

Open House London 2012 – over 750 buildings, events, tours, talks & cycle rides confirm participation in 20th anniversary edition of London’s greatest architectural showcase

A highly anticipated fixture in the capital’s cultural calendar, Open House London is a truly city-wide celebration of the buildings, places and spaces where we live and work.

2012 means 20 years of Open House London and of the Open-City organisation as a whole. In recognition of this significant milestone, Open-City is presenting a festival which will be unprecedented in breadth, scale and reach over 22 & 23 September.

It will be a unique opportunity to see, explore and learn about London’s amazing architecture and design over 48 hours. More than 750 buildings of all kinds will open their doors, alongside a programme of neighbourhood walks, engineering and landscape tours, night-time openings, cycle rides, urban jogs and experts’ talks – all for free.

This year’s theme ‘The Changing Face of London’ explores issues that are relevant to local communities and how the built environment is evolving – including the design of homes, the impact of climate change, the role of architects and contemporary design in revitalising places and above all showing how good design can make London a more liveable, vibrant and enjoyable city.

Highlights to include:

- **Iconic landmarks** and towers including 30 St Mary Axe (aka the Gherkin), Heron Tower and Tower 42
- London’s infrastructure revealed with the **Institution of Civil Engineers** - including rides on the new Emirates Airline cable car, boat tours to the Thames Barrier and the Hoo Peninsula, engineering walks and site visits to major construction and engineering sites
- East London Transformation – discover all about the transformation of East London and the Lea Valley with expert-led events showcasing the **regeneration of areas surrounding the Olympic Park**.
- Nearly 50 projects with Landscape at their heart with the **Landscape Institute** – including the newly landscaped Horniman Gardens and the vast green roofs and insect hotel at 20 Triton Street
- Several open Embassies with the British Council’s International Architecture and Design Showcase
- Showcase of **100 private homes**, Architects’ homes and groundbreaking housing developments – from contemporary award-winners to vintage 50s and 60s designs
- **Eco, zero carbon and retrofit buildings**, with the chance to talk to experts, see measures in action and discover how you can implement changes in your own home
- **Win a weekend stay at the 5* Hempel Hotel**, London’s premier boutique hotel
- Speak with **planners, architects and engineers** on how they create successful buildings and cities
- **Maggie’s and Open House London Night Hike** on Friday 21st September – a moonlit walk through London with the opportunity to see Open House architecture and raise money for Maggie’s Cancer Caring Centres
- Special events and openings on **Saturday night** including evening film screenings at the Haggerston ‘I was here’ event and Midnight Apothecary: Liquid Engineering, cocktails with a difference at the Brunel Museum
- Activities for **kids and families**, from architectural model-making to quiz trails

- 20 years of Open House celebrated with special hardback book, published by Ebury Press and in major bookshops from 16 August, giving an insight into **100 Open House buildings**; plus the Open House Memory Bank on facebook
- Chart-topping Open House **app for iPhone** from the appstore
- **Archibus tour** with Arriva – win a place on an architectural whirlwind tour by historic Routemaster bus
- **Photography competition** in partnership with Architects' Journal, The Photographers' gallery and Lomography

Victoria Thornton, Director of Open-City comments: "Open House is a unique annual event, offering people across London the chance to explore and learn about the 'changing face' of the capital's architecture. Last year 89% of participants said the Open House event was the best way to get under the skin, become more knowledgeable and engage in the dialogue about the capital's architecture. This year we're excited to be celebrating 20 years of Open House London with a special 48-hour programme of buildings, walks, tours and talks taking in some of the London's most spectacular architecture."

Full details of buildings and events will be published in the 2012 Guide (available from 16 August) and can be ordered online

Website: www.openhouselondon.org.uk

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Open-House/57147807198>

Open House Memory Bank: <http://www.facebook.com/OpenHouseMemoryBank>

Twitter: [@openhouselondon](https://twitter.com/openhouselondon)

Note to Editors:

Press images: available to download <http://www.openhouselondon.org.uk/news/images.html>

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Media partners: BBC London, Architect's Journal

Open House is a concept that was created in London 20 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.

Further information on the Open House Worldwide family events can be found at www.openhouseworldwide.org

Open-City creates opportunities for everyone to experience architecture year-round through the Talks and Tours programme.

Further information on Tours and Talks can be found at www.open-city.org.uk/tours