



Young people take centre-stage in Camden's new green space

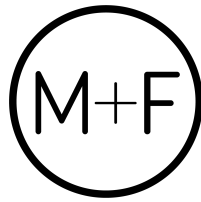
Local community co-creates 'Reflect' – a pavilion and performance space in an HS2 meanwhile garden



Young Placemakers from Fitzrovia Youth in Action. Courtesy of Nick Turpin.

A landmark new pavilion and performance space has arrived on Hampstead Road in Camden. Co-designed by local children and young people with the guidance of social enterprise MATT+FIONA and local youth action charity Fitzrovia Youth in Action, the six-metre 'Reflect' is the centrepiece of a meanwhile garden established on a former HS2 construction compound.

Occupying the site where the National Temperance Hospital once stood, the site is one of several empty plots in the Euston area to be transformed by HS2 into a meanwhile garden for public use, and the only one in the series to be co-designed with a local youth group and the community that will use it.

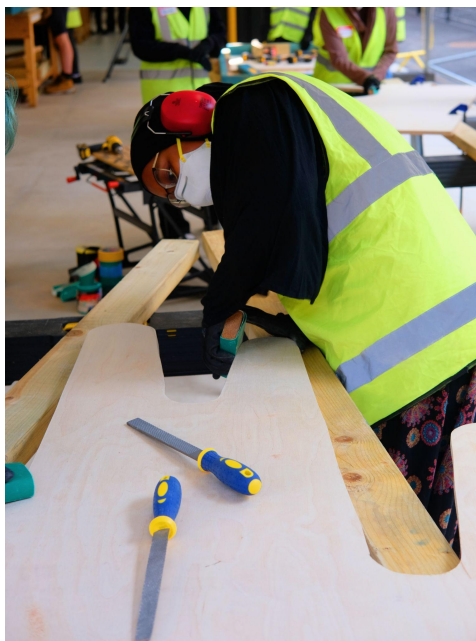


Major infrastructure projects often involve stop-start progress. The HS2 team has turned the paused works and project hiatus into an opportunity, transforming what would have become a redundant parcel of the city into a welcoming public space and a valuable neighbourhood resource, co-created with the local residents who will benefit from it.

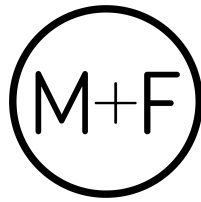
Consultation and community co-design

The project was inspired by a programme of community engagement on the Regent's Park Estate, which identified the need for recreational and safe green spaces for young people living in the area, close to Euston Station.

Working with the Camden-based charity Fitzrovia Youth in Action, social enterprise MATT+FIONA gathered ideas in the form of large-scale ink drawings and sketches. These developed into a plan. Forty-eight young people took part in this initial consultation, and a core group of 18 Young Placemakers came together over 12 weeks to develop the multifunctional pavilion, which would be the focal point of a garden designed by LDA Design. They developed the design and learned valuable skills fabricating the non-structural elements in a practical workshop at the Euston Skills Centre.



Build workshop. Courtesy of Jon Shmulevitch.



"It has been really exciting to see a renewed commitment to youth-led decision making and co-production, in not only planning and design, but also in the physical creation of this meanwhile-use space. Young people came up with the ideas and vision for the core elements of this project, helped build the structure, and were able to develop so many skills in the process, including being able to saw, drill, hammer and paint.

The Young Placemakers are thrilled to see the community now being able to use this space. This programme has been exemplary of how young people can be engaged to draw on their knowledge and experiences to design better spaces for their peers and the wider community."

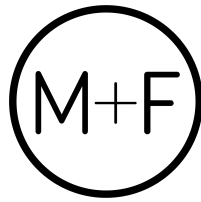
– Ellie Rudd, Youth Leadership and Regent's Park Community Champions Manager, Fitzrovia Youth in Action

'Reflect', a beacon for assembly



Reflect structure. Courtesy of Nick Turpin.

Rising six metres high, with a blue timber stage and seating area, the structure is an assembly and performance space designed to be experienced by as many people as



possible, including wheelchair users, whose access needs were considered throughout the design process. It is constructed from robust materials: steel, timber and stainless steel.

The structure is defined by a series of shaped panels fabricated by the Young Placemakers, creating a striking silhouette. Mirrored surfaces dramatically catch the south-facing sun, elevating the pavilion to the status of landmark. Above the stage, the array of overhead mirrors creates intriguing and unusual visual effects, reflecting performers onstage back to the audience – earning the structure its title, 'Reflect', which was chosen by the team of Young Placemakers that conceived it.

“The youth-led co-design process for this project brought the design ideas and vision for a new playable landscape to the fore. This unique project demonstrates the true value that comes from trusting young people to contribute to the shaping of the public spaces that we all share. We are proud of the Young Placemakers whom we have worked with on this project. We have seen at recent public events the power that their ongoing advocacy for this type of work can have.”

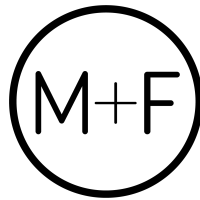
– Matthew Springett, director, MATT+FIONA

The National Temperance Hospital Garden

LDA Design have created the wider public realm, the National Temperance Hospital Garden, It features a maze of long grasses at the northern end and parterre gardens leading to the stage and seating area. Naturalistic planting, incorporating small trees and drought-tolerant species, maximises the garden’s ecological value in a heavily built-up urban setting. The design reuses material on site, integrating the concrete foundation slabs of the former HS2 construction compound as a central feature and using the footing strips for the previous site cabins to define the maze and parterre gardens.

“It has been great working with the young people of Fitzrovia Youth in Action, MATT+FIONA and the local community to make sure the gardens benefit the people using them. We wanted to create a fun but also high-quality space, reusing and recycling wherever possible. Ultimately, we want people, especially our brilliant Young Placemakers, to enjoy the space and to feel proud of what they have achieved.”

– Dafydd Warburton, design director and project lead, LDA Design



A second life

At the end of its life, when the site is redeveloped as part of HS2's masterplan, the pavilion will move to a permanent location in the neighbouring Regent's Park Estate, which is home to many of the young people who played such an important part in its creation.

Notes for editors

Location National Temperance Hospital Garden, Hampstead Road, Euston, London NW1 2LS

Client HS2

Design team LDA Design, Young Placemakers from Fitzrovia Youth in Action, MATT+FIONA

Supporting consultants Integral Engineering Design, Mace Dragados Joint Venture

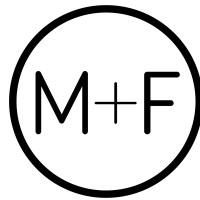
Contractor Mace Dragados Joint Venture (MDJV)

MATT+FIONA

Founded in 2016 by Matthew Springett and Fiona MacDonald, MATT+FIONA is a social enterprise committed to making a better built environment, underpinned by the belief that children and young people should learn about how that environment is created and have a stake in shaping it. The team trusts and supports young people to create more inclusive and representative spaces, through a unique programme of integrated processes of designing, making and building.

MATT+FIONA has worked with leading community and cultural organisations, universities and schools to create and deliver more than 40 buildings and installations, collaborating with more than 4,500 young people and 200 volunteers across the UK and Europe. Its hands-on approach to creative education prioritises young people at every stage, ensuring that today's children have the tools they need to confidently express themselves and positively shape their built environment. Notable examples include the Meanwhile Garden in Colchester, co-designed with Essex Young Designers as part of the outreach programme for Latimer's Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community masterplan; the ceramic façade of Southwark's Paradise Building, co-designed with 33 11-year-olds from Oasis Academy; Made in Oakfield, an outdoor classroom for Hull City of Culture and Oakfield School. MATT+FIONA's work is supported by Buro Happold and Jestico + Whiles.

mattandfiona.org



Fitzrovia Youth in Action

FYA is a youth social action charity which supports young people in Camden and Westminster to plan and deliver programmes and activities which benefit their peers and the wider community. Last year, FYA engaged 721 young people in youth social action programmes across 52 cohorts, each volunteering for six weeks or more. Young people delivered peer-mentoring programmes, ran awareness workshops and campaigns, organised community dinners and festivals, and worked with planners and decision makers to improve services and the local environment.

In and around the Regent's Park Estate, FYA supports young people to work alongside adult residents to address critical issues through social action and co-produced system change, in collaboration with a strong local network of community organisations, local authorities and businesses.

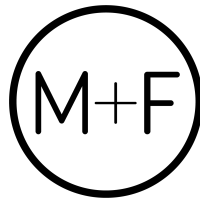
fya.org.uk

LDA Design

LDA Design makes great places and shapes the world around us for the better. It is an employee-owned business made up of masterplanners, landscape architects and planners, who follow the principles of 'first life, then spaces, then buildings'. Whether a project is a new park or settlement or the restoration of a street network, it focuses on the needs of people affected and on creating a balance with nature. The team designs sociable spaces which create opportunities for encounter and exchange.

LDA Design led the final landscape masterplan and detailed design of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, one of Europe's most successful new parklands, and now its vision to create a 'common ground' in the Park for East Bank is nearing completion. Projects include some of the UK's most challenging and successful city public realm schemes, including London's Battersea Power Station, Strand-Aldwych in Westminster and the West End Project with Camden Council. LDA Design specialises in estate regeneration and high street renewal. Key work includes the creation of dramatically different public realm for Aberfeldy and Carpenters estates in East London.

lda-design.co.uk



HS2 Ltd

HS2 is Britain's new high-speed rail line. Once complete, it will almost halve the journey time between London Euston and Birmingham to just 49 minutes, with trains running north via the existing rail network to destinations such as Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow. The project is a catalyst for economic growth by fuelling redevelopment around our major new stations in London and the West Midlands – opening employment, housing and leisure opportunities.

[hs2.org.uk](https://www.hs2.org.uk)

Mace Dragados Joint Venture

Mace Dragados Joint Venture is HS2 Limited's partner for the construction of HS2 Euston Station and associated facilities. It is an unincorporated joint venture comprised of Mace, a UK global delivery consultant and construction expert, and Spanish infrastructure company Dragados SA.