

## Winners of The Cooling Towers Competition

### "Ladies & Gentlemen, I give you the winners of the Cooling Towers Site Design Competition 2007!"

After much time and consideration the prize winners for the Cooling Towers Site Design Competition have been announced. They are:

*First Place - Insite Environments*

*Second Place - DLA Architecture Ltd*

*Third Place - Astudio Ltd, in collaboration with Alfredo Caraballo*

Please click [here](#) to view sample photos of the three winners.

Organised on behalf of Groundwork Sheffield by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the competition sought imaginative, inspirational ideas for the future use of the brownfield land surrounding the Tinsley Cooling Towers, Sheffield (adjacent to Junction 34 of the M1). Open to registered architects, landscape architects, engineers, town planners and urban designers alike, it received nearly 100 registrations from around the world.

Each of the three prize winners brought something striking and original to the table in their designs. First placed 'Insite' chose to include beautiful new towers with a steel lattice frame to mirror the natural, organic forms that have reclaimed the site; towers that are to be of a similar scale and proximity to the Tinsley Viaduct as those existing. Second placed 'DLA' combined the theme of renewable energy generation with huge hydroponic towers housing research areas for growing bio fuels, whilst third placed 'Astudio' enhanced their mixed use scheme with a retained cooling tower whose exterior would "bristle" with balcony-like pod structures.

Helen Batt, who co-ordinated the competition on behalf of Groundwork Sheffield, was thrilled. "We are particularly pleased with the way the competitors responded to the opportunities for creating high quality green space on the site. New wetland features and areas of woodland, as well as existing habitats, have been incorporated to provide a visually exciting landscape and a public park for local residents and workers."

The competition was also supported by Sheffield City Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, English Partnerships and E. ON UK, with the three other finalists who didn't make the winner's podium being Moxon Architects, Sheffield Wildlife Trust and Sprunt.

The next steps from the competition are currently being discussed; the winning scheme was strongly supported by the organisations involved in judging the competition, providing a firm basis for developing the vision into a masterplan for the site.

But as Helen comments, "the prize winning schemes should not be viewed as complete blueprints, but the basis of a shared vision around which the main partners can coalesce to move the site forward. The feasibility of the development proposals and the impact of issues such as flooding need further work."

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