

BATTERSEA SQUARE



Location: Wandsworth, London
Client: Wandsworth Borough Council
Value: £2m approx

The demands of traffic had long since turned Battersea's ancient market square into a road junction. With the area derelict since the 1970s, Jack Warshaw conceived and guided the reconstruction of surviving early nineteenth century buildings with retail frontages, and the formation of a new piazza by road closures. Residents and businesses were consulted on proposals, including encouraging restaurants and cafes to spill into the square, a new fountain, stone paving, lighting and trees which form a canopy in summer.

This project has become renowned for local authority sponsorship of the emergent public realm, regenerating the whole area with a piazza that is truly enjoyable to be in. The scheme went on to win a Civic Trust Commendation and was featured in the Vision of Europe Exhibition, Bologna, which went on to tour the world. The Conservation Area has a new heart and the surrounding area is once again Battersea Village. The methods used- and the results- are still being studied as a model for regenerating historic places.


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