



# LUMA has it

One of London's largest and most exciting redevelopments, King's Cross, has been described as a symbol of London's industrial past and creative present – both of which inform **Argent's** new residential development, **LUMA**.





With a unique identity amongst a characterful collection of neighbouring office and apartment buildings currently under construction, LUMA is inspired by the industrial heritage of King's Cross, with a delicately layered façade symbolising the interconnecting rail tracks. Competing with many other new residential developments currently on site or recently delivered in the area, LUMA needed to own its identity, making it a desirable place to live.

This joined-up collaboration between the client, Argent, architects Squire & Partners and interior designers Conran and Partners, has made the story of LUMA's design an easy tale to tell.

The building's aluminium façade, with a second layer emulating dappled light, creates an organic pattern used on decorative lattice screens, bas-relief aluminium and concrete panels. The exterior panels can be moved to modulate light into the apartments, mitigating the effects of solar gain and helping to keep the apartments cool in the summer months. All apartments benefit from either a balcony or Juliette balcony, which blur the boundary between inside and out, further reinforcing the connections to the parks on either side.

'The pandemic has heightened most people's desire to be connected to nature, so the concept is even more relevant now than it was when we designed the scheme some years ago,' says Simon Kincaid, Partner at Conran and Partners. 'The building's unique positioning between two adjacent green spaces – Jellicoe Gardens to the east and Lewis Cubitt Park to the west – helps to create a sense of openness for residents, as well as enhancing the quality of light inside the apartments. This strong visual connection to the parks, combined with the dual aspect of many apartments and generous balconies, gives LUMA a distinctive feel of urban luxury.'

**LEFT** *The lobby features an architectural light installation from Orlight*

PHOTOS: PATRICK WILLIAMSON AND JAKE WALTERS

Key to the design is the journey from a bustling urban external space to the serenity of the interiors. Conran and Partners has created a tonal journey, from the atmospheric and rich lobby to airy light-filled apartments – a unique interior identity that contrasts dramatic design features with moments of calm, offering a tranquil, spa-like escapism for residents.

The composition of the lobby area is influenced by Conran and Partners' experience of hotel design. Conceived as a mixture of a sophisticated hotel lobby and a welcoming members' club, with the level of concierge service to match, LUMA's warm and multi-layered lobby offers a clear visual connection and axis between the two parks.

High ceilings, dark-stained timber joinery, bespoke lighting and soft furnishings create a serene and atmospheric entrance, complemented by a layering of details such as full-height bronze-black metal decorative screens that divide the space, light grey terrazzo flooring with brass inlay pattern, leather upholstery and a Venato marble concierge desk.

**BELOW** The integrated kitchen features refined materials such as natural stone to create a connection back to nature



**LEFT** The graphic pattern of the metallic brise soleil on the façade references the pattern of dappled light that forms when sunlight filters through a tree canopy





*A similar design motif to the facade is repeated in the communal lobby.*