

Stratford Waterfront: Drawing the culture crowd east

Plans for East Bank, featuring Stratford Waterfront, in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park represent the largest cultural investment in the capital since the Festival of Britain and the South Bank. It seeks to open up world-class arts and education to a younger audience. Big names heading there include the BBC, V&A, London College of Fashion and Sadler's Wells. Six hundred homes will also be created.

As landscape architect for the scheme, LDA Design is creating public realm which establishes the common ground that unites the very different buildings, providing opportunity for chance exchange and a programme of activity curated by the cultural institutions. It gifts the Park with a distinct new attraction: a dramatic and sculptural landscape framed by the buildings above. The design reflects the strong characteristics of the Park, with a focus on the River Lea.

A series of terraces gradually rise to provide gentle and inviting routes from the Park up and into the public buildings. Created with the utilitarian materials used across the Park, with seating made of chunky timber, the terraces will be playable to attract families with children. Intimate spaces throughout are defined by strong planting. Steep topography suggests a mountainside, and the vegetation changes with height to alter the character of the spaces.



Client
Allies & Morrison

Location
East Bank, London

Partners
Arquitectura, Buro Happold, Gardiner and Theobald, London Legacy Development Corporation, Mace Development Ltd, O'Donnell + Tuomey Architects, PFB Construction Management Services Ltd.

Services Used
Landscape Architecture

Area
4.25 ha

Schedule
2017 – ongoing

¹ Stratford Waterfront



¹ The Stratford Waterfront promenade