

Results of Mount Pleasant Phase 2 Competition – Embargoed until Thursday July 20th

The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum has announced the results of their competition for designs for the second phase of their plan to turn their alternative masterplan for the Mount Pleasant site into a reality. A fascinating variety of entries was received, in line with the community's broader objectives around Mount Pleasant: to promote debate, openness, and collaboration with the aim of achieving the highest possible standards in the design of buildings and open spaces around the sorting office site and throughout the Neighbourhood Area.

The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum was pleased to welcome submissions from across the architectural profession, including young professionals and seasoned experts. As requested, entrants imaginatively interpreted the site's context, and creatively challenged the master planning principles. Entrants explored a range of styles and strategies, and there was a healthy dose of both eccentric and typically London designs, as encouraged by the brief.

Edward Denison from the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum commented that *'The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum has always championed the widest possible public and professional engagement in the future of this important site. This competition is further evidence of the importance of this kind of approach. We were delighted and extremely grateful to see such a range of entries and in particular the innovative engagement by young professionals, all of which is further proof that there should have been a much wider and deeper engagement of local and professional communities by the Royal Mail Group to obtain the best possible outcome for this site and for London - for the many and not the few.'*

Nicholas Boys Smith, Director of Create Streets commented: *'We are delighted to be able to again work with the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum to organise this competition. The range of possibilities demonstrated by these entries show the enormous benefit that the community's alternative master plan could bring to the area. The competition demonstrates that achieving the alternative master plan is a realistic and feasible proposition, and once again shows the value of communities and professionals working together.'*

In light of the diversity of approaches, rather than selecting just one overall winner, the Mount Pleasant Association have instead decided to award commendations to three entrants:

Clarke Renner

Clarke Renner's response to the brief was deemed particularly appropriate: their entry featured a substantial and well-justified explanation, and aimed to *'explore how to create large scale, tall buildings, with even storey-heights, in such a way that they work proportionally and in harmony with the classically-derived, 5/6 storey scale of the proposed buildings on the main part of the site as well with the scale of Gough Street itself.'*

Their entry sought to 'imply rather tall buildings along Gough Street, stepping down at the rear, and grouped around a pedestrian court,' and to 'articulate these massive buildings in a graceful, London-feeling style.'

Each of the buildings was treated in a slightly different style, lending a sense of variety to their appearance. Their use of nearby reference points such as Pump Court in the Inns of Court by Fleet Street, and Gough Court, home to Samuel Johnson, also impressed some members of the panel: this approach was in keeping with the heritage and history elements that have formed an important part of the community's designs for phase 1.

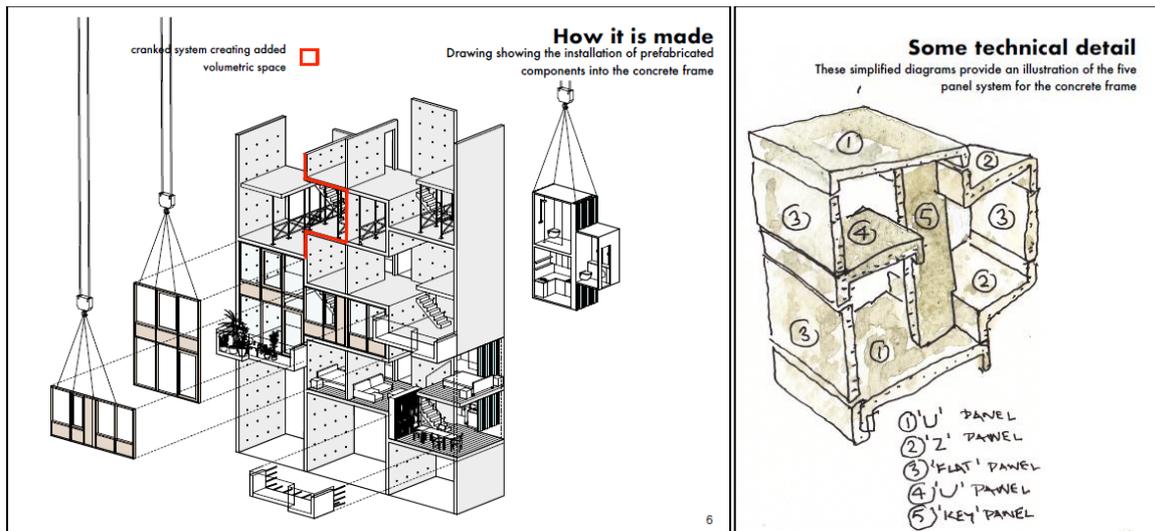


Solid Space Architecture

Solid Space's innovative entry was underpinned by a focus on 'invention, making, and long-term investment.' They focused on innovation within construction methods, and considered and identified the spaces where residents would 'eat, live and work.'

Their entry also left room for community involvement in a number of parts of the appearance of the building, which was a positive for some judges. Their attempt to maximise internal volume and use large windows to maximise light also impressed judges, who saw that this would create high-quality interiors to the flats in the scheme.

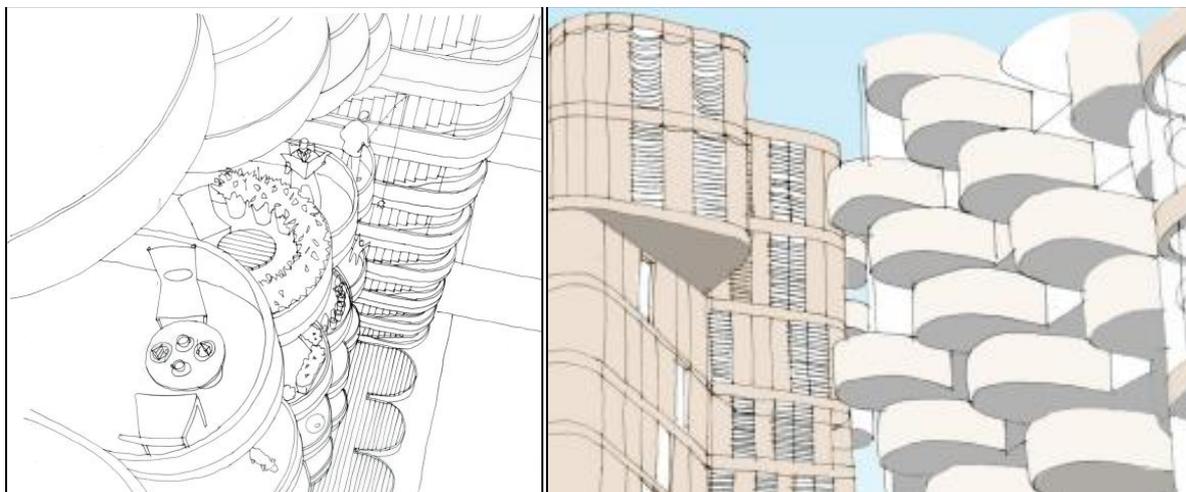
Flexibility was also a key feature of the entry - both in terms of construction and post-construction personalisation of units, which also brings benefits in terms of deliverability and affordability, which some judges found particularly appealing, especially in light of the desire locally to maximise the provision of socially rented homes.



Atomik Architecture

Atomik's bold and distinctive proposal was based on a striking repeating semi-circular motif to the exterior of their buildings. The proposals take account of the surroundings and attempted to '*soften the sharp edges of the master planned block,*' by '*tapering and stepping up*' the building. The massing of the structure and its characteristic outline frame views and routes around the site.

The thinking behind internal elements of the Atomik Architecture proposal, in particular the generous layouts of the flats, also impressed judges. The guideline unit outline was adjusted, so that each would '*span the width of the building to gain views, and ventilation, from both sides.*' This dual aspect arrangement was done to improve ventilation, light and views. Furthermore, every unit had a garden, and the project was tenure-blind. Judges were impressed by the potential quality of the flats in this entry that these features would ensure.



Next Steps

The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum and Create Streets have been in touch with the winning architects. They are in the process of setting up meetings with each, to award their prizes and to discuss how they might work together as the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum moves forward with their plans for the site. The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum would like to sincerely thank all entrants for their contributions to the competition. The results reflect the overall discussions by the panel and the comments above are not specific to any individual judge.

Further information

The full information about the competition can be found online [here](#)

For any queries about the competition please email contact@createstreets.com