

HOMework

*Wallpaper** editor-in-chief *Tony Chambers* on a regeneration project with design at its heart, light metal tables and an artistic stroll through St James's



Greenwich TIME

Though a couple of decades from completion, Greenwich Peninsula is already shaping up to be one of London's most fascinating future neighbourhoods. A gargantuan 150 acres, it has that winning combination of generous public space (including miles of river frontage), forward-looking architecture (Santiago Calatrava's landmark Peninsula Place is in the works, as are five prism-like residential towers by Skidmore Owings & Merrill) and audacious art (Conrad Shawcross' *The Optic Cloak*, rising above the area's energy centre).

Most importantly, Greenwich Peninsula's developer, Knight Dragon, recognises that regeneration projects of this nature often spell bad news for the creative industries, which find themselves quickly priced out by the influx of commercial enterprises. So it made a counter move, dedicating 2.67 acres of land at the heart of the peninsula to a design district, the first of its kind in London and hopefully a harbinger of better urban planning in our city's future.

"In an era of cookie-cutter commercial towers, this comes as a breath of fresh air"

The Design District (due for completion in 2020) will offer a permanent base for more than 1,500 creatives at tiered, affordable rents, starting at £10 per square foot. The pedestrianised space (left) will have artists' studios and flexible workspaces spread across 16 buildings, including a transparent market hall by Spanish architects SelgasCano, which created Second Home Spitalfields as well as the rainbow-hued 2015 Serpentine Pavilion. There will be ample rooftop terraces and public squares, by Copenhagen-based landscape consultants Schulze + Grassov.



Seven other highly respected architectural practices have been enlisted to work on the project: Assemblage, Architecture 00, Adam Khan, David Kohn, Mole, 6a and Barozzi Veiga. Designing independently of each other, they will produce a riot of colour and form that serves as an apt metaphor for London's creative landscape.

As Knight Dragon's vice-chairman, Sammy Lee, puts it, Greenwich Peninsula Design District is 'designed by creatives for creatives'. In an era dominated by starchitect-built company campuses and cookie-cutter commercial towers, this comes as a breath of fresh air. Against the currents of gentrification and commercialisation, the district will go far to keep London creative.

(greenwichpeninsula.co.uk)

THE BUILDING

Opening this month, One Tower Bridge is a development on the Thames master-planned by local architects Squire & Partners. Amid its low-slung, limestone-clad residential buildings and one 20-storey tower is Haworth Tompkins' Bridge Theatre, where the London Theatre Company debuts on 18 October with *Young Marx*. The development also brings a crop of new eateries including the latest Ivy outpost, Brighton seafood and steak joint The Coal Shed and an eponymous restaurant by top Welsh chef Tom Simmons. (squireandpartners.com)



Shaping up: Wonmin Park

THE PERSON

South Korean-born, Eindhoven-trained designer Wonmin Park made his name in 2012 with Haze, an ethereal furniture range made of translucent slabs of resin. Now he is again busting the boundaries of material with Plain Cuts, a series of aluminium tables with a lightness and grace that is rarely seen in metal. They will be shown at PAD London from 2-8 October, before a solo show at the Paris gallery from 12 October. (wonminpark.com)

THE TECH

The BeoVision Eclipse, by Danish designer Torsten Valeur, is that rare beast of a TV that combines sculptural form with cutting-edge functionality. A black glass screen cuts through a curved band of anodised aluminium, the TV's self-lighting OLED pixels can turn on and off individually to create virtually infinite contrast levels, while the soundbar below the screen can connect with up to eight speakers. From £8,290 (bang-olufsen.com)



THE EXPERIENCE

On 19 and 21 October, *Wallpaper** will be joining forces with the St James's Crown Estate for a self-guided art and design tour, starting at the Royal Academy's Academicians' Room and ending at the newly renovated ICA. Highlights include Michael Craig-Martin's drawings of modernist architecture at Alan Cristea, Catherine Opie's portraits and landscapes at Thomas Dane and a group show exploring the decline of the postwar American dream at White Cube Mason's Yard.

(wallpaper.com; stjameslondon.co.uk)



Cella with Green Plant by David Hockney at Sims Reed Gallery and, right, the ICA

