

Thursday 27 February 2014

Avanti Architects scoops Florey revamp

27 February 2014 | By [Elizabeth Hopkirk](#)

Architect beats strong shortlist to work on James Stirling's Oxford building

Avanti Architects has been picked to revamp James Stirling's Florey building in Oxford.

The practice beat John McAslan, Feilden Clegg Bradley, Hawkins Brown, Nicholas Hare and Levitt Bernstein.



Avanti Architects' Florey building proposal

The project involves updating the 40-year-old grade II building at the Queen's College which is widely regarded as an emblem of modernism.

Linda Irving-Bell, Queen's home bursar, said: "This competition was quite a revelation to the college, as the innovative ideas proposed were beyond our expectations.

"We were particularly delighted with the possibilities that Avanti showed us in respect of the Florey Building, and the flexibility of ways in which we might move forward.

"We are currently discussing these possibilities further with Avanti before decisions are made about the final brief."

Malcolm Reading, who organised the competition, said all the shortlisted entries were "serious and creative" but that two shone out.

Avanti director Amir Ramezani said: "The regeneration of the building sets many intellectual challenges and

we look forward to assisting the college in making a massive qualitative improvement in how the building is perceived and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike."

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everyone always 'scoops' things.

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"We are currently discussing these possibilities further with Avanti before decisions are made about the final brief." This could be interpreted as a very positive outcome or another example of wasted time and effort for the five unsuccessful competitors. It will be interesting to see the schemes, feedback and rationale for the decision.

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I hope Avanti can explain why they are proposing to wreck Stirling's ideas (moreover on a building that is listed) by inserting a flight of steps of their own invention and destroying Stirling's ramp down to the river. I find this incredibly presumptuous and completely unacceptable.

If the great Stirling had wanted steps there, he'd have included them in his project. This arrogance by Avanti is quite appalling. Stop them before it's too late! God only knows what other horrors they have in mind for the building.

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@Andrew, you'll enjoy how they've added more rooms under the building and eliminated the double height rooms at the top.

Will be interesting to hear why the judges preferred their proposals.

»» [Andrew Morris](#) | 27 February 2014 1:55 pm

OMG – this is vandalism – must be stopped