

## A porcelain palace for the people Croydon Colonnade by Adam Nathaniel Furman



Photo by Gareth Gardner

Croydon Colonnade by Adam Nathaniel Furman is a dazzling colonnade of 16 columns and several walls that together create a spectacular new public space in Croydon.

Commissioned by Tide Construction with input from the Council, Furman was tasked with creating a cohesive public space. The eight metre high columns and walls formed of handmade, three dimensional porcelain tiles reference the surrounding architecture while also creating an immersive experience. The result is the culmination of years spent researching porcelain and ceramics in architecture.

Columns are created from two distinct tile types, creating an off-beat rhythm along the vista of the colonnade. A striking colour gradient flows along each column which shifts at the head height of an average person, moving from deep blue at ground

level, to white from mid-way up. Up close, sensual details, irregularities and craquelure reveal themselves in the depth of the surface of the tiles.

Furman took inspiration from Croydon's 1960s architectural heritage and Durham Cathedral, setting out to create a 'porcelain palace for public space' through a delicate intervention into a grand, uplifting location. Referencing the columns of Durham Cathedral, particularly its two types of stone pattern, the result is uniquely British, distinctly Croydon and completely unique.



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## Notes for editors

### Project details

Commissioner  
Croydon Council

Developer  
Tide Construction

Materials  
Tile supplier: Craven Dunnill Jackfield

### Adam Nathaniel Furman

London-based artist and designer Adam Nathaniel Furman is one of the most exciting, positive and provocative voices in the contemporary architecture and design space. Known for their gloriously colourful, unapologetically flamboyant interventions in public space, Adam creates spaces, objects and artworks at all scales – from collections of glass and porcelain vessels they designed for Lebanese craft collective Beit, to high-impact public-space interventions such as 2021's irrepressibly joyful 'anti-monument' Proud Little Pyramid, which celebrated the queer history of King's Cross.

Adam's work has been exhibited in London, Paris, New York, Milan, Melbourne, Rome, Tel Aviv, Mumbai, Vienna and Basel, and is held in the collections of the Design Museum, Sir John Soane's Museum, the Carnegie Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Victoria, the Abet Museum, and the Architectural Association. In May 2022, with Josh Mardell, Adam published the Colvin Prize-shortlisted book [Queer Spaces](#) with RIBA – a landmark anthology of LGBTQIA+ places around the world that is now featured on university architecture reading lists.

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