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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Winning teams announced to help shape Highgate Cemetery for future generations**

World-famous Highgate Cemetery, resting place of many well-known people from Karl Marx to Lucian Freud, today announced the two winning teams in its Landscape and Architectural Projects competitions.

The competitions, which were launched last November, attracted practices with some of the most creative and internationally recognised expertise in their fields. Highgate Cemetery is delighted to announce that the winner of the Landscape Competition is Gustafson Porter + Bowman, and the winner of the Architectural Projects Competition is Hopkins Architects.

The teams will assist the Cemetery in preparing a new 25-year masterplan for the site, which will secure its future and ensure it remains a historic, and sustainable, 21st century cemetery. It will include provision of modern facilities for those looking after the site as well as improving it for grave owners and visitors.

**Martin Adeney, Chair of the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust said**:
“Our competition briefs set out the challenges and opportunities for Highgate Cemetery posed by climate change, decay and evolving visitor expectations. Those responding were asked to balance these requirements with the fact that we are a working cemetery - no easy task.

“The two we have chosen, Gustafson Porter + Bowman and Hopkins Architects, will work together on a long-term plan that will ensure Highgate Cemetery is fit for the 21st century. We were impressed by the work and thought that all the entrants put in, but the winners stood out. Both practices demonstrated a level of sensitivity and respect for the Cemetery which is fundamental to the success of any plans. They appreciate the long-term nature of the project, whilst also bringing the experience and the technical expertise we need.

“We will now work alongside the winning teams to develop detailed plans, and look forward to updating on these in due course. The project will be led by the landscape and its needs, and the architectural requirements will ensure listed monuments and historic buildings are well cared for, as well as exploring how to get the most out of the site and, where required, providing improved facilities.

“As part of the Landscape Competition we held an online exhibition and we are very grateful for the feedback we had from the public on the entries. These comments were fed into the judging panel and have been provided to the winning landscape team. There will be many more formal and informal opportunities for consultation and comment as our plans take shape.”

**Landscape overview**

Gustafson Porter + Bowman’s approach explores how to use the topography of the site with changes of atmosphere between different areas. Working with the historical and natural character of the Cemetery this will ensure that visitors enjoy a tranquil and peaceful experience with a mixture of shady glades and more open grassy meadows.

Their approach to planting and trees aims to create the most resilient and sustainable landscape for future generations. To protect against new diseases - such as ash dieback - a mix of planting will be explored, increasing biodiversity on the site and widening the range of ecological systems which can be supported.

The team will look at ways to link the landscapes of both the East and West Cemeteries sympathetically and to frame and enhance some of the site’s historic vistas towards St Paul’s and central London.

Highgate Cemetery is very grateful for the support and guidance of the Landscape Institute who helped run the Landscape Competition.

**Architectural overview**

Hopkins Architects will use condition surveys to inform a careful programme of repair and conservation. Their new work will celebrate the gravitas, unique history and rich symbolism of the site.

Balancing the functional requirements of a working cemetery with the demands of an increasing number of visitors, their proposals will provide improved facilities for grave owners, volunteers and staff, and unlock the potential for enhancing the visitor experience.

All proposals are at a very early stage and will be considered as part of the wider masterplanning for the Cemetery and the two winning teams are announced subject to contracts.

A short film about Highgate Cemetery, the people that make it and more details of the competition winners can be found at [www.highgatecemetery.org](http://www.highgatecemetery.org)

Highgate Cemetery is very grateful for the support and guidance of their project managers Artelia UK, for their support with both competitions.

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**Media background information - The Landscape Competition**

**Winner: Gustafson Porter + Bowman**

**Overview:** Gustafson Porter + Bowman are an award-winning landscape architecture practice based in London. We have a talented team of landscape architects, architects and urban designers led by 5 partners. Our wide-ranging specialisations allow us to engage with a multitude of projects from the urban masterplan scale to bespoke designs.

Our design process is always based on a deep understanding of a site; its geographical context and the organisations and cultures that shape them. We always visit our sites, research their location, history, hydrology, soils, plant communities, local context and site constraints. We will talk to clients, stakeholder and local people about their needs and ambitions. Only once we feel that we have understood these will we start developing a strong conceptual framework that lends meaning and distinctiveness to a development.

Our aim is to never repeat our work, but to remain inventive and sensitive, but also change perceptions, creating landscapes that are both cherished and remembered.

**Team and expertise:** GP+B will be the Landscape Architect, Masterplanner and Lead Consultant for the project. They will oversee an experienced and skilled team of specialists who have been assembled to explore the opportunities and challenges of this compelling site.

The team will be led by GP+B’s founding partner Neil Porter. He will work closely with the full design team to develop the vision for the project. He has a great deal of experience leading GP+B’s high-profile cultural projects and over 30 years of experience in the industry. He is adept at working closely with clients to understand their ambition and vision, and will present to the board of trustees, key stakeholders, and press at key moments throughout.

GP+B would like to thank the team who worked with them during the competition, and those who will continue to support them through the duration of the project including Jo Thompson Landscape & Garden Design, Max Fordham, Bartlett Tree Experts, Donald Insall Architects, Tim O’Hare and Ashgrove Ecology.

**Quote from Neil Porter**

 *‘Gustafson Porter + Bowman would like to thank the Highgate Cemetery Trust for selecting us to work on this incredibly exciting project. Our excellent and experienced team of subconsultants will support us in exploring the various landscape challenges and opportunities on what is a complex site, and together we will transform one of London’s most iconic cemeteries into one that continues to flourish as a place for burial, and a reserve for nature in the 21st century. We are looking forward to building a relationship with the local community, extracting and sharing Highgate Cemetery’s wealth of stories, and implementing an ‘experience plan’ for a sustainable future.*’

**Media background information – Architectural Projects Competition**

**Winner: Hopkins Architects**

Hopkins Architects has, over the last 40, years completed many award-winning projects, both in the UK and internationally. The practice has a specialism in contextual yet modern design for historical or sensitive locations, with an approach that is deeply rooted in an understanding of place, and local and cultural needs.

**Simon Fraser**

Simon Fraser**,** Hopkins Principal, will lead on the Highgate Cemetery project and brings over 30 years’ experience. He has designed and delivered some of the practice’s most prestigious and complex projects. Simon also lives nearby Highgate Cemetery on the other side of the Heath and has a keen interest in the historical layering and meaning of cities and places. Simon studied at the Mackintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow, the Architectural Association in London and Tokyo University of Fine Arts and Music.

**Design Team**

Our approach is highly collaborative. In putting a team together for the Highgate Cemetery project, we have selected a group of creative people comprising:

Hopkins Architects, who have extensive experience designing and delivering award winning projects in sensitive historic settings, such as Norwich Cathedral Refectory and Hostry, the Alnwick Garden Pavilion and Glyndebourne Opera House in Sussex;

Webb Yates (Structural Engineers), who have substantial experience in the conservation and restoration of historic structures, including St Alphage Garden and Hackney Arts Centre;

Skelly & Couch (Services Engineers), who have specialist expertise in environmental design for listed and heritage projects and are currently working on a restoration and redevelopment for the Grade I listed British Academy;

West Scott (Heritage Consultants) who have 30 years of expertise and experience in the conservation of historic buildings and have already carried out surveys, refurbishments and repairs to buildings at Highgate Cemetery; and

Nick Perry Associates (Principal Designer) who are currently working with Hopkins, Webb Yates and Skelly and Couch on a project to redevelop the historic Twickenham Riverside.

We very much look forward to working with Highgate Cemetery and Gustafson Porter + Bowman to deliver a sensitive yet compelling project.

**Quote from Simon Fraser**

*“We are delighted to have been selected to help secure a sustainable future for Highgate Cemetery. We believe this project is about learning from the rich symbolism and meaning of the past, whilst being sensitive to the present. Our approach will be to anticipate future needs, and support the evolution of the cemetery in a way which retains its essential character.*

**Notes to Editors**

**Available for interview**

* Martin Adeney, Chair of the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust
* Dr Ian Dungavell, CEO of Highgate Cemetery

**Images and footage**

* High-res images of Highgate Cemetery are available, along with one visual from both teams that demonstrate the direction of their ideas
* Footage, including drone footage, of the Cemetery
* A short video which gives an insight into the Cemetery (its history, the challenges it faces and its vision for the future), told by the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust, staff, volunteers and visitors to the site, is also available.

**For links to images/footage, or to arrange interviews, please contact Adela Cragg or Morag Wood at the Culture Communications Collective on:**

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**About Highgate Cemetery**

1. Highgate Cemetery, opened in 1839, was set up by a private company. From the outset it welcomed visitors captivated by the beauty of its scenery as well as those who came to remember the dead. They would muse on the meaning of the inscriptions, admire the art of the monuments and no doubt reflect on their own mortality. But it was a victim of its own success: as space ran out it became uneconomical to run and by the 1970s was virtually abandoned by its founders.
2. Today, Highgate Cemetery is owned and run by the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust, who saved it from dereliction in 1975. It is a registered charity and all income is devoted to the maintenance and enhancement of the site for the public benefit.
3. It is the resting place of many well-known people, from Karl Marx to Lucian Freud, George Eliot to Radclyffe Hall, Michael Faraday to Beryl Bainbridge, as well as 170,000 other Londoners.
4. The Highgate Cemetery Landscape Competition is being managed and administered by Artelia UK and the Landscape Institute on behalf of Highgate Cemetery Limited, which is the operating subsidiary of the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust.
5. The Highgate Cemetery Architectural Projects Competition is also being managed and administered by Artelia UK.
6. To find out more about Highgate Cemetery, visit [www.highgatecemetery.org](http://www.highgatecemetery.org/)
7. An overview of how the competitions operated is below.

**COMPETITIONS OVERVIEW**
The two competitions were open to landscape architects and to architects respectively, and multi-disciplinary landscape, architecture and design practices could choose to enter both competitions. The competitions were run simultaneously as the landscape, buildings and facilities need to be considered together.

**Highgate Cemetery Landscape Competition**

* **In Stage 1** entrants were asked to set out their preliminary landscape vision and framework as well as their experience of projects such as Highgate Cemetery. It was open to everyone who is a qualified landscape architect registered with the Landscape Institute in the UK or the equivalent in their home country.
* **In Stage 2** the four shortlisted teams were asked to develop their initial designs for which they received an honorarium. Their submissions included fee proposals and responses on a number of issues that will form our contract with them. An online public exhibition in April 2021 garnered more than 86 responses which were fed into the judging panel. The winning team has now been appointed to develop their proposals for implementation.

**Highgate Cemetery Architectural Projects Competition**

* **In Stage 1** entrants needed to complete a four-part Standard Selection Questionnaire, including explanations of how they would approach the project, similar projects they have successfully delivered in the past, and details of their team.
* **In Stage 2** six shortlisted teams submitted their approach to how they would help us define our requirements in detail, key issues that need to be addressed in designing in such a sensitive location as well as who their supporting technical team would be.  Five companies went through to the judging panel and their submissions included fee proposals and responses on a number of issues that will form our contract on appointment.