

## PRESS RELEASE



*Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith*



*Eastern Curve, Dalston*



*London 2012 Olympic Park*

### **Open House London weekend to showcase how investment in landscape is changing the face of London**

Nearly 50 landscape projects feature in this year's Open House London on the 17 and 18 September – the capital's annual celebration of its buildings, places and neighbourhoods. From the vast spaces of the London 2012 Olympic Park, Europe's largest new park in a century to the transformation of the Lyric Theatre's rooftop garden into a contemporary green oasis, these projects are transforming the Capital in quite a dramatic way.

Thanks to a collaboration with the Landscape Institute, the professional body for landscape architects, this year's Open House London programme includes the first ever landscape map which highlights twelve of the most significant landscape projects happening in London. Twelve expert-led landscape tours have been devised which will take visitors behind-the-scenes of each project to explore how the designers got to grips with the complexities and challenges of creating spaces which provide a range of social, environmental and economic benefits for the city.

Speaking about this year's landscape offering, Victoria Thornton, Director of Open House said: "Open House is the annual opportunity for Londoners to understand the value of a well-designed city – from its buildings to the surrounding landscape - and see how these elements make an important contributing role in creating and sustaining a 'liveable' city. Last year 89% of participants said the Open House event was the best way they knew to get a better understanding about the design of the capital"

Alastair McCapra, CEO of the Landscape Institute, said: "Have a look at the website to see the fantastic choice of walks available. They illustrate some of the striking ways in which the capital's public spaces are being transformed by investment in landscape."

#### **Barking Town Centre**

The creation of a coherent new town centre, including a town square, urban woodland and major public art feature

#### **City of London**

Take a walk through the 'Liveable City of London' and discover how the City of London is meeting the needs of its visitors, workers and residents

**Northala Fields**

How recycled building waste from sites including the new Wembley stadium have provided an impressive landmark and brand new park

**London 2012 Olympic Park** (tours taking place 1 week in advance on 10 and 11 September)

The Olympic Park is one of the biggest construction and engineering projects in Europe, after the games it will be one of the largest new urban parks in Europe for 150 years

**Woolwich**

Woolwich is undergoing a huge regeneration project which must be sensitive to the many fine buildings by Vanbrugh, Hawksmoor and Wyatt whilst creating a new neighbourhood for its local people and tourists

**Lewisham**

An insight into a number of linked public realm regeneration projects which include a revamped market square, transformed urban park, river restoration and the transformation of under-used Thames-side green space within a high density residential environment

**National Maritime Museum**

A tour focused on the new Sammy Ofer Wing which explores how the designers combined a historic landscape setting with a contemporary architectural installation to create a new public space

**Exhibition Road**

A visit to a major landscape project in action as the transformation of the streetscape of Exhibition Road is well underway

**Dalston**

Discover a hidden garden created on abandoned railway land right in the heart of bustling Dalston, which includes a beautiful eco-garden with rainwater harvesting and biodiversity planting

**Lyric Theatre Hammersmith**

The creation of a landmark green oasis within a sprawling urban environment which includes a six-metre high pergola structure visible from the nearby tube station

**Alexandra Palace Park**

The refurbishment of the 270 acre park first designed by Alexander Mackenzie

**Horniman Museum Gardens**

A garden to reflect the Museum's collection including a musical play area and World Food Garden

Full details of the landscape tours are published in the 2011 Guide and can be ordered online at [www.openhouselondon.org.uk](http://www.openhouselondon.org.uk)

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**Open House** is a concept that was created in London 19 years ago by Open-City, London's leading independent architecture education organisation. The Open House model invites everyone to experience, explore and understand the value of a well-designed built environment. This successful concept has been extended to events in other cities around the world including New York, Dublin & Galway, Tel Aviv & Jerusalem, Barcelona, Rome, Helsinki, Slovenia and Chicago.

Visit: [www.openhouselondon.org.uk](http://www.openhouselondon.org.uk)

**The Landscape Institute** is the professional body for landscape architects. It is an educational charity and chartered body responsible for protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment for the benefit of the public. It champions well-designed and well-managed urban and rural landscape. The Institute's accreditation and professional procedures ensure that the designers, managers and scientists who make up the landscape architecture profession work to the highest standards. Its advocacy and education programmes promote the landscape architecture profession as one which focuses on design, environment and community in order to inspire great places where people want to live, work and visit. The Institute provides services to assist members including support and promotion of the work of landscape architects; information and guidance to the public and industry about the specific expertise offered by those in the profession; and training and educational advice to students and professionals looking to build upon their experience.

To find out more about the Landscape Institute visit [www.landscapeinstitute.org](http://www.landscapeinstitute.org)