

HAT Projects to design new affordable artists' studios



Early visualisation of High House Production Park. (1) Location of artists' studios, (2) Royal Opera House Production Workshop, opened 2011, (3) National Skills Academy, opens 2012, (4) High House Farm Buildings, opened 2011.

Architecture practice **HAT Projects** has been appointed by the High House Production Park Limited (a subsidiary of Thurrock Development Corporation) to lead the professional team designing the High House Artists' Studios, the next phase of the High House Production Park development in Purfleet, Essex.

The £2m project, developed in a partnership by HHPP and Acme Studios, will create over 40 affordable artists' studios and work-live units, including project spaces for large-scale making and public showing of work. It will form part of a growing campus which includes the Royal Opera House Production Workshop and the National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills, as well as the restored listed buildings and gardens of High House itself.

Matthew Essex, Assistant Director of Delivery (Major Projects) at HHPP, said, 'The artists' studios are the fourth phase of the High House Production Park development and will be critical in continuing the high quality standards of the earlier phases. HAT Projects impressed us with the experience they brought from other projects and their understanding of our own requirements and we're looking forward to working with their dynamic team on such an exciting project.'

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Jonathan Harvey, Chief Executive of Acme Studios, said, 'We know from their previous work that HAT Projects bring passion, creativity and intellectual rigour to all their work. This is a wonderful and important opportunity for us to develop our provision of artists' studios by working with a practice that has already shown such a keen understanding of artists' needs. We relish the prospect of the challenging and creative dialogue with the client and design team which will now ensue.'

Tom Grieve, co-director of HAT Projects said, 'We are thrilled to be working with HHPP and Acme to build on the success of the Production Park to date, and Acme's unique understanding of artists' needs built on decades of managing and developing affordable studio space. New-build studio complexes are few and far between, so we are excited about exploring a new typology in this fascinating location.'

The £2m project will be the subject of an Arts Council England capital funding bid to be submitted in December, and is anticipated to open in 2013.

ENDS

Notes

Acme Studios is England's leading developer of affordable artists' studios. It has pioneered new models of studio development and ways of working with commercial developers, housing associations and local authorities. In 2012, Acme will open 49 studios at Matchmakers Wharf, Homerton, E9 in partnership with Telford Homes Plc and 27 studios at Stratford High Street, London, E15 in partnership with Genesis Housing Group. In addition to the HHPP scheme Acme is working on three new-build studio partnership projects in London (in E2, SE8 and SW9) totalling 75 units, to open over the next two and a half years.

Acme has been involved in the creation of artists' studios at the High House Production Park since early 2007. Acme carried out an initial demand study in 2007, followed by an in-depth feasibility and demand study in 2010 which provided a blue print for the current scheme, For more information contact Jack Fortescue, Communications Officer, jack@acme.org.uk or visit www.acme.org.uk

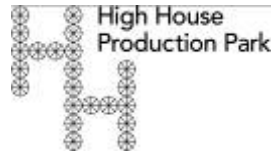
High House Production Park Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Thurrock Development Corporation. For more information, visit www.thurrocktqdc.org.uk. High House Production Park Limited will be the client for the project and Acme Studios are the appointed operator for the studio development. For more information, visit www.highhouseproductionpark.co.uk and www.acme.org.uk.

This project is the latest phase in the development of the High House Production Park in Purfleet, Essex, as a centre of excellence for creative and cultural industries and wider community use. For more information visit www.highhouseproductionpark.co.uk

HAT Projects are a young architecture practice founded by Tom Grieve and Hana Loftus. For more information, visit www.hatprojects.com. HAT Projects are appointed as architect and lead consultant, with Momentum Engineering (structural and civil engineering), Skelly & Couch (M&E engineering) and Pierce Hill (quantity surveying).



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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