



Rathbone Square

LONDON | 2017

Rathbone Square is a mixed-use development comprising office, retail and residential space previously occupied by Royal Mail's West End Delivery Office. Our design for the new 1800m² publicly-accessible garden square offers respite from the frenetic activity of central London, improves connectivity to adjoining areas and contributes to the architectural and social history of the area with materiality that is appropriate to its location. Moreover, by creating new cross-site pedestrian routes, Rathbone Square unifies a collection of buildings, augments the quality of public space in Fitzrovia, and creates a welcoming and accessible new space.

Gustafson Porter + Bowman aimed to respond to the special character of the surrounding streets, mews, and passageways and to invite a sense of discovery of the garden space. The central garden is a calm, secluded space, detached from the bustle of Oxford Street, Rathbone Place, and Newman Street. To draw passers-by into the garden, the concept sets up a visual connection from the street to the centre of the garden using light, water and reflection. The garden's plan is defined by bold geometric shapes which are clearly visible from the surrounding apartments and offices, now occupied by Facebook as their central London headquarters.

Altogether, the new garden encompasses a variety of spaces that enrich the experience of the visitor and improve the quality of public space in central London. The space is welcoming and free to enjoy for all members of the public whether they live in the development, work in the offices, or simply passing by.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

New garden square in Fitzrovia, providing new public connections across a mixed development with a private residential garden, roof terraces and a brown roof

CLIENT

Great Portland Estates

PROJECT DURATION

2011-2017

SIZE

2,000m² (1,800 central garden + 200 residential garden).

STATUS

Completed September 2017

TEAM

Architect - Make

Structural Engineer - AKT II

M&E / Sustainability Engineer - Hilson Moran

Planning Consultant - DP9

Project Manager - Buro Four

Cost Consultant - Arcadis

Main contractor - Lendlease

Hard landscape contractor - Maylim

Soft landscape contractor - Willerby Landscapes

Developer - Great Portland Estates

Water feature consultant - The Fountain Workshop

Water feature texturing - Texxus

Metalwork - Kent Stainless

Timber bench fabrication - Woodscape

Artists - Alison Wilding, Robert Orchardson

Top pictures courtesy of Make Architects

