

# GREENWICH: A NEW COMMUNITY FOR A NEW MILLENNIUM

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■ In the 1990s ambitious plans were announced for the transformation of London's heavily contaminated Greenwich peninsula, formerly the site of Europe's largest gasworks. The area was to become the focus not only of the country's Millennium celebrations but also one of the most ambitious regeneration projects in Europe. The Millennium Dome, now re-branded as the O2 Arena and operating as one of the world's most successful entertainment venues, was to become the catalyst for the creation of a thriving new riverside community next to the Thames. The masterplan produced by Ralph Erskine looked to transform the site into a vibrant place to live, work and play, underpinned by a philosophy of environmentally conscious design.

Every aspect of the design reflects that commitment to environmental sensitivity. A framework of green spaces runs through the peninsula with the linear 'Central Park' providing a green link that connects the new Jubilee Line station at North Greenwich to the development and terminates in a riverside ecology park. The scheme achieved

an EcoHomes Excellent rating through low-energy building techniques and the use of a combined heat and power (CHP) facility. The masterplan creates a series of spaces for living ranging from smaller scale private communal gardens through to larger pieces of new public realm and *LDA Design* has played a key role in designing these.

Holly Court and Metcalfe Court are both private communal spaces built on podium decks above residents' parking. Lightweight fill has been used to form a contoured lawned landscape with tree planting. The centre of each space features communal seating and small play facilities which are designed to read as attractive sculpted elements. The planting within the spaces gives year round interest and forms a habitat for a variety of birds and invertebrates. By contrast, School Square is a busier public space focused on the Millennium Primary School. A new sculpture designed with children from the school provides a focal point with seating and a series of grass terraces forming a place for parents to chat while their children can play.

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## GREENWICH MILLENNIUM VILLAGE

SCHEME  
Greenwich Millennium Village

CLIENT  
GMV Ltd

LOCATION  
Greenwich Peninsula

PARTNERS  
Architect: John Robertson Associates;  
Engineer: Whitby Bird

BUDGET  
£1million

AREA  
3,000m<sup>2</sup>

SCHEDULE  
2004-2006

<sup>1-3</sup> VIEWS OF SCHOOL SQUARE  
PHOTOS: MIKE WILLIAMS

VISIT  
[www.lda-design.co.uk](http://www.lda-design.co.uk)

