

Annexes plan extension

design suddenly scrapped by council

COMPETITIONS GO AWRY



Hanada's winning design for the Stockholm library extension.

conspiracy about why this letter came out now when the competition was two years ago. It may be that it was just to help the politicians."

Stephen Taylor, director of Stephen Taylor Architects, said he was unsurprised the project had collapsed.

"There was always going to be great hostility about how you site a new building in close proximity to this monument – a building that is very cherished by the people of Stockholm," he said. "It also reveals the weakness of the selection process. [Hanada's design] was obviously not robust enough."

Fellow entrant Jonathan Woolf called for the contest to be held again.

"As I understand it, the competition has been cancelled due to concerns over the demolition of the existing annexes to the main library," he said. "There was a monumental amount of commitment and effort in the staging this competition. Clearly there needs to be a rethink on the way forward since the brief has changed."

"If you look at what happened with the Berlin Neues Museum extension, the competition ended up being re-run which allowed those competitors from the final 10 projects the opportunity to resubmit new designs."

Cheese grater site set to be city farm

Mitchell Taylor Workshop has won the competition to transform Richard Rogers' stalled "cheese grater" site into public space, BD understands.

The young Bath practice's city farm proposal has been selected from an invited shortlist of 13 (*News* October 30) to find a new use for the site on Leadenhall Street in the City of London for up to four years.

Judges were charmed by the practice's innovative ideas, which include a wild flower bank and the Square Mile's first-ever allotments whose produce will be sold to City workers from a series of kiosks.

They were impressed that the project met developer British Land's tight £125,000 budget.

Schemes by Carmody Groarke and AY Architects also proved popular. The developer still has a veto on the judges' decision.

A source close to the judges said: "A lot of the practices took a very formalised approach with a space for people to sit in their Hugo Boss suits and eat their sandwiches. But [Mitchell Taylor's] was a much more interesting idea, to have a garden where people could grow their own fruit and veg."

The practice has been in talks with potential operators. They were surprised to discover mediaeval City planning laws would



Wild flowers on the City site.

allow the farm to have sheep, goats, pigs and a cow.

Piers Taylor said: "It looks bold and ambitious but it's deliverable for £125,000. It's also quick to install – and to remove should the market change significantly."

"It's exciting in terms of what it might offer other vacant sites and opportunities to engage the public realm."

Meanwhile, Peter Rees, one of the judges of the Leadenhall competition and the City's head of planning, said more developers should bring in architects to carry out temporary makeovers of recession-hit sites.

Speaking at a debate at New London Architecture last week, he said the local authority was determined to make sure derelict sites did not blight the Square Mile.

"We don't want them lying fallow for a decade and we don't want them to bring down the value of the surrounding land," he said.

Glasgow job may see Nightingale recruit

whether this is true. Important cultural people have debated it, saying it is spitting on Asplund. Perhaps this is the true reason."

She added: "There is also some