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LSE tells stars to think again

7 November 2013 | By [Elizabeth Hopkirk](#)

OMA, Rogers and Hopkins proposals not yet good enough, university says

OMA, Rogers Stirk Harbour and Hopkins have all been told their designs for a £90 million competition for the LSE's biggest ever building project are not good enough.

The three are joined on the shortlist with Heneghan Peng and Grafton Architects for the school's new Global Centre for Social Sciences building – which involves replacing several buildings on the school's Aldwych campus.



A winner was due to be named this week but the LSE's estates director Julian Robinson told BD: "Each of the schemes has got interesting ideas but there's not one really outstanding scheme. There's some further work to do by the practices and the LSE."

Robinson said a winner is now set to be named by the end of the year and admitted the school was disappointed it hadn't been able to pick one yet. "It may be to do with the design brief constraints and sheer scale of what we are attempting there," he said. "It was an exceptionally challenging brief as it's right in the middle of our campus."

Robinson said back in the summer that the jury – which includes LSE director Craig Calhoun and Ricky Burdett – had found it easy to agree on the shortlist and predicted they would be in for a "real treat" when then final proposals were made in October.

The school is engaged in an extensive building programme with O'Donnell & Tuomey set to complete a new student centre building on the Aldwych campus next January.

Robinson said the decision to choose the Irish practice had been easier because of the quality of its submission: "With that competition, their scheme was head and shoulders above the rest," he said.

News of the delay comes in the same week the LSE announced it is planning a £100 million international design competition for a site it has bought on Lincoln's Inn Fields in Holborn.

The LSE bought 44 Lincoln's Inn Fields, an eight-storey post-war building, from Cancer Research last month. The charity will be a tenant of the university until 2016 when it moves out to make way for construction of the new building.

A design competition for the scheme, which will include an academic faculty along with staff accommodation, will be launched next summer.

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