

## **For immediate release – 16 January 2020**

### **Winner chosen to design new landmark Markets at Birmingham Smithfield**

A highly energetic and collaborative team led by David Kohn Architects has been chosen as the winner of an international competition to design a new home for the historic Birmingham markets in the heart of Birmingham city centre.

Led by David Kohn Architects, the team includes Birmingham-based Eastside Projects, located in Digbeth, alongside Todd Longstaffe-Gowan, Mark El-khatib, Charcoalblue, Price & Myers, WSP, Urban Space Management, Plan A Consultants and Max Fordham. Existing traders and the wider community will also be invited to feed in ideas and to collaborate as the design process progresses.

The new markets will be the centrepiece of the £1.5 billion Smithfield development - positioned adjacent to the Bullring and Digbeth, and a short walking distance from Birmingham's existing New Street and future HS2 stations.

The winning team was chosen from more than 70 entries received from across the world in a strongly fought competition. Competitors were asked to submit sketches, images and diagrams that described the guiding principles that they would want to explore in the design of a market for Birmingham, and a single image or sketch that captured the spirit and character of the market that the team would like to create.

David Kohn Architects' winning submission recognised the importance of capturing and sustaining the passion and energy of the current markets and the wider city. It also addressed the significance of the markets and traders to the wider city community, and the strength of opportunity offered by blending old and new.

The jury, which included Birmingham City Council (BCC) Leader Ian Ward and internationally renowned architect Amanda Levete, felt that the winners were a team with great vision, collaboration skills and energy. The winning team gave real

confidence that, in its hands, the new markets will become a fantastic centrepiece for this redeveloped area of the city, and a memorable experience for both existing residents and new visitors to Birmingham.

Bek Seeley, Interim Managing Director, Development, Europe, said: "This design competition has been an exciting process for all those involved. We believe the team will work collaboratively with the existing community and traders, as well as Birmingham's creative talent, to create a new market that respects the city's heritage while also looking to the future."

Councillor Ian Ward, Leader, Birmingham City Council, said: "As anticipated, this competition attracted an incredibly high standard of skill and creativity, but the winner clearly stood out as the team to take this exciting project forward with a collaborative approach that I am confident will bring out the very best of our fantastic city."

David Kohn, Director, David Kohn Architects, said: "We are absolutely delighted to be working with Lendlease, Birmingham City Council and the wider community on such an important project for the city. Smithfield has been the productive centre of markets and makers since the foundation of Birmingham and integral to its success as the 'City of a Thousand Trades'. We are looking forward to working with local businesses and communities to explore the future of markets and the city through this unique legacy."

Lendlease is Birmingham City Council's preferred development partner for Smithfield and the Markets are central to the City Council's Big City Plan, a 25-year vision to support the development of a world-class city centre. As well as a new markets building, the Smithfield development will deliver a significant family leisure and cultural offer, a new public square, integrated public transport and more than 2,000 homes with a public park and community facilities.

The design competition was managed by Colander Associates on behalf of Lendlease and BCC; it ran in two stages culminating with each team participating in an interview with a Jury Panel that included RIBA Stirling Prize winning architect, Amanda Levete

# MEDIA RELEASE

CBE, Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of BCC, Bek Seeley, Interim Managing Director, Development, Europe, Lendlease, Simon Delahunty-Forrest, Acting Assistant Director, Development, BCC, Selina Mason, Director of Masterplanning, Lendlease, Gary Woodward, Development Planning Manager – City Centre Team, BCC and Janet Kidner, Operations Director, Birmingham Smithfield, Lendlease.

The full final shortlist included:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Studio with John O'Mara Architects, Counterculture, New Economic Foundation, The Planning Practice, Donald Hyslop, EMF Landscape and Arup
- ACME and b720 Fermín Vázquez arquitectos with James Corner Field Operations, ECF Farmsystems, onedotzero, dn&co, AKTII
- David Kohn Architects, Eastside Projects, Todd Longstaffe-Gowan, Mark El-khatib, Charcoalblue, Price & Myers, Max Fordham, WSP, Urban Space Management and Plan A Consultants
- Moreau Kusunoki Architects with McGregor Coxall, Glenn Howells Architects, Arup
- Publica with Alejandro Echeverri, Shigeru Ban, Waugh Thistleton Architects, Nigel Dunnett, AKTII, Doshi Levien

## ENDS

For further information please contact:

Andrea Klettner, Senior Communications Manager, Lendlease, Europe

Email: [andrea.klettner@lendlease.com](mailto:andrea.klettner@lendlease.com)

Phone: +44 (0)7843 413674

Jonathan Edwards, Head of External Communications, Lendlease Europe

Email: [Jonathan.Edwards@lendlease.com](mailto:Jonathan.Edwards@lendlease.com)

Phone: 07753581086

Visit [www.lendlease.com](http://www.lendlease.com) or follow us on Twitter [@Lendleaseuk](https://twitter.com/Lendleaseuk).

