



Publica announces leadership role for Professor Robert Mull, and the launch of its search for a world-class design director to raise its international profile

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Professor Robert Mull is to take on the role of Publica's Managing Director from January 2020. The appointment signals the practice's ambition to lead an international conversation on civic urbanism, critical thinking, research and design. Robert will draw on his worldwide contacts and standing to build Publica's presence on the international scene and to position its London work within a global conversation. He will be appointing an exceptional Director of Urban Design and Masterplanning to meet its clients' expectations for the highest levels of design thinking, innovation and expertise.

Currently Publica's Director of Innovation, Robert has been reviewing Publica's projects and working closely with founding Director Lucy Musgrave and Director of Strategy and Research Anna Mansfield for the past three years to ensure that the practice's thinking and output remains at the top of its field. Robert will continue in his roles as Professor of Architecture and Design at the University of Brighton and Visiting Professor at the University of Umeå in Sweden and build Publica's academic partnerships.

Publica's founder Lucy Musgrave said "We are delighted to announce Robert's appointment which marks a new stage in Publica's development. We are also extremely excited about the search for a truly outstanding design lead. Approaching our tenth birthday in 2020 we have big ambitions in terms of design quality, intellectual standing, cultural influence and global reach."

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

ABOUT PUBLICA:

Publica is a 35-person London-based public realm and urban design consultancy providing intelligence, advice and design services to Planning Authorities, Great Estates, major landowners, Business Improvement Districts and communities. Publica operates at the heart of the debate about urbanism and cities. Its work is part of an international conversation about how to make cities more efficient, integrated, vibrant, humane and safe, and how to preserve the vitality of urban neighbourhoods in the midst of rapid growth and development. All of its work is value-driven and underpinned by thorough research.

Publica was founded by Lucy Musgrave in 2010, at a pivotal moment in society's thinking about the value of public space in cities, development and planning. Since then, its research-led visions and strategies have been adopted as urban policy and unlocked major public realm projects. As a result, Publica has had the privilege of restoring and creatively reimagining some of London's most significant streets and civic spaces. Current and recent strategic projects include a pilot research project on Climate Change and Public Health, the Case for a Cultural Vision for The River Thames for the GLA and the PLA, setting the 'Child Friendly City' policy for the GLA's Good Growth By Design programme, the Place Strategy and Delivery Plan for the Oxford Street District for Westminster City Council, the Winchester Station Approach public realm strategy, a new vision for Marble Arch and Oxford Circus and a public realm strategy for Trafalgar Square, Strand and Northumberland Avenue. Its realised urban design projects include the transformation of Bond Street (winner of the NLA's best public realm prize in London, 2019) and the revitalisation of Hanover Square, currently under construction. Publica is increasingly being invited to work across the UK and overseas.

ROBERT MULL BIOGRAPHY:

An architect, educator and urbanist, Professor Robert Mull was educated at the Bartlett and the Architectural Association, and was until 2016, Director of Architecture and Dean of the Cass Faculty of Art, Architecture and Design in London. He has taught widely in the UK and internationally and held visiting professorships in Vienna and Innsbruck.

In 2013 he co-founded a new school of architecture in Moscow. He was a founder member of the architecture collective NATO and has worked on urban projects and research in many contexts including India, China, Cuba, Korea, the US, Russia and within the refugee crises in Turkey, Greece and France. Robert is Professor of Architecture and Design at the University of Brighton and Visiting Professor at Umeå University where he is developing the Global Free Unit with a number of international partners.

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