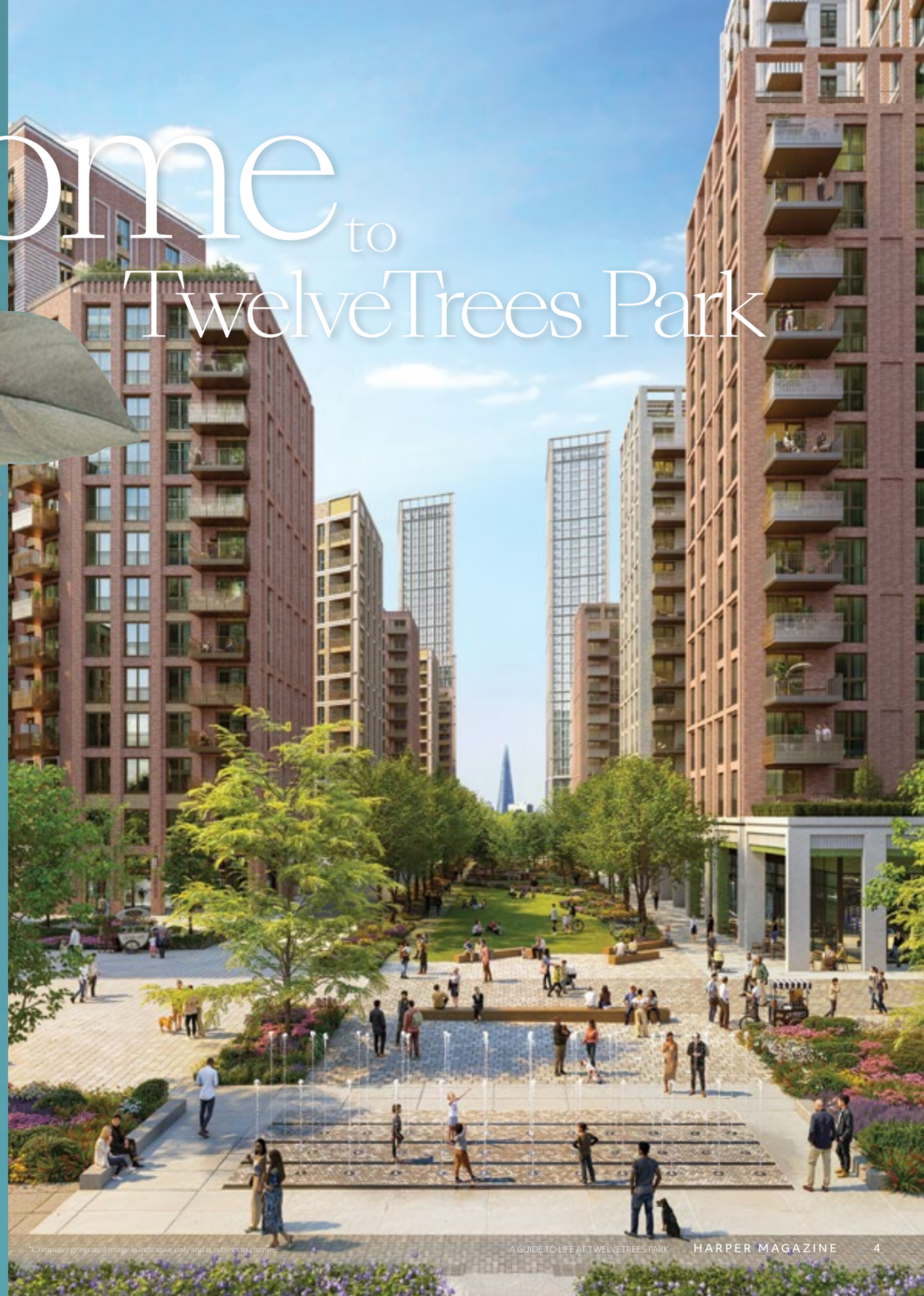

TWELVETREES PARK
SPRING | SUMMER 2026
HARPER
Magazine
A GUIDE TO EAST LONDON LIVING
Where to
eat, drink and play
Berkeley
Designed for life

TWELVETREES PARK

LONDON

Welcome to TwelveTrees Park

A new East London neighbourhood where green spaces, great food, culture and community all meet. With landscaped parks, quiet corners to unwind and lively spots to connect, All of London – None of Noise. From weekend markets to rooftop drinks and fast links across London, everything sits within easy reach. This is modern living with a little more character, a little more colour and a lot more to discover.



*Computer generated image is indicative only and is subject to change.

V&A EAST

A NEW CULTURAL PULSE IN EAST LONDON

EAST LONDON'S CULTURAL LANDSCAPE JUST LEVELLED UP.

Now Showing



15 MINUTES

THE MUSIC IS BLACK: A BRITISH STORY

Leading the programme is its first major exhibition, The Music is Black: A British Story – a powerful exploration of the Black British sound that has shaped generations, from underground movements to global influence. It sets the tone for what V&A East Museum does best: storytelling that feels immediate, relevant and deeply connected to the city around it.

125 years of Black music in Britain, told through a global lens. Spanning four continents, it's a story shaped by creativity, resistance, resilience and joy.

Step into The Music is Black: A British Story and move through time as more than 120 tracks soundtrack the journey directly through your headset. More than an exhibition, it's a fully immersive sound experience, capturing the energy, influence and enduring impact of Black British music.



The long-anticipated V&A East Museum has officially opened its doors, bringing with it a bold, future-facing energy that feels perfectly in step with the city's creative evolution.

Following the opening of V&A East Storehouse in 2025, V&A East Museum is a living, breathing spacewhere fashion, design, performance and digital culture collide. It's the kind of place where you can move from an exhibition on streetwear's global influence straight into an immersive installation, or catch a late-night event that feels more like a warehouse party than a gallery opening.

What sets it apart is its openness. This isn't about hushed rooms and glass cases, it's about participation, experimentation and community. Expect workshops, talks and pop-ups that blur the line between audience and creator, making it as much a social hub as a cultural institution.

For East London, it's another signal of the area's ongoing transformation into one of the capital's most exciting destinations. For residents of TwelveTrees Park, it's quite literally on your doorstep, an effortlessly cool extension of your living space, ready to drop into whenever inspiration strikes.

Whether you're there for a quick post-work wander or a full evening of culture and conversation, V&A East Museum feels like the place where London's next chapter is already unfolding.

Images courtesy of the V&A.

V&A EAST MUSEUM

107 Carpenters Rd
London, E20 2AR

Getting Here
Cycle – 15 mins
Stratford 3 minutes

Free Admission
Some exhibitions and events will carry a separate charge. Scan QR code to book current exhibition.



SADLER'S WELLS East

WHAT'S ON

SADLER'S WELLS AT EAST BANK

3 MINUTES

SADLER'S WELLS EAST

At the heart of East Bank's growing cultural quarter, Sadler's Wells brings world-class dance into striking new surroundings, continuing its reputation as one of the capital's most influential stages for contemporary and international performance.

SADLER'S WELLS EAST

101 Carpenters Rd,
London, E20 2AR

Station
Stratford 3 mins
1 stop via Jubilee Line

The Music is Black FESTIVAL

PLAYING AT EAST BANK

JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2026

As part of The Music Is Black Festival, presented by East Bank, Sadler's Wells are opening their doors and inviting you to come and dance with them.

Over four weekends, Sadler's Wells East transforms into the festival's social dance hub. Saturdays begin with early-afternoon Family Dance sessions, followed by curated club nights that take the celebration into the evening.

Throughout the festival, four outstanding choreographers create new responses to key themes of Black British music, each offering a unique artistic lens on its legacy and cultural impact.

English National Ballet

Where *Tradition* Meets East London Energy

World-class ballet might not be the first thing you associate with East London but English National Ballet is rewriting that narrative from its home in the heart of the area.

I WANT TO MOVE

2 MINS* BY TUBE

Bringing together classical technique and contemporary edge, the company's East London base offers a programme that feels both timeless and refreshingly accessible. Case in point: Rhythm Riot erupts with explosive power, an electrifying collision of movement and music that shakes the stage to its core. A fierce storm of rhythm and rebellion, it unleashes dance at its most visceral and unstoppable.

But it's not all velvet curtains and evening performances. Ballet here is something to experience, not just watch. Enter Dance Classes including Dance Cardio, a high-energy workout inspired by the strength and precision of professional dancers. Think sculpting, stretching and serious core work, all set to a playlist that leans more studio than stage.

What makes it special is the contrast. One moment you're immersed in a world of storytelling and spectacle; the next, you're in the studio testing your own limits. It's this blend of culture and lifestyle that makes English National Ballet such a standout addition to East London's creative scene.

For TwelveTrees Park residents, it's an invitation to engage with ballet on your own terms, whether that's dressing up for a performance or turning up in activewear, ready to move.

BUILD CORE STRENGTH WITH A BALLET-INSPIRED PILATES WORKOUT DESIGNED TO CHALLENGE AND LENGTHEN THE BODY.

Whether taken on its own or alongside dance training, this cardio-driven ballet workout blends the precision of classical technique with the fluidity of yoga and the core focus of Pilates. Sessions open with energising pliés, rises and dynamic legwork at the barre before building heat through faster, rhythm-based sequences. The class then transitions to controlled, floor-based exercises that strengthen the core, sharpen stability and refine form, keeping the heart rate lifted while maintaining the clean lines and athletic grace of ballet.

Led by Nicky Henshall

MULRYAN CENTRE FOR DANCE

41 Hopewell Square
London, E14 0SY

Fee: £6.99 per month / £62.93 per year

Station: Canning Town 2 mins
1 stop via Jubilee line

* West Ham Station to Canning Town Station

Keeping FIT THIS SUMMER

Summer in East London isn't about slowing down, it's about moving differently. Longer days, warmer evenings and open spaces turn everyday fitness into something more social, more energetic, and far less routine.

THE CORDOVA CLUB GYM AT TWELVETREES PARK

Right on your doorstep, The Cordova Club Gym at TwelveTrees Park makes staying active effortless. Whether it's a quick morning session before work or a late evening reset, it's designed for consistency over complexity, a clean, modern space to train your way, without the commute.

LEA VALLEY RUNNING RACES

3 MINUTES

Stretching the season into late December, the Lea Valley Running Races offers something for every level of runner. From first-timers to seasoned competitors, it's a chance to track progress across the months, with a natural backdrop that shifts from summer greens to winter light. *Time shown is to the closest station from West Ham to Stratford Station.

RUN THE WHARF

7 MINUTES

For those who prefer their workouts with a skyline, Run the Wharf brings the energy of Canary Wharf into motion. A social running series that blends fitness with atmosphere, it's as much about community as it is about pace, think shared miles, post-run buzz, and a route framed by some of London's most iconic architecture.

*Time shown is to the closest station from West Ham to Canary Wharf Station.

POST-RUN FUEL: PING PONG CANARY WHARF

7 MINUTES

Recovery is part of the ritual. At Ping Pong Canary Wharf, post-workout refuelling takes a more social turn. Think shared plates, easy ordering and a relaxed setting that turns a quick bite into a longer catch-up, the kind of place where trainers are as welcome as tote bags.

*Time shown is to the closest station from West Ham to Canary Wharf Station.

From structured training to spontaneous movement, summer fitness around TwelveTrees Park is less about routine and more about rhythm, finding ways to move that fit naturally into the way you live, work and unwind.

PADEL IN STRATFORD

3 MINUTES

Just minutes from TwelveTrees Park, Stratford has become one of East London's most energetic destinations for social sport and padel is right at the centre of it.

A fast, accessible mix of tennis and squash, padel is designed for doubles play, quick rallies and instant enjoyment, making it as much a social experience as it is a workout. With glass courts and a laid-back competitive spirit, it's quickly become a favourite for after-work games and weekend meet-ups.

What really sets Stratford apart is what comes after the final point. Right next to the courts, a lively beer garden offers the perfect place to unwind, cold drink in hand, rackets down, and the match already being relived between friends as the evening stretches on.

For residents of TwelveTrees Park, it's another effortless way to stay moving, whether you're picking up a racket for the first time or chasing that next competitive match.

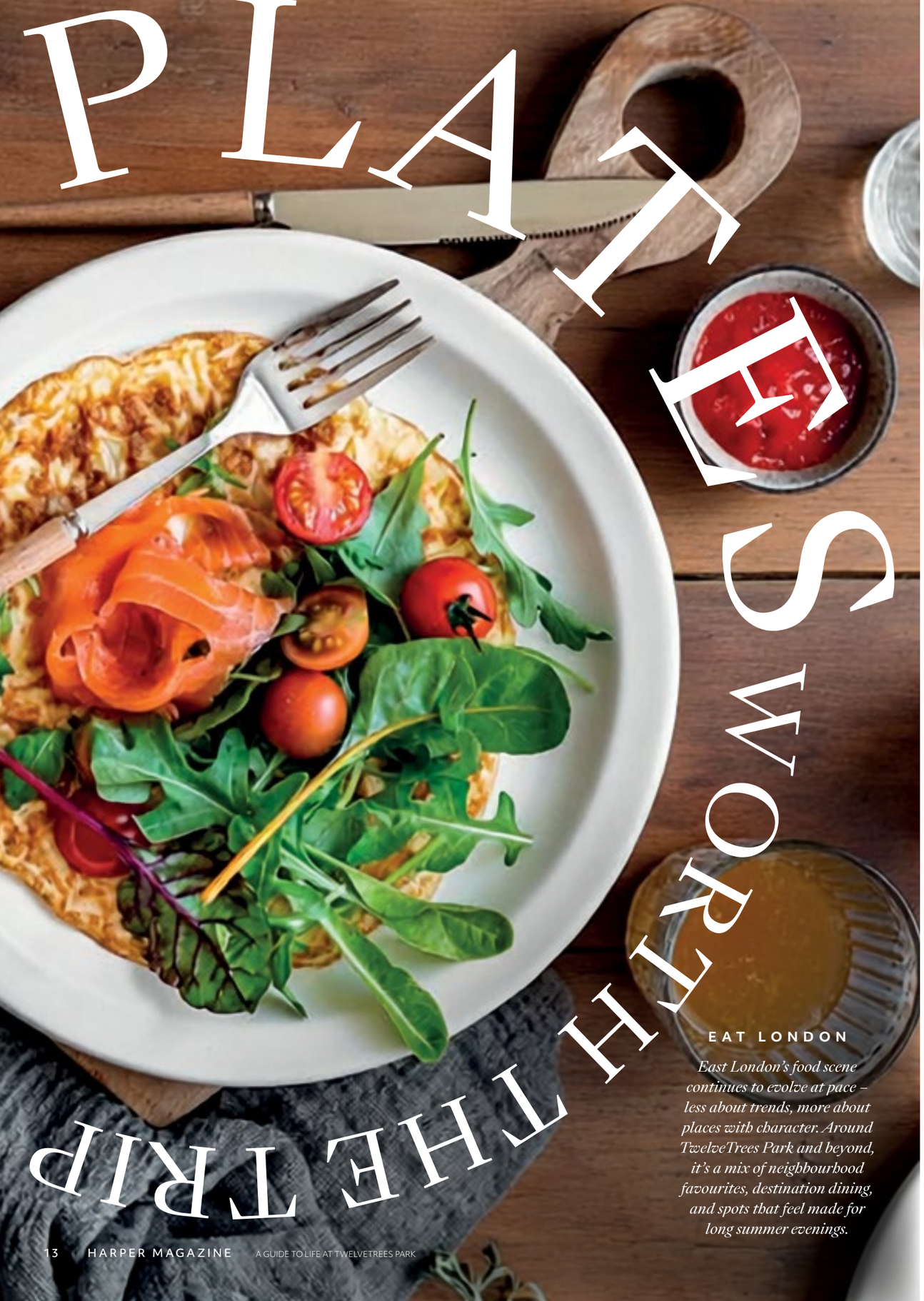
*Time shown is to the closest station from West Ham to Stratford Station.

WHAT ARE YOU, WAITING FOR GO BOOK

Station: Stratford 3 mins
1 stop via Jubilee Line

Opening Hours
Mon-Sat: 08:00-23:30
Sun: 08:00-22:00

PLATES WORTH THE TRIP



EAT LONDON

East London's food scene continues to evolve at pace – less about trends, more about places with character. Around TwelveTrees Park and beyond, it's a mix of neighbourhood favourites, destination dining, and spots that feel made for long summer evenings.

From riverside dining to hidden neighbourhood gems, the area around TwelveTrees Park offers a food scene that's as diverse as its community. Designed for everything from quick catch-ups to long, unhurried evenings.

8 MINS FIGO

Modern, easy-going and full of energy, Figo brings a contemporary European feel to the local dining mix. Expect seasonal dishes, fresh ingredients and a setting that works just as well for a quick midweek bite as it does for a more leisurely weekend meal.

Address: Endeavour Square, Stratford, London E20 1JN
Opening hours: Daily 11:00am-11:15pm
Best way to get there: Stratford station 3 mins (Jubilee line – 1 stop) then a 3 minute walk via Westfield and East Village

9 MINS DARK HORSE

Low-lit, atmospheric and effortlessly cool, Dark Horse is built for evenings that run late. Think cocktails, small plates and a soundtrack that sets the tone. It's less about formality, more about mood, a place to settle in and stay longer than planned.

Address: 16-19 Victory Parade, East Village, Stratford, London E20 1FS
Opening hours: Tue-Thu 4:00pm-10:00pm, Fri 12:00pm-10:30pm, Sat 11:00am-10:30pm, Sun 11:30am-6:30pm
Best way to get there: Stratford station 3 mins (Jubilee line – 1 stop) then a short walk through East Village

10 MINS FABWICK

Industrial, creative and community-driven, Fabwick feels rooted in East London's maker culture. It's a space where food meets experimentation, relaxed service, inventive dishes and a setting that's as much about atmosphere as it is about what's on the plate.

Address: Queen's Yard, London E9 5EN
Opening hours: Varies by event and kitchen residency schedule
Best way to get there: Hackney Wick Overground then a short walk or cycle along the canal.

11 MINS HERA

A refined yet relaxed dining experience that leans into bold Mediterranean flavours. Hera is the kind of place where plates are designed for sharing, conversations stretch, and the atmosphere quietly builds as the evening goes on. It's polished without feeling formal, ideal for a long dinner that turns into the night.

Address: 4 Arber Way, Stratford Cross, London E20 1JS
Opening hours: Daily 11:00am-11:00pm
Best way to get there: Stratford station 3 mins (Jubilee line – 1 stop)

12 MINS BARGE EAST

Set aboard a historic barge, Barge East delivers one of East London's most distinctive dining experiences. Seasonal British produce, creative plating and a riverside setting combine to create something memorable, especially as the sun drops and the water reflects the evening light.

Address: 98 White Post Lane, Hackney Wick, London E9
Opening hours: Thu-Fri 4:00pm-late, Sat-Sun 12:00pm-late
Best way to get there: Hackney Wick Overground 7mins (Jubilee line & Overground) then 5 minute walk along the canal

Raising THE BAR

SKY-HIGH SPOTS, SUNSET DRINKS, AND VIEWS WORTH LINGERING FOR.

East London does rooftops differently. Less polished exclusivity, more sky-level socialising, where the drinks are cold, the playlists are considered, and the skyline does most of the talking. From Stratford's high-rise energy to riverside hangouts, these are the spots where summer really lifts off.



BEST ROOFTOPS in East London

BREAD STREET KITCHEN BAR & ROOFTOP

Stratford's rooftop dining scene has found a heavyweight. Created by acclaimed chef Gordon Ramsay, this elevated outpost brings a sharper, more refined energy to East London's skies, all clean lines, sunset views and a sense that dinner might easily drift into drinks, and then into "just one more round."

By day, it's all about open-air lunches, relaxed plates and a welcome pause above the pace of Stratford below. By evening, the terrace shifts tone, lights soften, conversations stretch, and the skyline becomes part of the experience as much as the menu itself.

It's a rooftop that balances signature Ramsay precision with East London ease – elevated, but never overworked.

Address: 9 Endeavour Square, Stratford, London E20 1JN
Opening hours: Daily approx 11:30am-11:00pm
Best transport: Stratford Station – short walk through East Bank

ROOF EAST

If rooftops had personalities, Roof East would be the one refusing to sit still. It's part playground, part street food market, part open-air festival and entirely unapologetic about it.

This is where rooftop drinks come with skyline bowling, where DJs soundtrack golden hour, and where no one is in a rush to go anywhere else. It's loud in the best way, casual in the right way, and designed for groups who never quite manage to leave after "one quick drink."

Address: Stratford Multi Storey Car Park, Great Eastern Way, London E15 1XE
Opening hours: Seasonal (spring-early autumn, evenings from 5pm)
Best transport: Stratford Station – around 10 minutes on foot

TERRACE E20

This is East London at its most relaxed. Sitting beside Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Riverside East and its rooftop terrace feel like a soft landing above the city, open views, long light, and a pace that encourages lingering. Think al fresco dinners as the light fades, £3 oysters for a spontaneous treat, and bottomless brunches that turn weekends into something a little more celebratory. It's the kind of place where afternoons stretch out without effort: coffee turns into cocktails, plans stay flexible, and the skyline quietly shifts from blue to gold. There's always something happening, but nothing feels rushed, a rooftop that understands the value of doing very little, very well.

Address: 20 International Way, London, E20 1FD
Opening hours: Daily approx 9:00am-9:00pm (later for events)
Best transport: Stratford Station – 10-12 minute walk or short bus ride

RIVERSIDE EAST ROOFTOP BAR

Not so much a separate destination as a change of mood. The rooftop bar at Riverside East leans fully into laid-back summer living, drinks in hand, park views in front, and that unmistakable feeling of not needing to be anywhere else.

Evenings here unfold slowly. Conversations drift, music hums in the background, and the Olympic Park lights begin to take over the skyline. It's uncomplicated, unfussy, and exactly the kind of rooftop that rewards staying longer than planned.

Address: 5 Thornton Street, Stratford, London E20 2AD
Opening hours: Typically 9:00am-9:00pm (varies by events/season)
Best transport: Stratford Station – 10-12 minutes on foot

PERGOLA CANARY WHARF

Set against the waterside backdrop of Canary Wharf, Pergola on the Wharf is one of London's standout summer destinations. Combining botanical interiors with an open, airy atmosphere, the venue offers everything from relaxed brunches and long lunches to sunset cocktails and late-night DJ sets.

With a menu built around seasonal dishes and sharing plates, Pergola brings together vibrant food, music and skyline views for the ultimate summer social spot.

Address: Crossrail Pl, Canary Wharf Estate, London E14 5AR
Opening hours: Wed-Sat 12:00pm-12:00am (varies by events/season)
Best transport: West Ham Station – 15-20 minutes on foot

BOKAN 38/39

Set across the top floors of Novotel Canary Wharf, Bokan 38/39 has become one of London's most impressive rooftop destinations. Offering panoramic views across the capital from its striking skyline location, Bokan combines sophisticated interiors, expertly crafted cocktails and contemporary European dining for an elevated city experience.

From sunset drinks on the rooftop terrace to intimate dinners overlooking the Thames, the venue delivers a stylish atmosphere that effortlessly transitions from after-work cocktails to late-night celebrations. Known for its seasonal menus, live DJs and unmatched views of the London skyline, Bokan remains a standout destination for summer evenings in Canary Wharf.

Address: Floor 38/39, 40 Marsh Wall, London E14 9TP
Opening hours: 12:00pm-1:00am (varies by days)
Best transport: West Ham Station – 15-20 minutes on foot

CITY PACE, SOFTENED BY

green ESCAPES



In East London, green space isn't an afterthought, it's part of the rhythm. From wide-open parkland to tucked-away gardens, these are the places where the pace shifts, the noise drops, and the day stretches out a little differently.

FROM ICONIC PARKLAND TO EMERGING GREEN CORRIDORS, EAST LONDON OFFERS SPACE TO BREATHE WITHOUT STEPPING AWAY FROM THE CITY – A BALANCE THAT DEFINES LIFE AT TWELVETREES PARK.



WEST HAM PARK

A local favourite with a quieter charm, West Ham Park offers something a little more understated. Think open lawns, ornamental gardens and tree-lined paths that feel a world away from the city, despite being right in it.

It's the kind of park made for slow mornings and easy afternoons, coffee in hand, nowhere urgent to be. There's a sense of calm here that's increasingly rare in London, making it a reliable go-to when you need to reset without going far.

Cycle time from TwelveTrees Park:
Approx. 5 minutes



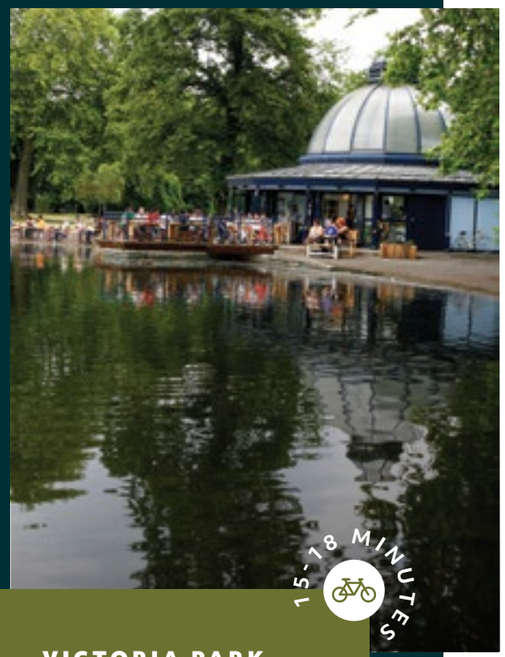
QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK

At the centre of East London's transformation, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is where scale meets design. Wide walkways, waterways and curated green spaces create a landscape that's as much about movement as it is about pause.

Run it, cycle it, picnic in it or just pass through and let it shape your day. With cultural landmarks, cafés and events woven throughout, it's less a park you visit and more one you orbit.

Cycle time from TwelveTrees Park:
Approx. 10-12 minutes

Image courtesy of the The Olympic Park.



VICTORIA PARK

One of East London's most loved green spaces, Victoria Park blends classic park life with a distinctly modern energy. On any given day, you'll find runners, sunbathers and groups gathered along the canals, all sharing the same stretch of green.

At weekends, the atmosphere shifts again with the market. Street food, independent traders and a steady buzz of activity turn the park into a destination in its own right, part green escape, part social scene.

Cycle time from TwelveTrees Park:
Approx. 15-18 minutes

5 MINUTES

A SHORT JOURNEY FROM TWELVETREES PARK, THE O2 DELIVERS ON BOTH SIDES OF A GOOD PLAN:

WHAT TO DO, AND WHAT TO WEAR.

BIG O2 NIGHTS OUT, BETTER OUTFITS

WHAT'S ON

Ariana Grande is set to bring The Eternal Sunshine Tour to London's O2 Arena for a landmark 10-night residency, with performances between Saturday 15 August 2026 – Tuesday 1 September 2026. Marking her long-awaited return to touring, the run is expected to showcase material from Eternal Sunshine alongside many of the chart-topping hits that have defined her career.

Renowned for her exceptional vocal ability and polished stagecraft, Grande's O2 residency is already being hailed as one of the capital's most anticipated live music events of the year, drawing fans from across the UK and beyond.

Tickets are on sale now via The O2



THE O2

Rising over the Greenwich Peninsula like a beacon of London nightlife, The O2 is where scale meets spectacle. Inside its vast dome, world-class artists turn every night into a landmark event, while its buzzing bars, restaurants and immersive experiences keep the energy surging long after the final encore.

It's not just a venue, it's a full-throttle destination for anyone chasing the city's biggest moments.

Address:
The O2, Peninsula Square, London SE10 0DX

Opening hours:
Daily approx. 10:00am-8:00pm (later on event nights)

Best transport:
North Greenwich via Jubilee Line (5mins/2 stops)

OUTLET SHOPPING

Right next door, the outlet at The O2 turns last-minute outfit planning into something far more enjoyable. Whether it's a holiday wardrobe refresh, a wedding guest look, or activewear to match your new running routine, it's all here, just without the full-price commitment.

Expect brands like Reiss for elevated occasionwear, think effortless tailoring, statement dresses and pieces that work beyond one event. For something more functional, there's a strong mix of fitness and lifestyle brands, making it easy to move from weekday runs to weekend resets without missing a beat.

THE AVENUE

AT TWELVETREES PARK

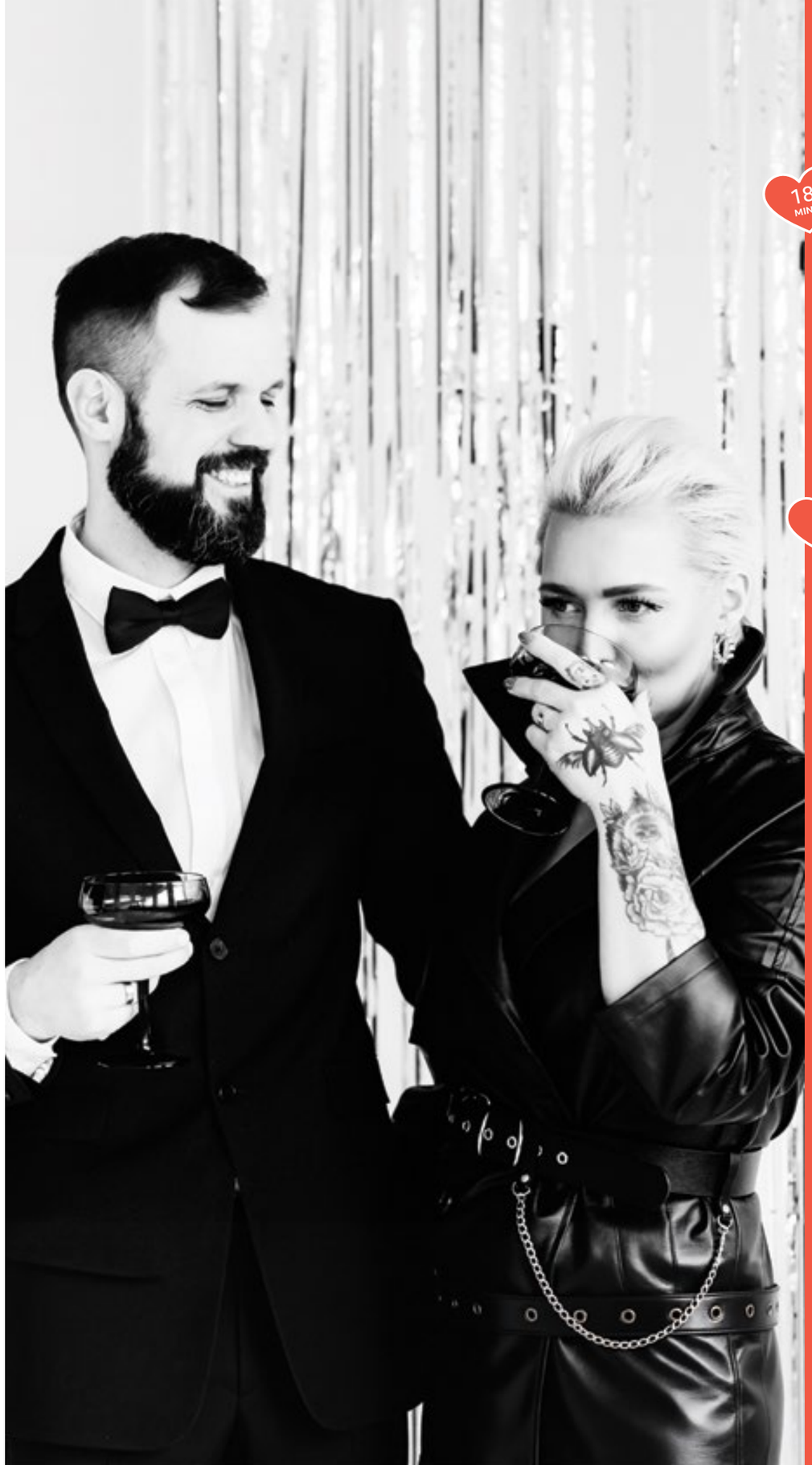
IT'S A DIFFERENT KIND OF PARK, ONE THAT LIVES ALONGSIDE YOU. MORNING RUNS, EVENING STROLLS, WEEKEND RESETS – ALL WITHOUT NEEDING TO LEAVE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

DATE NIGHT IN EAST LONDON

LOVE AT FIRST BITE (AND DRINK)

JAZZ ROOFTOPS, LATE-NIGHT PLATES, AND PLACES MADE FOR TWO (OR NOT-PLANNED-FOR-AT-ALL) EVENINGS.

East London does date night differently, less rigid reservation, more spontaneous energy. It's about rooftops that turn into dancefloors, jazz drifting over Hackney rooftops, and restaurants where the food is only part of the story. Whether it's midweek or weekend, there's always somewhere that feels just right for two.



NETIL360

18 MINS

High above Hackney, netil360 has become a staple for unfiltered East London evenings – relaxed, a little rough around the edges, and always full of atmosphere. It's the kind of rooftop where plans don't need to be fixed in advance; they just evolve as the night goes on.

Tuesdays bring a change of pace with a jazz club takeover, setting the tone for slower, more soulful evenings. Add in £5 pints and 50% off pizza, and suddenly midweek feels like the best night to go out. It's casual, communal, and effortlessly social, the kind of place where a quick drink rarely stays quick.

Address: 1 Westgate Street, Hackney E8 3RL
Opening hours: Daily approx. 12:00pm-10:30pm (later on event nights)
Best transport: London Fields Overground – 5 minute walk
From West Ham: 18 mins

NIGHT TALES LOFT

18 MINS

Up above the city, Night Tales Loft is all about surprise. No two nights feel the same – one evening might lean into DJs and cocktails, the next into intimate live sets or curated takeovers that shift the entire mood of the space.

It's unpredictable in the best way, designed for repeat visits rather than one-off plans. The energy is always changing, but the intention stays the same: create a night that feels slightly different every time you arrive. Closed on Sundays for private events, it keeps a sense of exclusivity without ever feeling inaccessible – more like a space that breathes with the rhythm of the week.

Address: Night Tales Loft, 207, 1 Westgate St, London, E8 3RL
Opening hours: Wednesdays: 6pm-12am,
Fridays: 5pm- 2:30am & Saturdays: 5pm-2:30am
Best transport: London Fields Overground – 7 minute walk
From West Ham: 18 mins

ANGELINA

15 MINS

For a more refined take on date night, Angelina brings Michelin-level dining into the mix with quiet confidence. Elegant without being overbearing, it's a restaurant that lets the food lead – precise, seasonal, and beautifully composed.

The atmosphere is calm and considered, designed for long dinners where conversation naturally slows to match the pace of the courses. It's East London's answer to elevated dining: understated, polished, and unmistakably special when the moment calls for it.

Address: 56 Dalston Lane, London E8 3AH
Opening hours: Thu-Sat approx. 5:00pm-11:30pm and Sun-Tue 6:00pm-11:00pm (lunch on select days)
Best transport: Dalston Junction or Dalston Kingsland Overground – 5-10 minute walk
From West Ham – 15 mins

JUST

SPEND A DAY AT THE BEACH

When the city heats up, the coast calls and luckily, it's closer than you think. Just 38 minutes from West Ham on the c2c, Leigh-on-Sea offers an easy escape that feels a world away from East London's pace.

MINS AWAY





From morning trains to sunset returns, Leigh-on-Sea delivers the kind of beach day that feels effortless – close enough for spontaneity, but far enough to switch off completely.

There's a charm here that's hard to replicate. Part fishing village, part weekend retreat, Leigh-on-Sea leans into its coastal roots with an easy confidence – winding lanes, working boats and that unmistakable sea air.

Along the waterfront, traditional cockle sheds sit alongside pastel-painted houses, creating a setting that feels both nostalgic and quietly stylish. It's the kind of place where time slows down naturally, where a walk turns into a wander, and a quick stop becomes an afternoon.

Pubs spill out onto the front, tables catching the sun as the tide moves in and out. It's relaxed, unpolished in the best way, and perfect for long lunches that don't need an agenda.

LEIGH-ON-SEA

Salt air, slower pace, and a seaside reset within reach.



WHERE TO EAT

For something a little more elevated, Food Leigh-on-Sea brings a Michelin Guide nod to the shoreline.

Seasonal, ingredient-led and thoughtfully put together, it offers a more refined take on coastal dining, without losing that laid-back seaside feel.

Expect fresh flavours, a changing menu and a space that feels intimate rather than formal, ideal for stretching out the day just a little longer before heading back to the city.



FOOD LEIGH-ON-SEA

Address: 92 Leigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1BU

Telephone Number: +44 1702 840904

Opening hours: Fri-Sat 12:00pm-4:00pm, 5:30pm-11:00pm Sun 12:00pm-6:00pm

Bookings: Please contact the restaurant directly



East London's next wave of culture is already in motion.

Coming Soon



COMING SOON

10-12 MINUTES

THE REX: A NEW MUSIC LANDMARK FOR STRATFORD

A £15 million transformation is set to give new life to a legendary East London theatre, as the Columbo Group, the team behind Phonox in Brixton and Camden's Jazz Café – takes over the historic Rex on Stratford High Street.

Reimagined as a 2,300-capacity live music venue, it will become one of East London's major new stages for live performance, bringing headline acts, club nights and cultural programming into a space built for scale and atmosphere.

Address: Stratford High Street (The Rex site), London E15
Best transport: West Ham to Stratford (Jubilee, District or DLR), then 5-7 minute walk
Travel time from West Ham: Approx. 10-12 minutes total journey

8-10 MINUTES

PHANTOM PEAK AT WESTFIELD STRATFORD CITY

Westfield Stratford City is set to become home to something entirely different, a fully immersive world of storytelling and exploration.

Phantom Peak arrives Summer 2026 with a new, expanded multi-level venue featuring Old Town, Town Square and Lakeside districts. It's part theatre, part game, part living city, where every visit unfolds differently depending on how you explore it.

Alongside themed bars, arcade games and evolving quests, it creates a space where entertainment becomes interactive and open-ended.

Address: Westfield Stratford City, Montfichet Road, London E20 1EJ
Best transport: West Ham to Stratford (Jubilee Line), then 5 minute walk through Westfield
Travel time from West Ham: Approx. 8-10 minutes total journey

12-15 MINUTES

BBC MAIDA VALE STUDIOS TO EAST BANK

The legendary BBC Maida Vale Studios is also part of East London's cultural shift, moving its creative home to East Bank.

A cornerstone of British music history, Maida Vale has hosted everything from orchestral recordings to iconic live sessions for decades. Its relocation east marks a symbolic moment, the movement of creative legacy from West London into Stratford's growing cultural quarter.

Once established at East Bank, the new home will support live performance, recording and public programming at scale, embedding one of the UK's most historic studios into one of its most future-facing cultural districts.

Address: East Bank, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London E20
Best transport: West Ham to Stratford (Jubilee or District Line), then 10-12 minute walk through Olympic Park
Travel time from West Ham: Approx. 12-15 minutes total journey

IF EAST LONDON HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT REINVENTION, THE NEXT CHAPTER IS ARRIVING FAST – BIGGER VENUES, BOLDER EXPERIENCES, AND FAMILIAR NAMES FINDING NEW HOMES IN UNEXPECTED PLACES.



HTA

Introducing

THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

BEHIND TWELVETREES PARK

EASTWARD MOMENTUM

HTA's design for TwelveTrees Park delivers a bold, people-centred vision for a greener, more connected East London neighbourhood. Their 2023 move east underscores that same drive, placing the practice closer to the communities and regeneration areas shaping the city's future. Read the full interview to explore the thinking behind the project and the shift.



Can you describe the vision behind TwelveTrees Park and its role within the wider masterplan?

TwelveTrees Park is a major regeneration project transforming former industrial land into a vibrant mixed-use neighbourhood with a strong local identity. Set within the River Lea corridor, the site's rich heritage is reflected in its name, taken from Harper Twelvetrees, the soap-powder industrialist and noted abolitionist whose factory once stood here.

The vision is to reconnect nature with the city by reintroducing green space to this post-industrial landscape, improving access to open areas, and celebrating the site's unique character through design inspired by its industrial past.

What was HTA's role in shaping the landscape strategy?

HTA Design has led the landscape vision for TwelveTrees Park since 2017, developing a strong landscape-led strategy that gives the neighbourhood a clear identity. At its heart is a new five-acre park for play, exercise, socialising and reconnecting with nature.

An east–west 'habitat mosaic' shapes the park, shifting from active, formal spaces near West Ham Station to more naturalistic areas in the west, supporting both community life and biodiversity.

A network of public spaces, including a square, piazza, amphitheatre, community gardens and play areas, links the park to the wider masterplan. This framework has guided phased delivery, ensuring continuity while allowing each phase its own character. Phase 1 is now complete.

How does the project respond to its industrial heritage?

The landscape design draws on the site's industrial heritage, echoing the old railway in its movement routes and reimagining elements like platforms and sidings within play spaces. These references create a layered identity that honours the past while shaping a distinctive new community.

Sustainability is a major theme – how is this delivered in the landscape?

Sustainability is central to TwelveTrees Park, with nearly half the masterplan given to open space, delivering climate, habitat and material-reuse benefits. A diverse tree canopy shapes cooler, more comfortable spaces, while an integrated water system, swales, rain gardens, blue roofs and permeable paving, naturally manages and filters rainwater.

Planting becomes increasingly naturalistic towards the River Lea, supported by green and brown roofs, podium gardens and street-level vegetation, creating a connected habitat network across the site.

How does the scheme prioritise people and community use?

TwelveTrees Park puts people first, offering an inclusive public realm with over 11.5 acres of open space and 12,000 sq m of play.

Phase 1 spaces already host year-round community programmes, markets, art, music and outdoor film, shaped with local partners.

The park acts as a hub for daily life, supported by walking routes, exercise trails and distributed play that promote everyday movement and wellbeing.

What challenges came with designing on a large brownfield site?

The key challenge was opening up a previously inaccessible industrial site and connecting it to surrounding neighbourhoods despite major infrastructure like West Ham Station.

New east-side links, including two Manor Road footbridges and a new station entrance, now integrate the site, strengthen walking and cycling routes, and improve access to the Lea Valley.

How does TwelveTrees Park reflect HTA's broader landscape philosophy?

HTA's landscape philosophy centres on creating contextual, accessible and climate-resilient places that support community life. At TwelveTrees Park, this drives a landscape-led masterplan that prioritises people and nature, with flexible public spaces delivered in Phase 1. The design weaves in the site's industrial heritage and significantly enhances biodiversity across a dense urban setting.

Practice & Relocation: Moving to East London

HTA moved its London studio in January 2023 – what motivated the move to East London?

HTA's move to Hackney Wick reflects its aim to be in a creative, mixed-use neighbourhood with a legacy of innovation that aligns with its regeneration and placemaking focus.

The area's post-Olympic transformation has created a vibrant community supported by extensive green and blue infrastructure, from Victoria Park and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to the canal network and Hackney Marshes, offering a healthy balance of nature and urban life.

What does being based in East London mean for your projects?

Being based in East London places the practice at the centre of some of the UK's most significant regeneration projects. This proximity enables direct and ongoing engagement with rapidly evolving urban contexts and the communities they shape, including developments such as TwelveTrees Park.

During the construction of Phase 1, I regularly cycle between the site and HTA's offices, allowing for frequent site visits and a close, hands-on involvement with the project as it progressed.



The studio reuse project is itself a retrofit – how does that align with HTA's values?

The studio is a retrofit of a 19th-century warehouse, directly reflecting HTA's commitment to sustainable, low-carbon design.

It acts as a living example of net zero carbon retrofit, both a workplace and a real-time testbed for sustainable strategies.

The studio also supports collaboration, flexibility, and research-led design, reinforcing the same values we apply in our wider work with clients and design teams.

How does the new office support collaboration across disciplines?

The office brings together around 200 professionals from architecture, landscape, sustainability & building physics, planning, interior design, and communications & engagement in one shared, connected workspace. The setup encourages daily interaction, faster decision making and more integrated design thinking, all essential to delivering complex projects like TwelveTrees Park.

Reflective / Forward-Looking

What lessons from TwelveTrees Park will inform future projects?

TwelveTrees Park reinforced a few key lessons for future projects: bring landscape into the masterplan from day one, design for long-term climate resilience, maximise biodiversity, and create flexible public spaces that can adapt as communities grow and change. Berkeley Homes recognised the value of this integrated approach early on, allowing landscape to shape both the character and everyday function of the development.

How do you see the role of landscape evolving in large-scale regeneration?

Landscape is becoming a key component of large-scale regeneration rather than a secondary or decorative element. It is increasingly treated as essential infrastructure, alongside transport, drainage, and buildings.

It plays a key role in climate resilience by managing flood risk, reducing urban heat, and supporting biodiversity. At the same time, landscape helps shape the social value of a place, creating inclusive public spaces that encourage wellbeing, interaction, and community cohesion, especially in dense urban areas.

Beyond function, landscape is also central to place identity. It helps define the character of new neighbourhoods, connects developments to their wider context, and creates memorable environments that people can relate to and take ownership of.



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