

Hadid, Rogers and Foster in final four for New York skyscraper

Foster clinches competition for new Midtown tower.

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London-based stars Zaha Hadid, Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners and Foster + Partners have been named among the four finalists in the race to design a new skyscraper in New York

Rem Koolhaas makes up the quartet of Pritzker Prize winners who will be presenting their designs this week for a 6,000m² new tower to replace an existing 1950s building at 425 Park Avenue in Manhattan.

Project backer L&L Holding Company had originally invited 11 big names to vie for the prize job including Christian de Portzamparc, Jean Nouvel, Herzog & de Meuron, Maki and Associates, Richard Meier, Renzo Piano and KPF (see below).

L&L Holding chairman David Levinson said: 'While we could not go wrong with any of the architects, our selection of Hadid, Foster, Koolhaas and Rogers was based on a number of factors, including each architect's rich experience in office design, as well as the diversity of styles and approach offered by the group.

'In addition, these architects eloquently articulated their view that 425 Park Avenue must redefine the modern office environment while also respecting and enhancing the timeless allure of the Plaza district.'

Final interviews with the architects will be held in September with the winner announced in October.

Subject to permissions, construction could start in 2015. The developer hopes the new tower to be completed by the end of 2017.

Zaha Hadid, Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners and Foster + Partners have been named on an extraordinary shortlist in the competition to design a new skyscraper in New York.

The trio have been invited to vie for the scheme, against Christian de Portzamparc, Jean Nouvel, Herzog & de Meuron, Maki and Associates, OMA/Rem Koolhaas, Richard Meier, Renzo Piano and KPF.

The project for developer L&L Holding Co, which will replace the 1957 Khan & Jacobs' 'wedding cake' at 425 Park Avenue, will be close to Mies van der Rohe's Seagram building. Norman Foster had previously drawn up plans for a 214m-tall tower behind the landmark – proposals which have since stalled (AJ 16.01.2006).

David Levinson, chairman of L&L Holding, said: 'It's not often that you get a vacant building on Park Avenue and it's the first time that's happened in 50 years.'

He added: 'There is no way to make the current building sustainable and no environmentally-friendly, energy-efficient way to create the grand spaces of collaboration that impact the business culture, and we have learned that is what many tenants are looking for.'

According to Levinson says both demolition of the existing building and construction will start in 2015, with completion due in 2017.

A winner of the contest will be announced in October.