

Press release:

Meeting Architecture

Architecture and the Art of the Extra Ordinary

Allford Hall Monaghan Morris Architects presents theory on essential architecture of the Universal Building at the British School at Rome

Opening lecture with Simon Allford, Director at Allford Hall Monaghan Morris:
3 July 2017 at 18:30

Exhibition dates: 3-21 July 2017

Private view: 3 July 2017 at 19:30



IMAGES: New Scotland Yard and University of Amsterdam
(© Timothy Soar)

The forthcoming exhibition *Architecture and the Art of the Extra Ordinary* and accompanying talk by Simon Allford reveals Allford Hall Monaghan Morris Architects' development of their theory on essential architecture of the Universal Building as well as the practice's core design beliefs. The exhibition, hosted by the British School at Rome, focuses on how their approach is manifested in six projects in the very diverse physical, political and cultural projects in cross-global locations of Amsterdam, the United States and India.

The importance of the art of an Extra Ordinary Architecture to AHMM's four founding partners was established in *The Fifth Man*, their joint diploma thesis at The Bartlett School of



IMAGE: Burntwood School
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Architecture in 1986, which they stated that '*function alone is not sufficient means to generate architecture; and that it is in the field of everyday buildings that architecture has failed the city*'. AHMM's work has since explored how Extra Ordinary architecture is made from the ordinary, making the generic specific to each project without precluding to further uses and contexts in an unknown future. Each curated presentation in the exhibition will comprise an architectural model and collected archival material related to the project. Additional projects from AHMM's 20 years in practice will be illustrated in the exhibition through slide projection.

The six case studies presented in *Architecture and the Art of the Extra Ordinary* are:

AELP Masterplan: A masterplan including an unbuilt campus for American Energy Partners and the redevelopment of a former wine store belonging to the company's owner to create a fitness centre and now the home of a renowned ballet company.

Burntwood School: The Stirling Prize-winning reimagining of a secondary school, retaining and celebrating existing Modernist buildings and adding new, more flexible modular structures in order to accommodate current and future teaching and learning facilities.

Chobham Academy: An all-ages education campus, first serving as a training, administrative and security hub during the London Olympics, and now serving children and young people in a new east London community. Sited in the north-east corner of the former athletes' village, the school serves a pivotal role in attempting to stitch two very different worlds together. To the east, across a deep railway cutting and a jumble of industrial sheds, lie the terraced streets of

Leyton and Stratford, home to some of London's most deprived wards, where over a third of children still live in poverty.

New Scotland Yard: The redevelopment of a 1930s building to bring the Metropolitan Police headquarters back to the heart of London's government district includes flexible working and meeting spaces.

University of Amsterdam Roeterseiland Campus: The reimagining and reconfiguring of two 1960s university buildings, picking up the threads of an uncompleted masterplan and knitting them back into the fabric of the city.

Headquarters campus in India: Driven by a nationwide policy to establish and promote centres for expertise and innovation in the technological sector, this proposal for a tech headquarters in India develops AHMM's concept of the flexible universal building.

The exhibition will run from 3 to 21 July 2017 at the British School at Rome, via Antonio Gramsci 61, 00197 Rome. On 3 July Simon Allford, Director at Allford Hall Monaghan Morris will give an inauguration lecture, where he will introduce the practice's key philosophies and will discuss each of the case studies in the exhibition. The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception and preview of the exhibition.

The idea of Extra Ordinary architecture is further explored in an eponymous book from AHMM's publishing company, also named Fifth Man.

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Listings information:

Architecture and the Art of the Extra Ordinary

British School at Rome

Dates: 3-21 July 2017

Opening times: Monday to Friday, 16.30 - 19.30

Address: Via Antonio Gramsci, 61, 00197 Roma, Italy

Website: www.bsr.ac.uk

Twitter: @the_bsr

Instagram: www.instagram.com/britishschoolatrome/

About AHMM:

Established in 1989 with offices in London, Bristol and Oklahoma City, Allford Hall Monaghan Morris makes buildings that are satisfying and enjoyable to use, beautiful to look at and easy to understand. The practice designs very different buildings for very different people to use in very different ways, making places as well as buildings that work over time and have lasting qualities intrinsic to their architecture.

Winner of the RIBA Stirling Prize and recipient of many other awards for architecture and design, the practice has received public and media acclaim for its work across sectors. AHMM is known for its reinvention of buildings and places including the Angel and Tea Buildings, Television Centre, the Barbican, and New Scotland Yard, as well as key new commercial, residential and education developments in the UK and internationally including projects for Google in London, Europe and India.

www.ahmm.co.uk

About the British School of Rome

The BSR's history dates from 1901, when it was founded as a 'school' for research in archaeology and Italian studies. 'Every period of the language and literature, antiquities, art and history of Rome and Italy shall be considered as coming within the province of the BSR. The BSR is situated in the Valle Giulia on the site of the 1911 British Pavilion. The Pavilion was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and then adapted by him to become the home of the British School at Rome. A major project of renovations and new buildings was completed in February 2004, with further work to improve the building's sustainability being carried out in 2015-16.

Financial support comes from:

- The British government through the British Academy
- Activity-specific sponsorship
- Ongoing private support from donors
- Members

The majority of staff are based in Rome with a small London office at the British Academy in London.

www.bsr.ac.uk