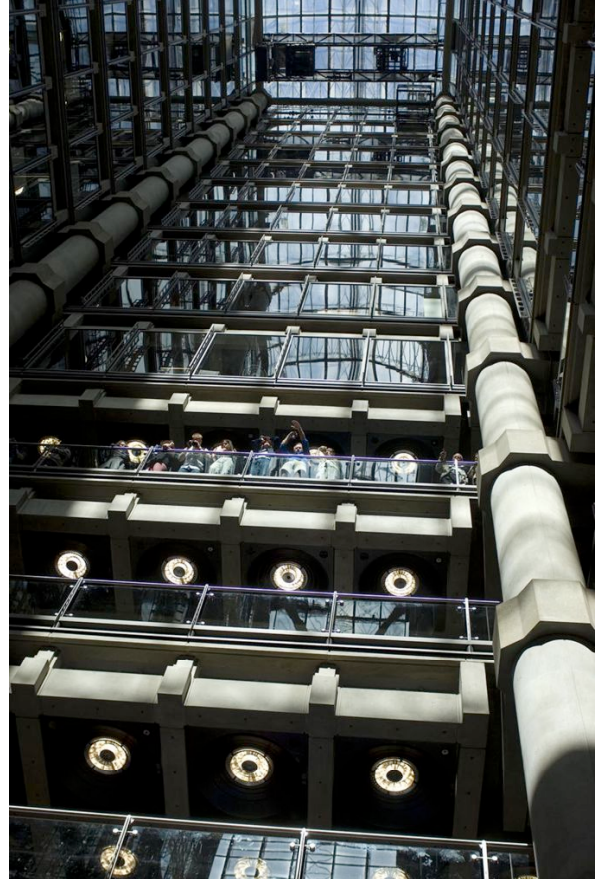




## Open House London - 19 & 20 Sep 2009 "Architecture Up Close"

Open House London Annual Event is the Capital's largest architectural showcase, providing an opportunity for Londoners and visitors alike to experience buildings in the flesh, and to better understand architecture and the urban fabric. During this celebration of the Capital's design excellence, over 600 architectural activities are planned including direct contact with the teams that design, construct and regenerate Londoners' environments. All access is free of charge.

The public can experience private residences from contemporary homes to pre-fab and social housing, to Arts and Crafts gems and 20th Century Modernist classics; livery halls, government buildings, Ambassadors' residences, private clubs, contemporary workspaces, historical houses, City banks, medical centres, schools, RIBA award-winners, sustainable exemplars and more. Visitors can find out what's happening now in planning and urban development with site visits to developments-in-progress, hearing from engineers, planners and commissioners. Architects are often on site in buildings presenting the opportunity to learn about design in the flesh.



Credit: Grand Smith

### Call for volunteers to help to facilitate the programme

The assistance of volunteers is vital to facilitate the Open House Annual event and is greatly appreciated by all those opening for the event. 6,000 people volunteer over the annual Open House London weekend event itself, 600 of whom are placed through Open House.

We would be delighted if you would like to be a part of our extended team this year by offering to steward or guide for a morning or afternoon at one of our participating buildings.

### Volunteering makes a difference to you

- **A volunteers' badge** - This will allow you to jump to the front of the queues to gain entry to some of the other buildings over the weekend. This is really useful at very popular buildings which attract large crowds. Some volunteers with their priority entry badges have visited 8 buildings during one day in the past!
- **A complimentary copy of the Buildings Guide** - The Buildings Guide booklet is your essential companion to the event (normally £4.50).
- **Volunteers' Party** – Held at one of our prestigious buildings participating in the event, this is a great opportunity to meet with the organisers of Open House and other volunteers and have a chat with them about your experience. It is also an opportunity to visit one more building of great architectural interest to round off the weekend!





## Key Roles

- **Stewards** - Primarily there to organise queues, act as extra security for the building, answer practical questions such as opening times, suggesting other buildings close by which are participating, and giving more details about the Open House event in general.
- **Guides** - There to talk about the architecture, function and history of the building. Enough research is required to lead the tours. Guides are responsible for taking groups around in an informal manner, although buildings' requirements vary.

## Key Preparations and Timeline

- **Now** - Register your interest in being a volunteer for the 2009 programme  
Email your full contact details (Name, address, telephone no and email address) to Open House London Team at [volunteers@openhouse.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@openhouse.org.uk)
- **Late June 09** - Select a building  
We are running an online self-allocation system for you to choose your building. We will forward the link to the site plus your unique log-in info in order for you to do this. The website shows that list of the buildings needing volunteers assistance. If you are unable to access the site Open House can make a manual allocation to match your preferences.
- **Mid August 09** - A preparatory briefing  
The briefing gives an overview of the volunteer roles and a general idea of the preparation to be made before the weekend. Particularly useful for new volunteers.
- **Late August 09** - Make contact with the building before the weekend  
Introduce yourself to the building representatives where you are volunteering. You may find it useful to visit the building before the weekend.
- **19 & 20 September 09** - Open House London  
Facilitate opening at the building and enjoy the rest of the weekend with your volunteer badge.
- **Evening of 20 September 09** – Volunteers Party  
Get together and share your experiences at an Open House building over a glass of wine!

## Some volunteers' quotes from previous years

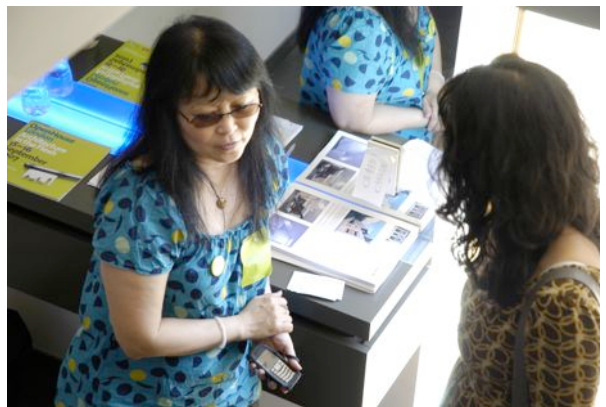
*'After visiting properties for many years of Open House I wanted to give something back for the pleasure I get from the event'*

*'I enjoy being part of, and helping - a little bit - in such a brilliant event; always meet a lot of lovely people'*

*'Open House is just brilliant and I get more out of it each year'*



Credit: Hanne Lund



Credit: Oliver Bloom

## Contact Us

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