

Open House London 2018: 22 & 23 September 2018

After 2017's record breaking 25th edition of Open House London, the festival will once again return this September with every London borough participating.

A truly citywide celebration of London's buildings, places and spaces, the event gives a unique opportunity to explore and learn about the city's most compelling architecture and design over one weekend.

More than 800 buildings of all kinds will open their doors on **22 & 23 September**, alongside a programme of neighbourhood walks and architect-led tours – all for free.

This year's programme explores how the new London that has been emerging the past 20 years is finally coming to fruition. New buildings, new kinds of buildings, new districts, new approaches to regeneration, women taking a leading role in making London, engineering excellence underpinning the capital's successful reinvention – these all show how good design can make London a more enjoyable and vibrant city in which to live and work.

Highlights include:

- London's greatest estate: a programme for OPDC uncovering the hidden narrative of Old Oak and Park Royal, one of the country's most important industrial areas and the heart of 'making' in London. Includes open factories, family and creative activities, and a bespoke mapguide to the area
- New London districts at Wembley Park, Hackney Wick with Here East and BUJ Wickside, and Barking Riverside
- Major new landmarks U.S. Embassy, the Royal Opera House renovation, and Bloomberg's new HQ
- A collection of housing exemplars then and now including developments High Path by Clarion HG, Peabody's Thamesmead Estate, and Kensal House Estate
- A 'year of engineering' celebration of the secret city makers, including a showcase of work by engineers to the starchitects AKT II (Living Unit Installation and AKT II studios in White Collar Factory), plus civil engineering at the HS2 viewing platform in Park Royal, Whitechapel Crossrail tours, and energy and recycling plants.
- New ways of looking at buildings through an understanding of 15 key component 'elements' - a staircase, a lift, a loo etc. A collection of Foster & Partners building elements on the app gives a playful way to explore the city, and an Instagram @openhouselondon #OHL18 #OHphotocomp focusing on elements across the programme
- Highlighting leading women across all boroughs who have played a part in shaping London today
- Returning favourites Waiting Rooms at Peckham Rye Station, 10 Downing Street, BT Tower and the Shard

- Over 100 must-see homes including Michaelis Boyd Architects' Round House, Office S&M's Valetta House and Red House by 31/44
- RIBA award winners Belvue School Woodland Classrooms, Hackney Town Hall and No.1 New Oxford Street, the new COS HQ.
- Open House Families will return once again with activities for ages from 0 - 13 yrs in City Hall
- The free app is an ideal tool to locate nearby buildings during the weekend, create itineraries and save favourites

Rory Olcayto, Open City's director say, *"From Hackney Wick to Park Royal, Wembley to Nine Elms and the ever-changing Kings Cross, Open House is shining a light on the places shaping the capital with striking landmark buildings and new approaches to town planning. The cubic futurism of the American Embassy, Here East's Day-glo 'fun palace' and the cool, sculptural qualities of the Aga Khan's HQ are real stand-outs this year."*

Editors Notes

- Open House London weekend 2018 takes place on **22 – 23 September**
- Full listings will go live on the Open House website on **21 August**
- The first Open House London weekend took place in 1992 with just four boroughs taking part
- Rory Olcayto is the director of Open House parent charity Open City
- Open House was founded by Victoria Thornton OBE HonFRIBA
- Over 250,000 people attend Open House each year
- In 2018 there are over 800 buildings, tours, walks and places open free to the public over the weekend across all London boroughs:

Website: www.openhouselondon.org.uk

Instagram & Twitter handle: @openhouselondon

Facebook Page: [facebook.com/openhouselondon2018](https://www.facebook.com/openhouselondon2018)

Press Images are available to download here: <https://openhouselondon.org.uk/press/>

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