

## Squire and Partners wins first major school job with west London sixth form centre

London practice beats education specialist to design £3 million addition based on local vernacular for independent girls' school in Olympia

**LONDON** Squire and Partners has won a design competition for a £3 million sixth form centre at St James Senior Girls' School in west London.

The AJ100 practice beat Wimbledon-based Ibbett Associates and schools specialist IID Architects to win the prestigious 820m<sup>2</sup> scheme – its first major education job.

Olympic Cauldron designer Heatherwick Studio was also invited to compete for the 100-pupil project, but declined.

Replacing a disused youth centre in a conservation area overlooking

Marcus Garvey Park, Squire and Partners' design features a series of steeply pitched roofs inspired by nearby mansion blocks.

Constructed from red brick, white stone and glazed rooflights, the building will include six classrooms, an assembly hall, a common room, cycle parking spaces and administrative offices.

Describing the plan, studio partner Tim Gledstone said: 'The local vernacular had clusters of buildings and courtyards. By treating our site as a mini-campus, the corridors have become as much the spaces as the classrooms.'

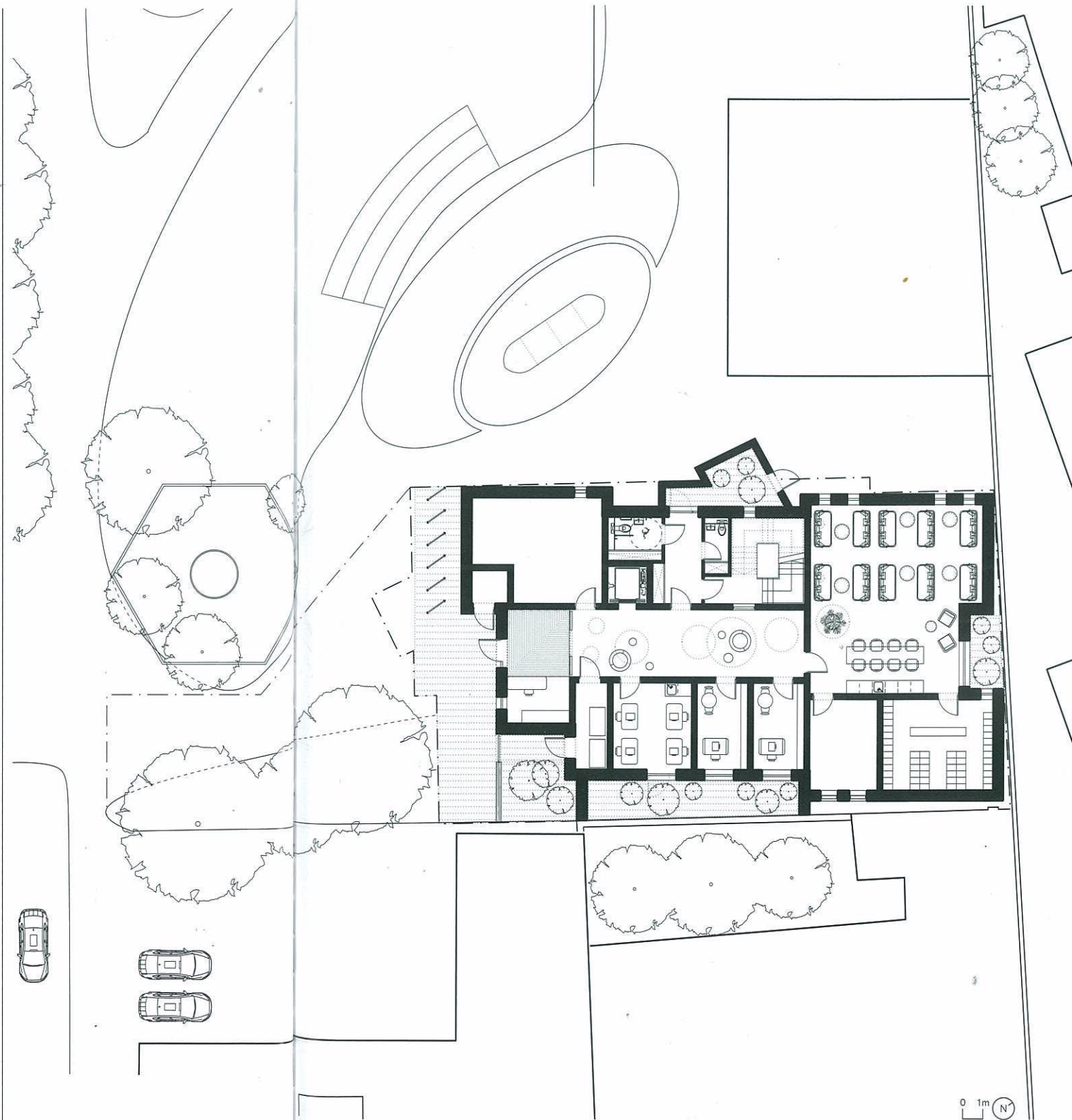
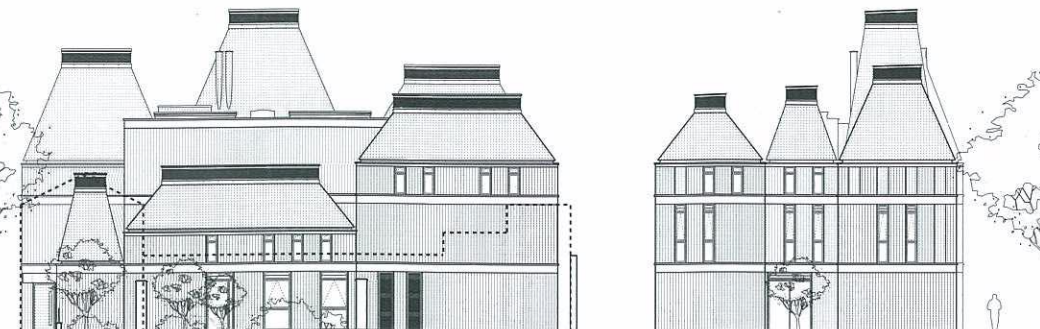
Jerome Webb, governor of the three St James Independent Schools, said: 'We didn't want to build a box.'

'We wanted something which said that this is an important aspect of [a young person's] life and it is important that it looks great.'

'Squire and Partners had the most coherent design logic and understood the ethos of the school.'

Plans have been submitted to Hammersmith and Fulham Council and the project is expected to be completed by September 2015.

*Merlin Fulcher*



## COMPETITIONS FILE

**Manchester University** is on the hunt for an architect to design a £200 million engineering campus. The new build and refurbishment works form part of a £1 billion expansion. The contract is due to start in June and complete in autumn 2018 [Completed PQQs due 29 July]

The **Palace of Westminster** has tendered a two-year framework for architectural services across its central London estate. The £600,000 contract features refurbishment, conservation, mechanical and electrical services. Four firms are expected to be appointed, with individual projects awarded through mini competitions [Expressions of interest due 5 August]

The **International Union of Architects** has launched a student competition for a transport hub in Durban, South Africa. Submissions must include long-term, short-term and immediate proposals. A £6,500 prize fund will be split between three winners. The charge to register is £32 [Register by 31 October] *Sean Kitchen*  
[TheAJ.co.uk/competitions](http://TheAJ.co.uk/competitions)

