

Parramatta

## Design competition for Parramatta landmark

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Kylie Adoranti Parramatta Advertiser



Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp designed the Auckland Art Gallery. Picture: John Gollings

THE architects behind some of the world's most eye-catching buildings are competing for the chance to design Parramatta Council's community and civic space.

Four internationally-renowned architecture teams will submit design proposals for the centrepiece building of the \$2 billion Parramatta Square urban renewal project.

The building will include council chambers, a 'library of the future' that will function as a community hub, customer service centre, community rooms and space for civic functions.

The design brief states the building must be the hero of Parramatta Square, stand out in a world-class public space, stand the test of time and have easy access from the public domain.

Finalists are made up of two consortiums and two individual firms.



The architects will compete to design a new library, council chambers and community hub.

A consortium of French firm Manuelle Gautrand Architecture, DesignInc and Lacoste + Stevenson will compete against the internationally-recognised local architectural firms of Johnson Pilton Walker, Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp, as well as a partnership between SJB and Lahznimmo Architects.

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The four finalists were chosen from an international field of 16 leading architects and come with an impressive resume.

They include Lacoste + Stevenson, which was the architect of Customs House Library in Sydney, Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp, which designed the Auckland Art Gallery, and **Manuelle Gautrand Architecture**, which was behind the Signal Tower in Paris.

Parramatta Lord Mayor Paul Garrard said the chosen firms had the experience and creativity necessary to deliver a world-class project for Parramatta.

"We want this development to be unique and spectacular – a building that will be recognised around the world and help to put Parramatta on the map," Cr Garrard said.

He said the council wanted its centre of civic activity to be a visually stimulating piece of architecture the residents, visitors and workers of Parramatta would be proud of.

The building will have about 8000sq m of floor space across four to five storeys.

The four firms will have until March 7 to submit a proposal and a jury made up of a State Government architect, Parramatta Council architect, and an independent architect from Sydney Council, who will choose the winning design.



Customs House Library in Sydney by Lacoste and Stevenson.