

Dear Headteacher,

Architectural Design Competition and FREE architectural workshops for Year 5 and 6 pupils.

I am writing to you with regards to an exciting project which we think may be of interest to you and your pupils.

The North Yorkshire Society of Architects, (North Yorkshire Branch of the Royal Institute of British Architects), are running an architectural design competition to design a new installation for Stockeld Park, between Harrogate and Wetherby.

The project will result in a new installation, built from the winning entry that will be erected in Stockeld Park for the 2027 summer season and hopefully become a permanent feature in the park

In addition to the competition, we would like to offer a series of architectural workshops to local schools, to provide a background to the design competition whilst presenting an insight into architecture and the built environment. The workshops will be delivered by RIBA-Chartered Architects.

Architecture is a multidisciplinary subject and this project has relevance across several key areas of the national curriculum including: Mathematics, Science, Design and Technology, Art and Design, as well as potential application in History, Geography and ICT.

Three documents accompany this letter:

1. BIKEBAY 2014: images from our similar project celebrating the Tour de France Grand Depart;
2. FOLLY! 2018: images from our similar project partnering with National Trust at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal;
3. Lesson outline: a brief introduction to the architectural workshop.

The RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) champions better buildings, communities and the environment through architecture and our members.

The project will comprise the following elements:**Autumn Term 2026**

- Architect-led workshops by RIBA-chartered architects in schools to take place before half term.
- A competition to design a new installation, including plans and models, using skills gained in the workshops. Pupils will produce their designs and models according to a clear brief supplied by North Yorkshire Society of Architects. Deadline for entries to coincide with the beginning of the second half term.
- Judging will be conducted by an expert panel comprised of members of the North Yorkshire Society of Architects, Stockeld Park and fabricators Stage One.
- The winning design will be announced and a publicly accessible online gallery of all entries will be created.
- The competition winner and installation designer will be invited to a “design team meeting” to discuss materials and construction methods.

Spring Term 2027

- The winning design will be translated by members of North Yorkshire Society of Architects into detailed architectural plans and models from which the final product will be manufactured.
- The competition winner and installation designer will be invited to visit the Stage One workshop in Tockwith to see the installation in manufacture.

Summer Term 2027

- The winning entry will be constructed and unveiled at Stockeld Park at an event that invites representatives from each school to attend. Entries from all schools will be included in an exhibition at Stockeld Park.

NYSA

RIBA 

North Yorkshire
Society of Architects

We really hope that you will see this project as an exciting opportunity for your students to find out more about architecture and to put their learning into practice.

If you would like to take part, or are interested in further information, please email me: NYSArchitects@gmail.com by Friday 24 July 2026. Please note, places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and workshops cannot be guaranteed to all schools who wish to take part if demand is very high.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Faithfully



Ruth Donnelly

Chair of the North Yorkshire Society of Architects