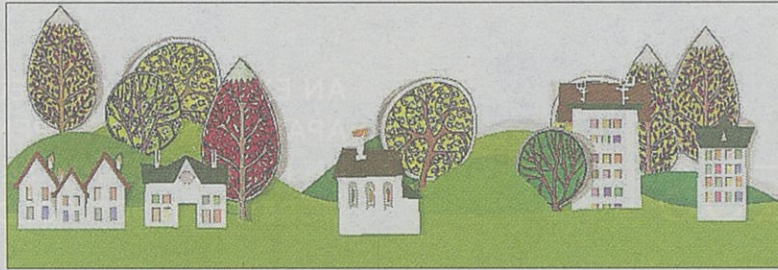


Tim
Gledstone



SHUTTERSTOCK

LONDON has been shaped over centuries by agriculture, trade and industry. As the global city grew, its suburbs emerged as well-considered low-density and low-rise neighbourhoods organised around green spaces and gardens, where workers could retreat and raise families. An expanded network of trains, Tubes and trams enhanced the suburbs' appeal.

At its edges, London is an amalgamation of towns and villages. Today, 60 per cent of the capital's growth is in these outer boroughs, making it necessary to intensify development in traditionally "suburban" areas. Architects need to respond by creating communities that are sustainable in the broadest sense, and respecting the unique DNA of outer London. Just as London neighbourhoods have evolved organically over time, new development should be part of that ongoing narrative.

While we should protect established areas of high-quality housing, parks and thriving town centres, redundant uses provide opportunity. The ongoing evolution of the suburbs has left redundant industrial shells, empty car parks and underused retail destinations that are perfect for

Creating suburbs for the 21st century

Our city's constant evolution challenges architects to design for how we live now

enhanced neighbourhoods and services.

Hyperdensification should tap into the existing and evolving web of public transport networks. This is essential to avoid the creation of communities disconnected from the rest of London. New industries with flexible working patterns will ease transport pressure, support start-ups and create an affordable model for integrated communities.

Like the original suburbs, denser, lower-cost housing should be balanced by the enhancement of existing leisure and social green

spaces with new schools and public services. London should not evolve as a series of commuter towns built on outdated models of work and travel. I believe responsible design can positively shape the capital as a whole in a more thoughtful way in its continual evolution.

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OUR PICK OF LONDON FESTIVAL OF ARCHITECTURE

THE festival, running until the end of this month and beyond, highlights green London. Here are some of its headline events:

A NEW KIND OF SUBURBIA

June 28: Metropolitan Workshop hosts an exhibition at its Clerkenwell studio on how architects can create high-quality suburban developments that break the boundaries of traditional housebuilder approaches and enhance the public realm.

ROYAL ALBERT WHARF

June 13: as Royal Albert Wharf emerges as an exciting new Docklands location, Maccreanor Lavington and FCBSudios lead a walking tour of their new schemes.

LONDON, CITY OF VILLAGES

June 20: an exclusive tour of Greenwich Millennium Village by Jestico + Whiles, which is leading the completion of the area's masterplan to create a unique quarter within London. Starting at the Royal Docks and taking the Emirates Air Line, participants will be immersed in this modern village.

BEACON GARDEN

June 21: collective practice They Are Here has transformed a Dagenham car park into a community garden. A celebratory

event to coincide with the summer solstice marks the opening, and tells the behind-the-scenes stories of the garden's creation.

THE RAM QUARTER

June 22: a walking tour by EPR Architects showcasing the transformation of the former Young's Ram brewery in Wandsworth into a new urban quarter that celebrates the site's strong heritage.

THROUGH THE MARSHES

June 24: a walking tour along the Thames from Rainham to Purfleet, looking at the boundary of Greater London and taking in interesting architecture along the river including Rainham Hall, Napoleonic gunpowder stores and the RSPB Rainham visitor centre.

LATE AT PITZHANGER

June 28: an evening of art and architecture at Sir John Soane's country retreat. Explore the boundaries and possibilities of what is real and imagined with The Unbuilt Room, a specially created event that is part séance, part game and part performance.

● For more information on these and all London Festival of Architecture events, visit londonfestivalofarchitecture.org