



Jubilee Gardens – Press Information

**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL
22 JUNE 2005 – 00:01 HRS**

West 8 Selected for London’s ‘World-Class’ Park

London, 22 June, 2005: West 8 is announced as the winning design team picked to turn the hotly debated Jubilee Gardens in central London into a world-class park. The four-way contest saw West 8 selected ahead of EDAW, Gross Max and Thomas Heatherwick.

The Jubilee Gardens Steering Group, which is leading the redevelopment and represents local business, community and statutory authority interests, envisages creating a garden which is as soft and green as is sustainable.

West 8’s design concept focuses heavily on developing an organic, lush and green park, with softly undulating hills. Trees and flowers will bloom throughout the year to provide a ‘botanical ambience’ for one of London’s most important green spaces. The sophisticated topography creates *paths* which are fluid and inviting, *prime lookout points* which frame dramatic, panoramic views of the Thames, the London skyline and the South Bank, and *intimate spaces* where people can find their own space to relax and enjoy the micro-climate. *At night*, a theatrical spectacle of light will subtly animate and play with the new weaving landscape.

“The standard of entries exceeded our expectations but overall West 8 successfully captured the imagination of the judging panel whilst performing very well on key technical, financial and project management criteria,” says **Ted Inman CEO of the South Bank Employers’ Group and Chair of the Jubilee Gardens Steering Group**. “Public consultation also revealed that the local community had the most affinity with this team and scored them very highly.”

“West 8 has cleverly balanced the numerous demands on this site by conceiving a garden which is not only a visual landmark worthy of its position in central London but also a space which local residents and employees will enjoy.”

Adriaan Geuze, partner of West 8 remarks:

“We are delighted to be selected for such a vital and prestigious project. The scheme has been close to our hearts for some time now and we welcome the opportunity to realise the scheme alongside a strong and motivated design team. This will be a milestone in West 8’s evolution, offering the chance to give physical form to our vision for a public space promoting intimacy, playfulness and exploration. We thank the people of Lambeth and the Steering Group for their support and look forward to contributing to this vibrant and growing neighbourhood of London.”

The decision to select West 8 is underpinned by support from the local community. An innovative consultation process ensured that the local community was given the opportunity to meet each of the shortlisted design teams face to face and to evaluate their concepts. Participants then scored each of the teams against a range of criteria, considering how well they had met the design brief and their skills at interacting with the community. In the opinion of local people, West 8 excelled across the board. It is anticipated that the final design will be submitted to planning at the end of the year, following further in-depth consultation with all stakeholders including local residents, employees and businesses.

The judging panel was chaired by **Paul Finch, deputy chair of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment**. Commenting on the judging process he said: “It was a pleasure to chair a group of people representing such a variety of different interests, who are all committed to improving the South Bank for as many people as possible. We believe the West 8 design will please both local people and visitors from further afield. The mixture of peaceful spaces, views, and facilities for public events and performances should make Jubilee Gardens once again a green focus for London.”

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Notes to editors:

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Members of the Jubilee Gardens Steering Group:

British Airways London Eye
Coin Street Community Builders
Department of Culture, Media and Sport
Friends of Jubilee Gardens
Greater London Authority
London Borough of Lambeth
Shell International
South Bank Centre
South Bank Employers' Group
Waterloo Community Development Group
Waterloo Community Regeneration Trust
Waterloo Green Trust
Waterloo Project Board

About the winning team:

West 8

West 8 is a cutting-edge practice which delivered ground-breaking urban parks and public spaces. Set up in 1987 as an international team of architects, urban designers and industrial designers. West 8 designs landscape interventions, urban plans, squares, parks and gardens. West 8 works on an international level and has developed projects in Copenhagen, Paris, London, Zürich, Vienna, New York, Moscow, Singapore, Cairo and Amsterdam as well as other cities. The philosophy of West 8 is deeply rooted in an optimistic attitude towards the contemporary landscape, in which it expresses both the vulnerability and the euphoria of mass culture. Landscape, infrastructure, nature and archaeology coalesce to form vital constituents of the city. West 8 draws inspiration from the poetic beauty of the artless and the mundane. The design of this environment demands a sensitivity that goes beyond the creation of mere decorative nature. The knowledge that the contemporary landscape is for the most part artificial and made up of different components, both designed and undesigned, allows West 8 the freedom to respond by positing its own narrative spaces. The basic ingredients are ecology, infrastructure, weather conditions, building programs and people. The aim is to incorporate the awareness of these various aspects in a playful optimistic manner that stimulates the desire to conquer and take possession of space.

About the Public Consultation:

The Jubilee Gardens Steering Group is committed to working with the community to create a world-class park and public consultation is a strong thread running throughout the entire project.

To ensure that the gardens will meet the needs of the various user groups, the Group commissioned research in Autumn 2004 to understand how residents, local employees and visitors to the area currently use their park and to explore both their aspirations and concerns for the park's development. Community workshops were also held to discuss these issues in more detail. These findings informed the design brief against which the public then scored the shortlisted teams.

The next rounds of consultation will focus on taking the initial design concept to a final design.

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