

Architectural competitions

# BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY ANTARCTICA



Malcolm Reading Consultants provides independent advice and hands-on support to clients involved in capital projects.

This can range from drawing up feasibility studies and business cases, to resolving project problems and acting as the client's representative throughout the course of the project.

We have a reputation for achieving outstanding design for high-profile organisations.

We are also the leading private organiser of architectural competitions in the UK.

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We were first appointed as architectural adviser to run the procurement of professional and contractor teams; develop the brief and evaluate responses. We managed the flow of information to three teams of finalists, assessing the design quality and innovation of their proposals to Scheme Design (RIBA Stage D). We were then engaged directly by the client as their ongoing adviser, following selection of the winner.

The UK's national Antarctic operator, the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) wanted Halley VI to raise the profile of Antarctic science and at the same time provide a standard of living conditions that would attract new scientists to the project. Our initial contribution was to help BAS bring a more architectural dimension than was seen in the previous, engineer-designed stations. We also worked on the idea that Halley VI needed to be an icon like the space station to capture people's imagination.

To develop the 'soft brief' beyond the technical requirements we questioned the scientists currently in the Antarctic about their lives. We discovered that, among other things, they wanted to relax by watching the stars in comfort during the winter's six months of continuous darkness, so a viewing dome was included as a requirement of the brief.

## PROJECT DETAILS

**Value** £50m

**Won by** Hugh Broughton  
Architects