

THE PUBLIC

Press Release

Immediate release

A box of delights

Will Alsop returns to The Public for exhibition about architecture

World renowned architect, Will Alsop, is to return to The Public, a building he famously once described as 'a box of delights', as part of an exciting new exhibition launching this January.

'A box of delights', which forms part of The Public's forthcoming Art of Architecture exhibition programme, has seen the Stirling prize winner work in collaboration with students from Birmingham City University architecture department, Walsall College interior design department, and Sheffield Hallam architecture course to create an environment designed to make us think about architecture and how it makes us feel.

Renowned for his highly colourful, eye-catching buildings, Alsop, who has been awarded an OBE and elected to the Royal Academy, once described The Public as 'his best building yet'. Listed in the book '1001 buildings to see before you die', the multi-purpose building is a vibrant, delightful and inspiring work of art in its own right, fast becoming an icon of the Black Country.

A remarkable piece of architecture, since fully opening the building has received over 350,000 visitors – visitors who have enjoyed the diverse exhibitions and events programme, or have simply been curious about the building's design itself.

In the New Year Will Alsop will bring his inimitable style back to the Midlands with a thought provoking exhibition that reflects the art centre's diverse nature. A large scale 3D painting created by Alsop, George Wade, and a number of

architecture and interior design students from across the country will reside in The Public's upper gallery.

Linda Saunders, Managing Director of The Public said,

“Visitor numbers continue to increase year on year – a testament both to the appeal of our eclectic and engaging programme, and the continued fascination with this remarkable building.”

On 26 January The Public will be hosting a talk by Will Alsop about architecture from 6pm – 8pm. For further information visit www.thepublic.com.

Will Alsop said,

“I am very pleased to be mounting an exhibition in a building that I designed. The design of the building emerges out of three years of discussions and workshops. A similar process is used to create the content of the exhibition. Providing opportunities for community-wide engagement is one of The Public's great strengths.”

The Art of Architecture is a series of exhibitions that looks at how artists engage with the built environment and how artists influence the world around us.

Alongside the work of Will Alsop will feature a short film from acclaimed video artists John Wood and Paul Harrison, suspended sculptural forms from Heather and Ivan Morison and photography from Andy Day and Rick Davies.

‘Will Alsop – A box of delights’ will be at The Public from 27 January to 20 May 2012, Wednesday to Saturday, 10am – 5pm, Sunday, 11am – 3pm and is free to visit.

For more information about exhibitions at The Public visit www.thepublic.com or 0121 533 7161.

ENDS

For further information contact David Wright, Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator at The Public on 0121 533 7147.

The Public, New Street, West Bromwich, B70 7PG

Telephone: 0121 533 7147 Facsimile: 0121 525 6975

Email: david_wright@sandwell.gov.uk

The Public is a versatile public space and community arts centre, designed by architects Will Alsop and Julian Flannery and funded by contributions from: Sandwell MBC, European Regional Development Fund, Advantage West Midlands, Arts Council England and New Deal For Communities.