

Science Gallery London: Catching a breath in busy London Bridge

Science Gallery London is a new exhibition space at the foot of the Shard. A joint venture with King's College London, it blends science and art for a younger audience. The gallery is housed in the newly refurbished Boland House, a Grade II-listed Kings College London building.

As part of the scheme, LDA Design took the College's historic Georgian quadrangle, a car park since the 1960s, and transformed it into an elegant, contemporary public courtyard, a much-needed breathing space amidst the hustle and bustle of London Bridge.

Our design champions reuse, with historic York stone, granite setts and kerb stones lifted and restored, where possible.

Historic detailing added project complexity. We considered the surrounding architecture and traditional Georgian principles of symmetry and axial geometry, but also challenged some of these principles. Big moves improve access, making the Square more adaptable and resilient. New elevated terraces are step-free, and there are level thresholds at building entrances for the first time in its history. Handsome over-sized bleachers encourage visitors and students to lunch and linger.



Client
Kings College London / Lend Lease

Location
London Bridge, London

Partners
LTS Architects, WSP Engineers, Arup Lighting
Designers + Paragon

Services Used
Landscape Architecture

Area
0.1 ha

Schedule
Completed 2018

¹ Elevated terraces provide places to sit but also integrate graded routes to make the space fully accessible

²⁻³ The design creates a fitting setting for the Georgian architecture and transforms a space used for car parking into a place for people



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1 A 1960s car park has been transformed into a handsome public square in one of the busiest parts of the capital