

THE FUTURE OF ARCHITECTURE AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS IS TRANSFORMED BY MAJOR GIFT FROM THE DORFMAN FOUNDATION

The Royal Academy of Arts today announced a generous gift from the Dorfman Foundation which will significantly transform the future of architecture at the Royal Academy. As the RA prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2018, the support from the Dorfman Foundation will enable the RA to launch two new international architecture awards, together with the restoration of the majestic Senate Rooms in Burlington Gardens to house a new architecture space and cafe. Coupled with the Royal Academy's new commitment to host a yearly architecture exhibition, the gift will realise the RA's mission to garner a wider appreciation and understanding of architecture, bringing to the fore its vital relationship to culture and society.

The annual international awards will encompass the **Royal Academy Architecture Prize**, honouring an inspiring and enduring contribution to the culture of architecture and the **Royal Academy Dorfman Award** that champions new talent in architecture. The awards will be nominated and awarded by distinguished architects and artists, alongside international curators and critics. The inaugural jury will be chaired by the architect and Royal Academician Louisa Hutton. The Royal Academy Architecture Prize winner and the shortlist for the Royal Academy Dorfman Award will be announced in January 2018. In May 2018 a week-long public celebration will include the announcement of the winner of the Royal Academy Dorfman Award and also include an address by the recipient of the Royal Academy Architecture Prize. Collectively the awards will demonstrate and heighten the RA's role as a global advocate of architecture.

Alongside the awards, as part of the major redevelopment by internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA, a new Architecture Studio will open in 2018. Located in the Dorfman Senate Rooms, the Architecture Studio will provide a permanent home for architectural display and a creative space that invites audience engagement with innovative and critical ideas on architecture and its intersection with the arts.

Every year the RA will present a significant architecture exhibition in the refurbished galleries for temporary exhibitions in Burlington Gardens. The new Lecture Theatre will provide space for a greatly enhanced programme of talks, debates, symposia, performances and other architectural events, accommodating much larger audiences than ever before. Historic and contemporary architectural elements will be displayed in new spaces within the expanded campus.

Christopher Le Brun, President, Royal Academy of Arts, said: "Architecture has been a core element of the Royal Academy since its foundation in 1768 with Sir William Chambers RA, one of the founding members and first Treasurer of the RA, being the architect of Somerset House, the Royal Academy's first home. Over the centuries, the RA has built on its unique position as an artist and architect-led organisation with 23 internationally renowned architect Academicians who help to run the Academy today."

Charles Saumarez Smith, Secretary and Chief Executive, Royal Academy of Arts, said: “25 years ago the RA received an endowment that founded a dedicated public programme for architecture. We are very grateful to the Dorfman Foundation whose support will enable us to renew and significantly increase our commitment to architecture, realising our ambition to deepen the public’s understanding of architecture and to inspire the profession.”

Lloyd Dorfman, Trustee of the Royal Academy Trust, entrepreneur and philanthropist, said: “I have always had an interest in architecture and design and am delighted to support these exciting plans for architecture at the RA. The Academy has been led by artists and architects for nearly 250 years, and this will revitalise its presence and profile. The international awards will recognise the best in architecture, and again highlight the RA’s role in London’s cultural life and also London’s status as a world centre for architecture.”

Kate Goodwin, Head of Architecture & Drue Heinz Curator, Royal Academy of Arts, said: “The RA is perfectly placed to lead an inclusive and vital discussion on architecture, championing quality, creativity and courage. Architecture is a constant presence in all our lives that is enhanced through wider engagement and vision which together with these awards, the reinvigorated Architecture Programme and our new spaces offer.”

The Lord Davies of Abersoch CBE, Chairman of the Royal Academy Trust, said: “On behalf of the trustees, I would like to thank the Dorfman family for their generosity in what is another important milestone for the RA.”

Notes to Editors:

Lloyd Dorfman CBE

Lloyd Dorfman is an entrepreneur and philanthropist. His family foundation supports charities in a range of areas. This gift to the Royal Academy is one of a number of recent gifts totalling around £10 million to charities including Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Royal Opera House, Westminster Abbey, Prince’s Trust, Prince’s Trust International and JCoSS (a Jewish secondary school in north London).

He is the Founder and President of the Travelex Group, the world’s largest retailer of foreign exchange. In 2014, an agreement was reached to sell the business, following which he retains a 5% shareholding.

He has a variety of other business interests. Having been Chairman and majority shareholder of The Office Group (the leading flexible office company) from 2010 to 2017, he remains a shareholder following a recent deal with Blackstone. In 2014, he co-founded and became Chairman of Doodle, a retail business which enables people to collect, return and send their online shopping. He is also a Shareholder and Board Director of the London Theatre Company and Ben Ainslie Racing’s America’s Cup Challenge. He was on the Board of M&C Saatchi from 2004 to 2015.

In the charity sector, he became Chairman of the Prince’s Trust in August 2015 and became Chairman of Prince’s Trust International in December 2015. In addition, he is a Trustee of the Royal Opera House, the Royal Academy Trust and JW3; Deputy Chairman of the Community Security Trust. He was

a Governor of St Paul's School from 2005 to 2016. He served on the Board of the National Theatre for over nine years and one of its theatres, the Cottesloe, was renamed the Dorfman Theatre in 2013.

In 2008, he was appointed CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to business and charity. In 2011, he was awarded The Prince of Wales Medal for Arts Philanthropy. As of 2017, he sits on the Business Advisory Board of the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan.

He is a Freeman of Mercers' Company, an Honorary Fellow of St Peter's College, Oxford, and an Honorary Bencher of Lincoln's Inn. He is married with three children, five grandchildren, and lives in London.

Architecture at the RA

Architecture has always been at the heart of the Royal Academy. From William Chambers, the RA's first Treasurer, to John Soane and Edwin Lutyens, to Zaha Hadid and Thomas Heatherwick, the Royal Academicians have comprised the leading architects of their generation. Architecture holds an important place in the RA's Collection, with work gathered from Academicians since 1768 and architectural casts and books acquired for the teaching of students in the RA Schools. Architectural works have always featured in the Summer Exhibition and are now given a dedicated room, each year curated by a Royal Academician. Architecture has also been the subject of major exhibitions at the Royal Academy such as *New Architecture: Foster, Rogers, Stirling* (1986); *Living Bridges* (1996); *Richard Rogers: Inside Out* (2013) and *Sensing Spaces: Architecture Reimagined* (2014).

The Architecture Programme, which was made possible through the Drue Heinz Endowment for architecture in 1993, has grown to encompass a regular series of lectures, debates and symposia, new commissions and curated displays. The programme focuses on the intersection of architecture with the arts, aiming to deepen the public understanding of architecture and inspire the profession. In 2014 the RA launched the Architecture Patrons group to support Architecture at the RA, and for the past 3 years Turkishceramics have been the lead corporate supporters of the Architecture Programme.

There are currently 23 architect Academicians: David Adjaye, Will Alsop, Ron Arad, Gordon Benson, David Chipperfield, Peter Cook, Edward Cullinan, Trevor Dannatt, Spencer de Grey, Norman Foster, Piers Gough, Nicholas Grimshaw, Thomas Heatherwick, Louisa Hutton, Michael Hopkins, Eva Jiricna, Paul Koralek, Farshid Moussavi, Eric Parry, Ian Ritchie, Richard Rogers, Alan Stanton, Chris Wilkinson.

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About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programme promotes the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts and architecture through exhibitions, education and debate.

The RA is undergoing a transformative redevelopment which will be completed in time for its 250th anniversary in 2018. Led by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the plans will link Burlington House on Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens for the first time, uniting the two-acre site. The redevelopment will also reveal the elements that make the RA unique, sharing with the public the historic treasures in its Collection, the work of its Academicians and the RA Schools, alongside its world-class exhibitions programme. For more information on the RA visit www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250#video

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