

We take a first look inside Southbank Place

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The Canary Wharf Group and Qatari Diar are behind this ambitious new development in London's Southbank

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London's South Bank has been a popular cultural destination for decades, from the 1951 Festival of Britain to today's pick of high profile performance and art spaces along the Thames. The area's ambitious new development, [Southbank Place](#) - launched by the [Canary Wharf Group](#) and [Qatari Diar](#) earlier this summer - is set to bring a new retail, entertainment and residential hub to the area, and the developers behind it have just unveiled the first tantalising interiors.

Sitting around the site of the iconic 5.25 acre Shell Centre (which is itself part of the scheme), the large-scale project comprises seven new buildings, featuring retail, hospitality and public spaces, and totalling a striking 868 residential properties. The complex is linked to the river via a park, with its ground floor levels primarily covered by retail and the westerly and easterly facing buildings housing the residential elements.

The first residential project to launch - which will also be the tallest on the Southbank Place masterplan - is [One York Square](#). Designed by [Squire and Partners](#) and interior designers [Johnson Naylor](#), [One York Square](#) is deliberately set back from York Road to allow breathing space for pedestrians and will include from studio apartments, to three-bedrooms and four penthouses. 'It is divided into four tiers, with the number of apartments decreasing as the structure ascends', explain the developers.

'In order to make the building as elegant as possible we decided to express the structural frame,' says Squire and Partners' Murray Levinson. Its slim and sleek masonry exterior will feature intricate bronze details in the shape of special glass panels embedded with a bronze mesh, which cleverly allows views out without letting views in from the street. Meanwhile its skeleton reduces in thickness the higher it gets for an overall elegant effect.

Another key element for the architects was to enhance the site's stunning vistas and make sure all apartments get plenty of light and open space. For this they worked closely with Johnson Naylor, who worked on the apartment interiors. They aimed to keep the spaces 'as open as possible', paying special attention to each flat's layout. A striking two thirds of them will be dual aspect. It was important to create an interior that is refined and distinct, explain Johnson Naylor, while at the same time being able to accommodate the new owner's personality.






More high profile architects are involved in the master plan's other designs, including Kohn Pederson Fox, Patel Taylor, Stanton Williams, GRID, Townshend Landscape, and interior designers Goddard Littlefair. For [One York Square](#), the sales launch on the 17 September.

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