

OPEN HOUSE SILVER ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND **16-17 September**

For the first time in its 25-year history, every London borough is participating in this year's Open House, with free entry to more than 800 of the city's most compelling buildings.

Highlights this year include the recently revamped New Scotland Yard; London's latest iconic tower, nicknamed 'the vase'; an urban farm in Waterloo; an exhibition by architect Norman Foster and the gargantuan Francis Crick Institute at King's Cross.

Almost every building type is represented: government buildings, offices, places of worship, military buildings, livery halls, industrial complexes. There's even a yurt and a medieval barn.

Old favourites like the BT Tower and William Morris's Red House are back in, while City of London icons – the Cheesegrater and the Gherkin – are once again free to enter.

Architectural nerds are well-catered for with serious, thoughtful design including a 1930s house in Romford designed by Penguin Pool architect Berthold Lubektin, the controversial Maggie's Centre at Bart's and a hipster housing block in Stoke Newington vying for the Stirling Prize.

By giving free entry to London's best buildings, Open House champions great architecture and the importance of the public realm. "We want Londoners to speak as confidently about their built environment as they do about books, music and art. Getting the public inside great buildings and visiting places that are well-designed is the best way to do it," says Open House Director Rory Olcayto.

As each Open House weekend has come and gone, London's skyline – and public interest in architecture – has been transformed. Neither the Gherkin nor Grand Designs existed when Open House was launched in 1992. Today, it is a key date in London's cultural calendar. Last year more than a quarter of a million people visited at least one building each over the weekend.

This year's Open House is also the last chance to visit Crossrail stations – on pre-booked tours – before they open to the public next year.

In this year's guide you can find details of every building to visit alongside articles and opinions about London's great architecture, and a look back over the past quarter century. To purchase one of the Open House limited edition guides featuring a silver foil anniversary rosette visit the Open City online shop: <https://opencityshop.myshopify.com>

This year Open House has launched a free app for the first time, for both Android and Apple. Users can view buildings nearby, save favourites to plan their weekend, and filter results by day, architectural type and period.

Editors Notes:

- Open House London weekend 2017 takes place on 16-17 September
- This is the 25th Open House London weekend. The first was in 1992
- Open House was founded by Victoria Thornton OBE HonFRIBA
- The director of Open House London and parent charity Open City is Rory Olcayto
- Over 250,000 people attend Open House each year
- In 2017, there are 800 buildings, places, talks and tours free to all over the two days

Participating boroughs: Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Camden, City of London, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond, Southwark, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth and Westminster.

Website: www.openhouselondon.org.uk

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

Twitter: @openhouselondon

Instagram: @openhouselondon

Press images: available to download here: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wt1ym3sfth03sig/AABMD-N-Da_eMgcyujbXFgDa?dl=0

Press information: Rosalind Morris on 020 7383 2131 or press@open-city.org.uk
(contact details not for publication)

Open House is a concept that was created in London 25 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

Media partners: BBC Radio London, Dezeen and Time Out

Landscape Partner: Landscape Institute

Design Sponsor: Margaret Howell

Partner: Foster + Partners

Also supported by over 800 property owners, walk organisers and civic societies, and 7000 volunteers