



Jubilee Gardens – Press Information

Jubilee Gardens: Concept designs for a 'world-class' park unveiled

Monday 9th May, London: Today, concept designs for Jubilee Gardens, the most hotly discussed park in central London, will be unveiled to the public. Jubilee Gardens is currently a maintained grassed park but the plan is to transform it into a world-class park for everyone who lives in, works in and visits the area to enjoy.

Four leading design teams were shortlisted in December 2004 and briefed to create a new vision for the park which is as soft and green as is sustainable. Their design concepts will be showcased at a public unveiling on May 9th, chaired by Rowan Moore, Director of The Architecture Foundation, and at an exhibition which will tour Waterloo as part of the consultation process.

Local businesses, community groups, statutory authorities and the South Bank Centre have joined forces to form the Jubilee Gardens Steering Group which is leading the redevelopment.

Ted Inman, Chair of the Steering Group & CEO of South Bank Employers' Group, comments:

"The design teams have brought fresh, inspirational thinking to the space. These ideas have the potential to completely transform the face of the South Bank and the way people use and enjoy the gardens. We are now looking forward to finding out how they excite the local community."

The successful design team – *not final design* – will be announced in early June. The results of the consultation will enable the design brief to be finalised at this stage. The winning team will then respond to the final brief and undertake additional consultation.

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The design team's concepts for the gardens are:

EDAW

A new undulating landscape of hillocks and mounds creating a series of mini-territories where people can find their own space. Formed into a cell-structure, the largest of these opens up towards the Thames to create a cove-like place, inviting people to the river. The image of a 'cove' is used as a metaphor to further structure the space, a place where you can escape from the bustle of life, or explore and have fun at the shore. The Gardens extend out onto a new beach deck, giving access to the river foreshore, with a sandy beach potentially extending into the cove during summer months. South facing mounds half enclose a large event lawn, giving the perfect vantage point for performances whilst picnicking or for simply sunbathing surrounded by seasonal floral displays. Other features include a semi-sunken café emerging from under a hill and a colourful playground with a bubble fountain.

Gross Max

Once the South Bank was a patchwork of river sediments, pleasure gardens and timber wharfs. This design reflects upon this rich cultural and ecological tapestry in a bold and contemporary manner. The design is based on strong contrast between a series of intimate stroll gardens and a large field for events. The gardens are a horticultural extravaganza featuring mist gardens, heated garden walls for the growth of tropical plants, seductive nocturnal gardens and even a series of floating gardens on the Thames. Strips of different soil types reflect the original Lambeth Marsh river sediment and allow the juxtaposition of different types of vegetation. Wooden boardwalks are reminiscent of the former riverside timber wharfs. Contemporary composers will be invited to compose a series of ambient park soundtracks. An intense experience of nature and outdoor recreation.

Thomas Heatherwick, with Land Use Consultants and Dan Pearson Studio

This design hinges on an interlinked system of large objects arranged around a central lawn. Similar to enormous 'grow-bags', the objects are filled with soil to form richly planted gardens. Others are topped with seating, performance space and children's play areas. Ramped pathways lead people up through the new landscape towards elevated viewpoints over the gardens. The design combines a traditional English garden space filled with exuberant planting with a dynamically sculpted architectural environment. The gardens form a protective horseshoe around the central open space. Tilting the landscape allows all of the gardens to be visible from different aspects, creating a safe and welcoming environment. A café is wedged between two of the modules, taking advantage of the prominent location and giving fine views over the gardens to the Thames and London Eye beyond.

West 8

West 8 conceives Jubilee Gardens as an holistically-designed, organic, lush and green park. Trees and flowers, blooming throughout the year, will provide a botanic ambience. The metaphor of Green Trafalgar has been adopted, exploring the park as the main green gathering space of the South Bank – a central Green. This design seeks to achieve the integration of function, feature and programme within a sophisticated topography. Surfaces, trees, flowers, benches, edges and activities work in unison. Paths become fluid and inviting, capturing and intensifying desire lines. The undulating plane of the topography provides prime lookout points, capturing dramatic views of the London skyline and the South Bank. Framed panoramic views are opened by undulating hills. The topography also cultivates intimate spaces, micro-climates and refuge within the park. At night, a theatrical spectacle of light will subtly animate and play with the new weaving landscape.

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Notes to editors:

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 Teams

EDAW

EDAW has much experience working on high profile and complex projects such as this, having led the design team behind London's 2012 Olympic Bid. Their parks and plazas have also received much acclaim, with their recently constructed Royal Victoria Square in London's Docklands being awarded the Landscape Institute's 2004 annual design award. Other work includes the redesign of Blackpool's famous waterfront, and Manchester City Centre and Piccadilly Gardens, currently on exhibition at New York's Museum of Modern Art. EDAW are joined by Fluid, a firm of architects specialising in public participation in architectural and urban design, who were part of the Olympic masterplanning team and architects of the curvaceous Gateway Centre in Derby; Why Not Associates? graphic designers with artist Gordon Young, well known for creating text based contextual art in the public realm such as Carlisle's Cursing Stone; Buro Happold engineers, who have designed the structures of many London landmarks including the Millennium Dome and the British Museum's Great Court roof; Maurice Brill Lighting Design, known for their work with responsive lighting systems such as Broadgate's recently completed Finsbury Avenue Square; Quaife Woodlands, arboriculturalists; Hydro Technology, fountain designers; and Gardiner and Theobald, quantity surveyors.

GROSS. MAX.

An Edinburgh based practice of Landscape Architects founded in 1995 by Bridget Baines and Eelco Hooftman. GROSS. MAX. has been widely regarded as exponents of a new generation of contemporary European landscape architects. The practice has won numerous competitions and awards for public space and has an international portfolio of exciting and challenging projects. Currently GROSS. MAX. is working on a variety of

projects in London including the Royal Festival Hall, Potters Fields Park (adjacent to Tower Bridge) and Brixton Central Square. Abroad GROSS. MAX. collaborates on a range of projects with Zaha Hadid Architects including the new BMW plant in Leipzig, a High Speed Railway Station in Naples, an urban Masterplan for 64 hectares of former dockland along the river Nervion in Bilbao and a public park for Durango (Bask Country). Recent completed projects include Rottenrow Gardens in Glasgow, the external spaces of the New Bullring in Birmingham and Lyric Square in Hammersmith London. GROSS. MAX. credo is to be as seductive as Mata Hari and as shrewd as Miss Marple: “our desire is to reveal the different layers in the landscape not unlike the sensuous act of striptease”.

Thomas Heatherwick Studio

Thomas Heatherwick Studio was established in 1994 with an ambition to make extraordinary projects happen. Its expertise lies in bringing clear vision, inventive thinking and originality to client briefs. Over the decade since it was founded, the practice has delivered projects as diverse as B of the Bang, the UK’s tallest sculpture, the award-winning Blue Carpet public square in Newcastle and the Rolling Bridge (a bridge that opens by curling into a ball) at Paddington Basin in London. The Jubilee Gardens competition will see the studio head up a design team comprised of garden designers Dan Pearson Studio and landscape architects Land Use Consultants. Dan Pearson’s work focuses on blurring the boundaries between interior and exterior space, and between ornamental garden spaces and the wider landscape. He is committed to creating better environments for wildlife and people, and to making as gentle a mark on the land as possible. Dan Pearson Studio will manage the breadth of planting involved in the team’s design for Jubilee Gardens. Joining the studios of Thomas Heatherwick and Dan Pearson, is Land Use Consultants – a practice with 30 years of experience of environmental planning, design and management. Its work spans public and private sector developments, from the largest pan-European studies to delicate local projects in the UK.

West 8

West 8 was 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. Design Team: West 8, Davis Langdon Schumann Smith Adams Kara Taylor, Structural/ Civil Engineers, BDSP Partnership, Services Consultant, Soil and Land Consultants, Agronomy and Soil Science Services, Buro Happold Security

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