, The Friends of Egremont Castle Group
Simon Walker, Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership
David Southward, Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership
Andrew Davison, English Heritage
David Gaffney, Arts Council England
Joanne Wallis, RIBA Competitions Officer

Joanne Wallis & Simon Walker will sit on the panel as observers only

In the event of a jury member being unable to continue to act through illness or any other cause, the promoter in consultation with the RIBA will appoint another assessor.

7.0 Public Consultation

Prior to the assessment of designs the schemes will be displayed in Egremont for public consultation. Comments raised through this exercise will be made available to the jury panel.

8.0 Assessment Criteria

The proposed designs will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The visual impact and aesthetics of the proposed design
- Sympathetic treatment of the castle structure
- Economy of design
- Innovative solution to the restrictions of the context
- Removability
- Functionality/ease of use
- Anticipated ongoing maintenance considerations

9.0 Prize Money

The three designs short listed at stage 2 will each be awarded a \$2,000 honorarium.

10.0 Timetable

The timetable for the competition, which may be subject to variation, is as follows:

Brief available:	18 July 2007
Question deadline:	10 August 2007
Replies to questions:	17 August 2007
Submission deadline:	7 September 2007
Public Exhibition	14 - 16 September 2007
Assessment:	w/c 17 September 2007
Shortlist announced:	w/c 24 September 2007
2nd stage design presentation	w/c 22 October 2007
Winner announced	29 October 2007

11.0 Submission Instructions

A1 boards : Competitors should submit their design proposals on a maximum of 2 A1 lightweight boards, to include all illustrations, drawings and descriptive text. The first board should mainly describe the structure and the second board should mainly describe how the structure is used and operates.

A separate report should be provided on not more than 2 A4 sheets.

Declaration: The declaration form signed, and placed in the 'official envelope' provided with the competition documentation.

Models will not be accepted although photographs of models may be included on the boards.

See 'anonymity' section below.

The promoter and the RIBA Competitions Office will exercise all reasonable care but will not be responsible for loss or damage to drawings that may occur either in transit or during exhibition, storage or packing.

Competitors are advised to retain copies of the designs submitted.

12.0 Submission Method

Submissions should be contained in a single package and sent, carriage paid, addressed to the RIBA Competitions Office, 6 Melbourne Street, Leeds LS2 7PS, clearly marked 'RIBA/Egremont Castle to arrive no later than 2.00 pm on 7 September 2007

Competitors requiring proof of delivery should enclose in their package a stamped, sealed envelope addressed to a third party (to preserve anonymity). This will be posted on receipt of submission.

13.0 Anonymity

Packages and the designs they contain should be sent in without name, motto or distinguishing mark of any kind and be accompanied by the declaration form provided, which should be placed in the 'official envelope' provided. The RIBA will place a number on each drawing and on the official envelope. The envelope will not be opened until after the selection has been made.

A successful competitor must be able to satisfy the assessors that he/she is the bona fide author of the design he/she has submitted.

14.0 Disqualification

A design shall be excluded from the competition:

- If received after the latest time stated under submission method;
- If, in the opinion of the assessors, it does not substantially meet the requirements of the brief;
- If a competitor shall disclose his or her identity, or improperly attempt to influence the decision;
- If any of the mandatory requirements of the competition conditions and brief are disregarded.

15.0 Copyright

The ownership of copyright in the work of all competitors will be in accordance with the Copyright and Patent Act 1988, that is copyright rests with the author.

16.0 Announcement of Award

At the conclusion of the competition the RIBA will publish the winning names after communicating it individually to each of the competitors.

All the designs may, by agreement, be retained for a further period by the promoter for the purposes of exhibition and publicity.

The promoter or the RIBA may publish illustrations of any design, either separately or together with other designs with or without explanatory text.

17.0 Questions

Questions relating to the competition brief and conditions must be addressed in writing to the RIBA Competitions Office to arrive on or before 10 August 2007

A statement in response to all questions will be circulated to all competitors on 17 August 2007.

18.0 Registration Fee

The registration fee is non-refundable. Registration fees are inclusive of VAT.

19.0 Enquiries

Any enquiries relating to the general conditions of this competition should be addressed to the RIBA Competitions Office and not the competition promoter.

RIBA Competitions Office
6 Melbourne Street
Leeds LS2 7PS
Tel : ++44 (0) 113 2341335
Fax : ++44 (0) 113 2460744
e-mail : riba.competitions@inst.riba.org
www.ribacompetitions.com



Open Design Competition

Egremont Castle New Performance Structure



This new open design competition invites architects, engineers, designers and students of these disciplines to design a new performance structure within the castle keep at Egremont, Cumbria, to hold events and activities.

RIBA



www.creative-egremont.org

Introduction

Creative Egremont is a public art strategy co-ordinated by Grizedale Arts in partnership with the Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership. Rather than commissioning works of art, this strategy seeks to establish and develop a sustainable infrastructure for cultural development, through a number of key projects, such as a castle lighting scheme, a radio station, landscape projects, a mobile folk archive and the reinstating of the town's historic Greasy Pole event.

One of these key projects is to create a new performance structure to go inside the castle keep, a space which is already used for public theatre and concerts but is subject to the vagaries of the West Cumbrian weather.

Creative Egremont is seeking ideas for a structure which will provide a covered stage and audience area for theatrical, literary and musical events. The constraints of the site provide a challenging brief, as the structure must be removable and not have any impact upon the site, which is a scheduled ancient monument.

Three short listed designs will be taken forward to second stage design, after which a winner will be selected. The winner will be appointed to develop the design with the intention of constructing the winning design, subject to funding being secured.

It is hoped that the application of contemporary design will provide a much used venue and promote a modern image of Egremont with a dynamic and forward thinking culture.



Site and Context

Egremont is an ancient and historic rural market town. Once the principle economic centre of the region, it gradually lost its influence with the growth of nearby Whitehaven in the industrial revolution. More recently its culture has been dominated by the industries of iron ore mining in the 19th and 20th century and, more recently, the Sellafield nuclear plant which is four miles to the south.

With the decline of this industry (Sellafield is now being decommissioned) Egremont faces a new future as it moves away from the reliability of industrial labour toward the enterprise and tourist culture of the 21st century.

The Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership has received funding from the North West Regional Development Agency's Market Town Initiative and from West Lakes Renaissance to implement a number of regeneration projects within the town. The arts strategy and RIBA competition form an integral part of this endeavour.

Egremont's Norman Castle currently holds two Green Flag awards, under the open spaces and historical categories. The scheduled monument and its ruins occupy a prominent position to the South West of the town's historic market place.

Egremont Castle and Egremont itself has its origins in the 11th century, when a small stronghold was built on a steep hill by William de Meschines, to defend against attack from Scotland to the north. In 1215 the castle was passed to the De Moulton family and in 1315 it saw its most violent episode when the castle was besieged by the forces of James Douglas under Robert the Bruce. The Percy family bought the castle in 1522, but by 1578 the castle was in an advanced state of decay.

The castle is now owned by Lord Egremont and managed jointly by English Heritage and Copeland Borough Council in partnership with The Friends of Egremont Castle Group. It lies within an area of small park and garden, which is open to the public free of charge and is a popular recreation area throughout the year.

Community involvement is at the heart of Egremont castle and grounds. The Friends Group are very active and work very closely with the parks department in the management of the castle and grounds, to help promote interest and raise funds. The Friends Group promote community events within the grounds such as Medieval enactments, poetry readings, open air theatre, band and choir concerts and the Christmas fireworks display.

Creative Egremont saw the development of this activity as a key part of the cultural and regeneration strategies for the town. This competition seeks

a creative solution to the site, which will create a covered venue for these outdoor events and attract more events and visitors to the town. The aim is to enhance the contemporary function of this historic site, as a valuable asset for Egremont.

Currently the rectangular lawned area within the castle bailey forms an ideal open air venue. It is open to the skies but surrounded on four sides by the ruined walls, most dramatically at northern end with the imposing remains of the baillie wall.

The new structure should be designed to be erected in or moved into this space when events demand, yet be removed or packed away when not in use. It is important that the structure does not have a negative impact on the castle fabric or visual aspects of the original structure. There is open air space within the castle grounds, with vehicular access, where the new structure could be stored.

Egremont lies on the west coast of Cumbria, outside the Lake District National Park. As a post industrial region it does not benefit from the tourist economy of the central Lakes and has been targeted for regeneration.

The town's geographic isolation and distinct working culture have developed a unique culture of family and community groups, activities and folk art. The latter is manifest every September in the 700 year old Crab Fair, a curious mix of country sports, idiosyncratic events and contemporary culture. The fair is best known for the World Gurning Championships which forms the finale of the weekend.

This folk culture was featured prominently in the artists Jeremy Deller and Alan Kane's Folk Archive, a European touring exhibition of English Folk Culture. As part of the current art strategy, the two artists are working with Creative Egremont to reinstate the town's Greasy Pole (as permanent public sculpture) after insurance restrictions prevented the event taking place after 2003.

The town's music scene is also very developed with a broad range of groups, from Classical Concerts to a wide range of young bands.

This new building will provide a much needed, high profile venue which will further the development of Egremont's culture through increased participation and provision of a destination venue for the whole region.

This project is funded by West Lakes Renaissance (a subsidiary of the North West Development Agency) and supported by Arts Council England North West.

Links

www.creative-egremont.org
www.visitegremont.co.uk
www.grizedale.org

Open Design Competition
Egremont Castle
New Performance
Structure
Supporting materials