

Island Gardens Cafe Tower Hamlets, London

We were appointed by a local authority client as landscape architects and tasked with designing a new public space surrounding new public cafe, located within the Grade II listed Island Gardens, Tower Hamlets. Our scope was to prepare information to satisfy landscape architect's planning conditions, prepare a package of landscape architect's tender information and to monitor the works when on site until the completion of the project.

This new 350msq external cafe space is surrounded by a significant number of mature London Plane trees, with one tree being located at the centre of the newly designed external cafe spaces. As a result, levels were carefully considered by our landscape architects. Our proposed edging details and paving build ups were carefully coordinated with the project arboricultural consultant to ensure the best outcome for the existing trees. The proposed paved surface was also sympathetic to the existing tree roots and consisted of a permeable resin bound product.

Another significant constraint imposed on the proposed levels came from the requirements of Part M (Buildings Other than Dwellings); all parts of the space needed to be compliant. Gradients needed to be sympathetic and level access to all thresholds to the new building was required.

Where possible, existing vegetation was retained. This was supplemented with a robust planting palette, carefully selected for the environmental conditions found within the vicinity of the existing mature trees. The shrub and ground cover planting were selected evergreen foliage, scent and wildlife benefits.

Client
London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Contractor
Ark Build Plc.

Architect
Makespace Architects



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