

OMAGH BOMB MEMORIAL WORKING GROUP

DESIGN COMPETITION

PROJECT BRIEF

1. The Competition

Omagh District Council has established an Omagh Memorial Working Group for the purpose of putting in place a permanent fitting memorial to the Omagh Bomb of 15 August 1998. The Working Group comprises representatives of a range of statutory, voluntary and community organisations including Omagh Churches Forum, Omagh Self Help and Support Group, WELB, Sperrin Lakeland Trust, Omagh District Council, Omagh Business Forum, FOCUS (an umbrella group for local Community Groups), The Omagh Fund. In addition an Advisory Tier to the Working Group has been established. This comprises representatives of, The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, The Irish Government, The Spanish Government, The Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Visual Artists Ireland and a Landscape Architect.

The Memorial Working Group has agreed that the site of the bomb in Market Street, Omagh and the site of the temporary memorial garden at Drumragh Avenue, Omagh will be the focus of the proposed memorial with both sites being treated in an integrated manner in respect of the memorial. It should be noted that the distance between the bomb site and the memorial garden is approximately three hundred metres. Given the physical constraints of the actual bomb site the Working Group has accepted that the main focus of the memorial will be the development of a permanent memorial garden with a central feature or features. However it is essential that designs for the memorial ensure that both sites reference the other and direct visitors to the other. In view of this the Working Group invites proposals from Design Teams for the design of such a memorial. Given the integrated nature of the project the Memorial Working Group will want to see evidence of competence and experience from design teams in respect of horticultural design/landscape design and implementation and visual/three dimensional design and implementation. The Design Team should include appropriately experienced professionals in the range of disciplines required to expedite this project to the satisfaction of the Memorial Working Group.

2. The Context

There are events which mark a deep cleavage both in their own time and in the overall history of a Country. The Omagh Bombing was such an event in the context of the history of Ireland north and south. The timing of the bomb coming as it did shortly after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement of that year was a crucial factor in making the event so significant. It was perceived both in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland as an attack on the peace process and was interpreted as a flagrant negation of the will of the overwhelming majority of people in the country. This timing, coupled with the fact that this was the single worst atrocity in the thirty years of the troubles in terms of casualties, provoked a reaction of sadness, helplessness and anger across the whole of the island in and throughout the rest of the world.

The reaction was characterised by prolonged and widespread media coverage of subsequent events in the town. In the weeks and months after the event countless thousands of floral tributes and messages of condolence dedicated to the people of the area arrived in Omagh from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and countless thousands of fund raising events took place across Ireland in support of the Memorial Fund. People across the island were galvanised in their support for the developing peace process and in their opposition to violence. It was evident that attitudes had changed. A mere eight years after the event it is difficult to put the event in a proper historical perspective but there is no doubt that in the future, historians writing about this troubled period in the history of Ireland will cite the Omagh Bombing as an event which significantly influenced subsequent developments.

The tenth anniversary of the bomb will be 15 August 2008. To date no permanent memorial has ever been erected to commemorate the event. It is imperative that a fitting memorial which is cherished and valued by the entire community is in place by 15 August 2008.

In bringing forward a fitting memorial to the event it is essential to reflect the support, love and healing which came from all over the world and particularly from throughout Ireland north and south and we must move forward in a positive and progressive manner but all the while remembering the atrocity inflicted and the carnage suffered. To this end we need to be reflective and reverential but positive, optimistic and forward looking in however we mark the event. To fail to do this would be to admit that those who planted the device in Omagh that day have been victorious. The attack was indiscriminate, unprovoked and brutal. The attack may have wrecked the town and killed and maimed many people but we have rebuilt our town, we remember our dead in a reverent way and we continue to support our injured and traumatised.

There has been much discussion about the nature of a memorial and what form it might take. In developing a fitting memorial we must be sensitive to the needs of a wide range of people and try to arrive at an agreed and balanced outcome through an inclusive process. We must be mindful of the suffering and needs of the families who were bereaved by the bomb including those families in Madrid and Buncrana. All of these families have of course developed their own private memorials to their loved ones. We must also be cognisant of the ongoing suffering of the vast number of people who were injured and traumatised by the bomb and who have been up to this point, a silent group of victims. Thirdly, we must include those who cared for the injured and bereaved and all those who joined actively in the task of reconstructing our community. Finally we must acknowledge the widespread reaction and support of people in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Subsequent political developments confirm that it was an event of national significance. It is obvious then that the development of an appropriate memorial to this event is necessary and it requires a process that is open, inclusive and collaborative. Accordingly, Omagh Memorial Working Group commits itself to engaging directly with all interested groups and individuals to ensure an outcome from the process which is cherished and valued by all.

In considering the nature of the memorial we must be aware of the geography of the actual site of the bomb and what it is capable of accommodating physically. We must also be cognisant of the fact that in the period after the event a temporary Memorial Garden was established at the corner of Market Street and Drumragh Avenue and was later moved to its current site in Drumragh Avenue, adjacent to County Hall. The temporary Memorial Garden will need to be completely re-designed and themed. In terms of the bomb site it must be recognised that there is insufficient space to accommodate a large memorial. To commission a memorial which is not significant in scale would be tantamount to understating the significance of the event.

It is therefore imperative that the bomb site and the Memorial Garden are treated in an integrated manner from a design perspective so that people are directed from one to the other. The design will have physical, emotional, spiritual and sensory dimensions. The experience of the memorial will provide sensory and spiritual stimulation and promote contemplation and healing. The manner in which the two sites are connected by the design is a key feature of this project.

In the aftermath of the bomb two things in particular gave solace, healing, support and a sense of purpose and optimism to the bereaved families, the injured and their families and the people of Omagh. These were the messages and books of condolence which were sent to the area from all over the world and the arrival of the floral tributes in the Town from all over the world but predominantly from throughout Ireland north and south. One significant impact of the bomb was the extent to which local people both individually and collectively were unable to express themselves. People seemed to have lost their voices and the area was characterised by an eerie silence. The floral tributes and messages of condolence helped people to find their voices again.

3. Conceptualisation

The above brief has been set out to assist design teams in the process of developing an appropriate concept design for the project. Whilst no specific theme has been prescribed for the competition, design teams may wish to adopt a thematic approach. Where this is the case the design team must set out a rationale for the specific approach adopted.

COMPETITION CONDITIONS

1 The Commissioner

The Commissioner is Omagh Memorial Working Group.

2 Administration

The administration of the competition will be provided by Omagh District Council. All queries in respect of the competition should be directed to Mr Frank Sweeney, Arts and Tourism Department, Omagh District Council, The Grange, Mountjoy Road, Omagh, County Tyrone, BT79 7BL. Telephone: 028 82245321; 048 82245321 (from ROI), 0044 2882245321 (from abroad) E-mail: frank.sweeney@omagh.gov.uk

3. The Commission

Omagh Memorial Working Group invites Submissions from suitably experienced Design Teams for the design and installation of a fitting permanent memorial to the Omagh Bomb of 15 August 1998. Proposals will treat the bomb site and the site of the memorial garden in an integrated manner.

4. The Site

The site is detailed on the attached map, plans and photographs and comprises of the bomb site in Market Street, Omagh and the site of the temporary memorial garden at Drumragh Avenue, Omagh. Both sites will be treated in an integrated manner in respect of the memorial.

5. Design Teams

Given the integrated nature of the commission, Design Teams should include competence and experience in the fields of landscape/horticultural design, visual art and project management.

6. Eligibility

The competition is open to Designs Teams which can demonstrate competence and experience in the relevant fields as detailed at Paragraph 5 above.

7. Ineligibility

No Member of Omagh Memorial Working Group, The Advisory Panel, The Panel of Assessors, Omagh District Council or any partner, associate or employee of any of the above bodies shall be eligible to compete or to assist a competitor.

8. Design Expectations/Considerations

The distance between the bomb site and the memorial garden is approximately three hundred metres. Given the physical constraints of the actual bomb site the main focus for the memorial will be the development of a permanent memorial garden that will include some form of central feature/features. It is expected that a visual artist or artists as part of the design team will be responsible for conceiving, designing and integrating this aspect of the proposal. It is essential that both sites reference the other and direct visitors to the other.

9. Wording

A key issue in respect of this memorial is the wording which might be used and where it might be located.

Omagh Memorial Working Group has not agreed any particular form of wording nor has it any preference for any particular form of wording. However any Design Team which wishes to make a proposal as to the appropriate wording to be used in the Memorial is invited to do so. In so doing they should stipulate exactly where the proposed wording is to be located.

In cases where a Design Team decides to propose specific wording they should be aware of the guidelines set out below which have been agreed by The Memorial Working Group.

1. Where wording is proposed design teams should consider how and where to include reference to what is being commemorated.
2. Where Design Teams wish to include additional wording they should consider the possible impact of their proposed wording on those who were injured and bereaved by the bomb and be sensitive to the needs of these victims. In such cases they should seek to integrate wording which has the potential to promote healing.
3. Design Teams should consider how their proposed wording integrates with their overall concept design.
4. Design Teams should be mindful that any agreed wording on the memorial will be in three languages, namely, English, Spanish and Irish. Accordingly they should be mindful of the vagaries of translation and the nuances which may arise.

Omagh Memorial Working Group reserves the right to use or not to use any wording proposed by Design Teams. However all proposals in respect of the wording will be considered and the Memorial Working Group will liaise closely with the Design Team selected to give further direction/guidance on this matter.

10. Budget

There is a total Budget of £242,000 for the design, production and installation of the Memorial. The budget is inclusive of the costs of materials, costs of manufacture, costs of installation, cost of ground works, landscaping costs, insurances, fees and where appropriate VAT.

Within the overall budget the total cost of the central feature/s, conceived and designed by the visual artist/s must not be less than £100,000 inclusive of fees, production and installation.

11. Intention to Commission

It is the intention of the competition Promoter to Commission the Winning Design, subject to all statutory approvals being obtained.

12. The Competition Process

The process will comprise a two stage open competition. At Stage 1 Design Teams are invited to submit an outline design concept as detailed at Paragraph 13 below.

On the basis of submissions received at Stage 1, the Panel of Assessors will select six Design Teams and invite them to prepare and submit detailed proposals for the memorial as set out in Paragraph 15 below.

The Panel of Assessors will recommend a Design Team to Omagh Memorial Working Group. The memorial Working Group will pass on this recommendation to Omagh District Council which will be responsible for taking the decision to appoint the recommended Design Team.

13. Stage 1 Submissions

At Stage 1 applicant Design Teams will be assessed on their competency and experience and on an outline design concept. Applicants must therefore submit the following:

- An outline concept design which should include a maximum of four pages of drawings and a maximum of 1000 words of explanation. The rationale for the proposed concept should be clearly articulated within the text.
- A detailed Curriculum Vitae for each member of the Design Team including their qualifications and experience of relevant projects.
- Evidence that the Design Team has the ability to successfully expedite a project of this scale.
- Clearly labeled visual documentation of schemes undertaken in the past five years. The documentation should explain the precise input of the Design Team members in respect of the projects referenced.
- An outline estimated schedule of costs.
- A signed declaration by the Design Team that the proposal is their work and that they are the owner of the copyright. The ownership of the Copyright will remain with the Design Team unless or until it is assigned.

14. Award to Short Listed Designs

The Panel will select a Short List of not more than six Designs to proceed to the second Stage of the Competition. The Design Teams on the Short List will be awarded £1,000 each upon fulfilling their Stage 2 obligations and submitting a bona fide proposal in accordance with the brief.

15. Stage 2 Submissions

Submissions for Stage 2 will include, visual material, written contextual information, detailed cost schedules and technical specifications. The full details of the specific requirements for the Stage 2 submissions will be forwarded to the short listed Design Teams at the start of Stage 2 of the competition.

16. The Panel of Assessors

The Panel of Assessors will comprise:

One Representative of Omagh District Council
One Representative of The Arts Council of Northern Ireland
One Representative of The Omagh Fund
One Representative of Omagh Self Help And Support Group
One Representative of Visual Artists Ireland
One Independent Visual Artist
One Independent Landscape Architect
One Representative of Omagh Churches' Forum
Two Omagh Community Representatives (Urban and Rural)
One Representative of Omagh Youth Groups
One Representative of the NI Centre for Trauma and Transformation

17. The Criteria

The criteria for the Stage 2 assessment are as set out below.

- The extent to which the Proposal integrates the bomb site and the memorial garden.
- The overall artistic quality of the Proposal.
- The cost of production and implementation of the project in relation to the budget.
- The potential of the Proposal to promote healing and reflection.
- The potential of the Proposal to make an impact with Members of the Public.
- Health and Safety.
- The levels and cost of maintenance required for the work.
- The ability of the Design Team to realise the concept.
- The previous experience of the Design Team in Commissions of this Scale and evidence of Excellence.

18. Copyright

The short listed Design Teams will retain copyright of their designs and proposals. However, they agree to allow limited reproduction of images and designs for the exclusive purpose of promoting or advertising the public exhibition of the shortlisted designs. The Memorial Working Group and its agents will have the right to use photographic and electronic images of the winning design for advertising and promotional/public relations/public information purposes.

19. Insurances

The Design Team appointed shall show evidence that it has appropriate insurances in place. This will include Professional Indemnity Insurance, Public Liability Insurance (Minimum £10 Million) and Employers Liability Insurance (Minimum £10 Million)

20. Submission Format

Submissions for Stage 1 will be accepted only in hard copy, which should be forwarded in a sealed envelope which is clearly marked on the front:

“OMAGH BOMB MEMORIAL DESIGN COMPETITION”

The Submissions should be forwarded to, **Omagh Memorial Working Group, The Grange, Mountjoy Road, Omagh, County Tyrone, BT79 7BL**, and should arrive not later than 12.00 noon on Friday 25 May 2007.

21. Timetable

Stage 1:

The closing date for Submissions for Stage 1 will be **12.00 noon** on **Friday 25 May 2007**.

The Panel of Assessors will meet on Wednesday 30 May 2007.

Stage 2:

Those short listed for Stage 2 will be notified by phone on **Thursday 31 May 2007** with confirmation in writing being posted out the same day.

The closing date for receipt of Stage 2 Submissions will be **12.00 noon on Friday 29 June 2007.**

The Stage 2 proposals will be placed on public display during July 2007.

The Panel of Assessors will meet on **Monday 30 July 2007** to receive presentations from the Design Teams short listed for Stage 2, and to select a Winning Design.

The outcome will be notified to all Stage 2 participants as soon as possible thereafter.

The entire project must be completed not later than Friday, 30 May 2008.

22. Disqualification

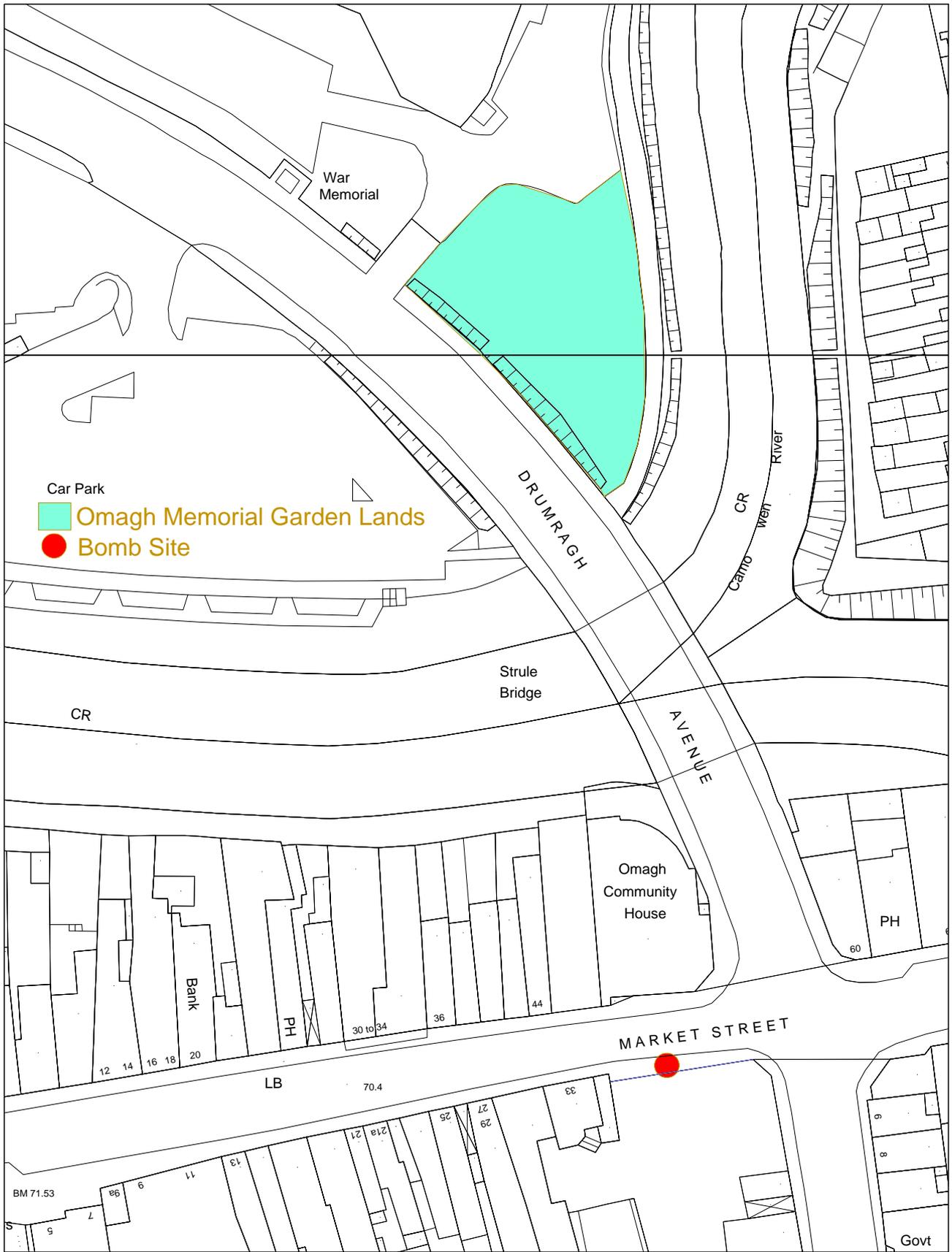
A Submission shall be excluded from the Competition if:

- It is received after the closing date.
- If, in the opinion of the Assessors, it does not substantially meet the Brief.
- It exceeds the Budget, or the Assessors determine that the probable cost will exceed the Budget.
- If a Competitor improperly attempts to influence the Selection.
- If any of the Requirements of the Competition Conditions and Brief are disregarded.

23. Freedom of Information Requests

Omagh District Council is providing the administration for this project.

Omagh District Council is Subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Design Teams should be aware that the information provided in submissions for both stages of the competition could be disclosed in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act. The Council will proceed on the basis of disclosure unless an appropriate exemption applies. No information provided by applicants will be accepted "in confidence" and the Council accepts no liability for loss as a result of any information disclosed in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act.



Omagh Bomb

Reference Sites for Archive Materials

www.omagharchive.co.uk

www.omaghbomb.co.uk

INDEX OF PHOTOGRAPHS:

<u>Photo no</u>		<u>Description</u>
070002	}	Views of bomb site on left hand side of Market Street from Market Street/Drumragh Avenue junction
070003	}	
070004	}	
070007	}	Views of bomb site from opposite side of street on right hand side of Market Street
070008	}	
070013	}	Views of Memorial Garden lands including existing smaller temporary Memorial Garden
070014	}	
070015	}	
070016	}	
070021	}	
070022	}	

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THE SALAD BOUL

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joblink

cable & internet

HSBC

rutledge joblink

HSBC

Anchor
Hotel

THE LAD BOWL

Thistle

modern

micholl's shiel's

Victoria

blink



Anderson
House

THE SALAD BOWL



Thistle





Hyper

Thistle

modena

Barry











MEMORIAL
GARDEN

