

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**21/11/2011**

**HAT Projects to design new affordable artists' studios**

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 of 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."

Jonathan Harvey of Acme 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.

**Notes:**

High House Production Park Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Thurrock Development Corporation. For more information visit [www.thurrocktgdgc.org.uk](http://www.thurrocktgdgc.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](http://www.highhouseproductionpark.co.uk) and [www.acme.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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).