

BT Tower to open for Open House London for the first time

For the first time BT Tower with unrivalled views across London from its famous revolving 34th floor, will be open to members of the public during **Open House London Weekend – the capital’s greatest architectural showcase taking place this year on 18 & 19 September.**

Open House London, this year on 18 & 19 September, is a popular fixture in the city’s cultural calendar organised by **Open-City**, London’s dedicated architecture organisation. It is a truly city-wide celebration of the buildings, places and neighbourhoods where we live, work and play, and the value of good design in creating and sustaining a vibrant city. It is a unique opportunity to get inside what makes London great and be inspired by the power of architecture to transform the quality of our lives, with hundreds of buildings of all kinds opening their doors, plus neighbourhood walks, cycle tours, talks and debates taking place – all for free! This year the event celebrates its 18th birthday, and as the concept that originated in London it has now been successfully replicated around the world including New York, Dublin, Tel Aviv, Barcelona and l’Aquila.

With **this year’s theme ‘Our buildings, our neighbourhoods, our city’** Open House London tells the story of amazing architecture in every London neighbourhood. Londoners will find out more about issues that are relevant to their local area – from the design of homes to the impact of climate change, and the role of architects and contemporary design in revitalising places.

With so many buildings open in every borough it’s worth planning the weekend well in advance. To make this easier the **Open House London 2010 Guide will be available on 9 August.** It can be pre-ordered from Open House at www.open-city.org.uk/shop. A few buildings have access limited and must be booked in advance, including BT Tower, check online at www.openhouselondon.org.uk from 9 August or get the Guide.

Check in the Guide and online from 9 August to find out more about this year’s highlights:

- Neighbourhood walks looking at the spaces in-between buildings, suburban transformation and pockets of housing in our local communities
- Architects’ homes and groundbreaking housing developments
- Eco and zero carbon buildings, sometimes with Energy Saving Trust advisors on site
- The future city - tours of the Olympic Park, Barking Riverside, Tate Modern Extension and other major regeneration projects
- Planners, architects and engineers talks on how they create successful cities
- Public art and space, including the first opportunity to hear from the Olympic Delivery Authority about integrated art for the Olympic Park
- An app for iphone - 'Flook' will tell visitors which Open House building is nearby to visit next
- Competition for an archi-bus tour by iconic Routemaster with Arriva London, starting at BT Tower
- Competition to win an overnight stay at 5* Grosvenor House Hotel
- Photography competition ‘Design that makes a difference’, supported by Architect’s Journal
- Science and Sustainability panel discussion at the Royal Society on Monday 13th September
- Opportunity to see Open House architecture by night and raise money for Maggie’s Centres on the London Night Hike on Friday 17th September

Victoria Thornton, Director of Open House comments *“Experiencing architecture in the flesh helps everyone become more knowledgeable, engage in dialogue and make informed judgments on the buildings, places and neighbourhoods where we all live, work and play. 73% of our visitors say Open House made them feel differently about London’s architecture.”*

Full details of buildings and events will be published in the 2010 Guide (available from 9 August) and can be ordered online at www.open-city.org.uk/shop

Website: www.openhouselondon.org.uk

Press images: available to download from <http://open-city.org.uk/news/images.html>

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Note to Editors:

Open-City is a major initiative by Open-City, the new name of the architecture organisation formerly known as Open House. Over the last 17 years the organisation has grown from showcasing the capital's architecture annually to research, training, advice and campaigns that impact on the whole city. The Weekend keeps the same name as before.

Open House is a concept that was created in London 18 years ago by Open-City. The Open House model invites everyone to experience, explore and understand the value of a well-designed built environment. This successful concept has been extended to newly created events in other cities around the world including New York, Dublin, Tel Aviv, Barcelona, l'Aquila. Further information at <http://openhouselondon.org.uk>

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