

12 July 1995

**DOCKLANDS CAMPUS DRAWINGS UNVEILED AS
PRIVATE SECTOR GIVES BACKING**

Concept designs for the proposed Royals University College in London Docklands were unveiled today (12 July 1995), following a competition organised by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC). Four architectural practices were invited to submit proposals, with RMJM selected as the winning entry.

The project has also received its first pledge of support from the private sector with today's announcement that Peabody Trust is prepared to invest up to £7.5 million for student campus residences.

Key elements of RMJM's concept are the grouping of buildings along the water edge, providing superb views to the south across the Royal Albert Dock, and the sharing of leisure, health and shopping facilities with the local community.

Commenting on the concept drawings, LDDC Chairman Michael Pickard said: "RMJM's design demonstrates a clear understanding of the planning and design issues involved in creating a new university campus. The design team's concepts excite the imagination yet also give confidence that this is a scheme which could be developed to work well in practice."

The proposals for the first £38.5m phase of the university college are being driven forward by a partnership, the first of its kind in Britain, comprising four London higher education institutions - the University of East London, Queen Mary and Westfield College (University of London), London Guildhall University and City University - the LDDC, Newham Borough Council and LETEC (London East Training & Enterprise Council).

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Peabody Trust now joins this partnership, pledging finance to build campus homes for up to 500 students as part of the residential, shopping and leisure complex. The consortium is submitting an £8m bid to the Single Regeneration Budget which, if successful, could provide the impetus the project needs to attract further private sector investment from Britain and abroad.

The Royals University College is one of London's most exciting and visionary projects. It will form part of a series of initiatives regenerating the Royal Docks and the Lee Valley, accelerating the renewal of East London and laying the foundations for the development of the Thames Gateway.

Planned as a centre for 5,000 students, it will offer inter-disciplinary courses in media and communications, manufacturing and technology, design, health, business and management. The College is intended to meet the future educational needs of East London - where a significant increase in the number of 18-25 year olds over the next ten years is coupled with higher academic aspiration - as well as assisting in the economic and social regeneration of the area.

Professor Frank Gould, Vice-Chancellor of the University of East London, said: "This innovative scheme will create an institution which is responsive to the needs of students, employers and local residents, and will give all sections of the community the opportunity for life-long education. Local businesses will be able to link directly with the Royals Institute of Technology for research, development, training and consultancy, while the local community will also be able to make full use of the new facilities - whether they be educational, sporting or recreational."

The first students could start on campus by Autumn 1998 if the necessary funding is put in place.

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For further information contact:

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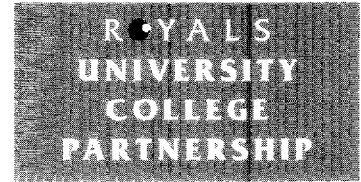
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**Christine Hodgson
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NOTE TO EDITORS

- 1. A selection of RMJM's concept drawings are available for reproduction. If you would like copies, please contact the LDDC Press Office on Tel: 0171-512 0444.**
- 2. A new brochure detailing the proposals for the Royals University College and outlining the case for its requirement was also launched today (12 July). A copy of this brochure is enclosed. For further copies, please contact the LDDC Press Office on Tel: 0171-512 0444.**



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