



**The Gainsborough Bath Spa sponsors RC250 Exhibition: *Past, Present, Future: Bath and the Smithsons***

**PRESS RELEASE – BATH, JUNE 2017 –** The Gainsborough Bath Spa is proud to announce its sponsorship of the Museum of Bath Architecture’s exhibition: *Past, Present, Future: Bath, and the Smithsons.* The exhibition, launching on 24th June and running until 25th November, explores Bath's unique architecture through two of England's most influential post-war architects Peter and Alison Smithson. It is part of a series of events celebrating the Smithsons as part of the Royal Crescent 250 year anniversary.

Colin Skellet, Chairman of The Gainsborough Bath Spa, said: “Bath’s architecture is world-famous with some truly iconic edifices such as the Royal Crescent, and the Smithsons exhibition promises a very interesting look into structures old and new. We’re delighted to be supporting such an important contribution to the understanding of Bath’s historic and modern architecture, and will be strongly recommending a visit to our guests and partners.

“Occupying two grade two listed properties, The Gainsborough Bath Spa is a beautiful building steeped in history. Since the 1800s The Gainsborough has previously taken the form of a hospital then a college, and is named after Bath’s famous 18th century painter Thomas Gainsborough. New York based interior designers Champalimaud Design created a modern interpretation of a classic design for The Gainsborough, which reflects its colourful history. We welcome any architects or architecture enthusiasts attending the Smithsons exhibition to come and dine in our restaurant or stay in our beautiful, classically decorated rooms.”

Dr Amy Frost, Curator, said:

‘Alison and Peter Smithson understood how important it is that we look after, and learn from, the historic city of Bath. They saw Bath not as a place frozen in time, but a living breathing space and they took great inspiration from the lessons that its Georgian architecture and town planning could teach. We hope this exhibition can encourage people to see, as the Smithson’s did, that Bath is an extraordinary historic city that can inspire design today and in the future.’

*Past, Present, Future: Bath and the Smithsons* explores the extraordinary connection between old and new in the Smithsons’ work and the inspiration they found in the Royal Crescent and the city's historic structures for their modern designs

The Smithsons’ Brutalist style is quite unlike the Palladian architecture of Bath and yet they found enormous inspiration in the historic buildings. The exhibition will look at the booklet *Bath: Walks Within the Walls* that Peter Smithson wrote about the city, and Smithsons’ last major architectural project in England, the buildings they designed for the University of Bath.

As part of the exhibition a Reminiscences Wall entitled ‘What I learned from the Smithson in Bath’ will be launched, which includes contributions from past students of the Smithsons. The wall will grow as people add to it throughout the exhibition.

The exhibition [Past, Present, Future: Bath and the Smithsons](http://museumofbatharchitecture.org.uk/event/exhibition-past-present-future-bath-smithsons/) runs in the Museum of Bath Architecture until 25 November 2017. Free with admission to the museum, Adult £6, Child £2.50, Family £14

**Royal Crescent 250**

On 19 May 1967, the foundation stone for the Royal Crescent, the city's most iconic architectural landmark, was laid. This year, Bath Preservation Trust, with funding support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), marks its 250-year anniversary with city-wide celebrations which include exhibitions, debates, community events, guided walks and artworks exploring the enduring power of a single building. Primarily focused on the Trust’s three city-centre museums: No. 1 Royal Crescent, the Museum of Bath Architecture and the Herschel Museum of Astronomy, there are also activities in partnership with Bath Festivals, RIBA South West and The Natural Theatre Company.

The hashtag **#royalcrescent250** will be used to spread the word on social media and the specially designed logo will be available for the promotion of any Royal Crescent 250 events.

**-Ends-**

For further information please contact:

Janey Abbott, Bath Preservation Trust

Telephone: 01225 338727 Email: [jabbott@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:jabbott@bptrust.org.uk)

**About Museum of Bath Architecture**

Based in the historic Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel, this unique museum explores the rich architectural history of Bath and looks at the architects and craftsmen who transformed a provincial town into the world famous Georgian city. It demonstrates how classical design influenced the city's buildings and illustrates the construction of a house from the cellars to the rafters. The building is home to the Bath Model, a fully detailed architectural model of the historic city centre, giving a unique insight into the layout of the Georgian City. The museum also houses the Archives of the Bath Preservation Trust, including the Bath Buildings Record, which can be viewed by appointment.

The Museum of Bath Architecture is open 2pm - 5pm Tuesday To Friday, and 10.30am – 5pm on weekends. Adult tickets cost £6.00, children £2.50 and family and concession tickets are available.

[museumofbatharchitecture.org.uk/](http://museumofbatharchitecture.org.uk/) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/museumbatharch) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MuseumBathArchitecture) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/batharchitecture/)

**About the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)**

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk). Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/heritagelottery), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/heritagelotteryfund/) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/heritagelotteryfund/) and use #HLFsupported.

**About The Gainsborough Bath Spa**

The Gainsborough Bath Spa is YTL’s first classic hotel in the UK. The 99-room hotel is ideally located along Beau Street, minutes away from the city’s historical attractions, shopping and restaurant districts, and directly opposite the Thermae Bath Spa. The UK’s first and only hotel to have exclusive access to the natural thermal waters, this historic property is located just a five-minute walk from the Bath Spa train station, and a 90-minute train journey from London.

[www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk](http://www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk/)

[www.ytlhotels.com](http://www.ytlhotels.com)