



Lincoln Square

LONDON | 2014-

Lincoln Square sits at the heart of London's historic and legal quarter, between the cultural hub of Covent Garden to the west and the financial district of the Square Mile to the east. The immediate area is home to some of London's most prestigious institutions, including the Royal Courts of Justice, the London School of Economics, and King's College London.

Gustafson Porter + Bowman were approached in 2015 to design and develop the central courtyard space within a new residential scheme by PLP Architecture. Our design seeks to bring light, reflection and animation into the central space and provide an area of calm and tranquility that acts as a backdrop for the two residential lobbies on Portugal Street and Carey Street. It is designed as an engaging and peaceful space where adults and children can relax. The central lawn is framed with shrubs, perennial planting and flowering trees and has the flexibility to be used for informal games or outdoor gatherings. The carefully-selected planting provides seasonality, colour, scent and texture that attracts wildlife and creates a lush environment for residents. The overall planting concept uses a woodland planting palette as a base, with a mixture of native and ornamental species. Trees and planting have been selected that are shade tolerant for all but the northeast corner. Here, a longer exposure to direct sunlight allows for a brighter planting palette comprised of shrubs, perennials and climbing plants which blossom with strong colour.

Taking inspiration from the bold paving patterns of the neighbouring Royal Courts of Justice, the traditional 'hounds tooth' weave is adapted as a striking, contemporary pattern formed of light and dark granite running through the centre of the courtyard. Its triangular and trapezoidal shapes are playful at ground level and hold visual interest from the residential flats on the upper levels. The paving incorporates a sequence of water inlays which reflect the sky and create a focal point to the space. Each inlay sits as a 5mm depression in the stonework and has been designed to allow for flexibility so that it can be fully drained for outdoor events. Each inlay contains programmable water jets which can reach a height of 1.2 metres. These will focus the attention of passers-by on Portugal Street and Carey Street and animate the courtyard. In its full mode, these 14 jets will be illuminated with coloured light, thus enlivening the space at night.

We have developed the design of the courtyard in collaboration with the interior design of the lobbies so that the pattern of the stonework, colour and textures has a similar language and character from inside to outside. Altogether, the project is the result of collaboration between some of the world's leading designers, including; PLP Architecture, Bowler James Brindley, and Patricia Urquiola. The property is developed by Lodha Group, India's largest real estate developer, and is due for full completion in 2020.



CLIENT
Lodha Group

PROJECT DURATION
2014-

SIZE
620m2

STATUS
On site

TEAM

PLP Architecture (Architect)
Robert Bird (Civil & Structural)
Hoare Lea (M&E)
Brookfield Multiplex (Contractor)

"Our vision for Lincoln Square brings light, reflection, bold patterns and animation into the central garden, which will be the heart of the new development."

- Nina Kolbeck, Associate

