

London Eye's David Marks dies

Architect David Marks, of practice Marks Barfield, has died. He had been ill for a long while, the practice says. He trained at the AA, where he met his wife-to-be and business partner, Julia Barfield, setting up in their own practice in 1989. The practice is perhaps best known for conceiving, designing and developing the London Eye. Last year it repeated its success with Brighton's British Airways 1360, a RIBA NAtional Award winner among the many accolades it has received. Marks was made an MBE in 2000 and given a Special Commendation for Outstanding Achievement in Design for Business and Society by the Prince Philip Designers Prize the same year. marksbarfield.com



New man for London office

Global architecture and design firm Perkins+Will has announced new leadership for its London office. Steven Charlton has become managing director of the 135-person practice, taking on the role after having spent the past six years as MD of Perkins+Will's Dubai office. perkinswill.com

In the saddle for Myanmar

UK architectural aid charity, Article 25, is sending a team of cyclists from prominent practices and supporters for a cycle expedition in Myanmar this month. The expedition aims to raise £50,000 to fund the future work of Article 25 in the area. Taking place over 14 days, it includes 500 miles of cycling around the country from Yangon to Mandalay and back, via Yangon General Hospital, the site of the charity's biggest project, and research into the country's healthcare system. article-25.org





New Design District planned for Greenwich

Developer Knight Dragon has launched its plan for London's first purpose-built district designed for the creative industries. The Design District on the Greenwich Peninsula aims to provide a base for more than 1,800 creatives in a range of architect-designed workspaces, offered at affordable rents.

As well as creating a diverse and inclusive creative economy, the new 1 ha district will create a new cultural destination for the capital. Open workshops and studios will be set around a series of courtyards and a central public square in a pedestrianised quarter with a transparent market hall at its centre. Across a cluster of 16 custom-designed buildings, workspaces will range from workshops to artists studios and flexible desk space.

Eight emerging architecture practices were selected from across Europe to create the low-cost, human-scaled workplaces for the district. Each practice was given a pair of buildings to design independently, creating a diversity of colour and form. The eight practices are: 6a Architects; Mole; Architecture 00; Barrozi Veiga; SelgasCano; Assemblage; Adam Khan Architects and David Kohn Architects. Landscape architect Schulze+Grassov designed the public realm.

The Design District is the next phase in the transformation of Greenwich Peninsula by Knight Dragon, as part of a £8.4bn, 20-year plan. It will be delivered in a single phase and be open to its first tenants by early 2020.

knightdragon.com



Light, action!

London-based creative lighting design practice fdcreative was commissioned to design a lighting scheme a new tech start-up campus in Angel, Islington for San Francisco-based Rocketspace. Working together with LOM architecture and design, fdcreative was tasked with designing a lighting scheme that worked with the Rocketspace workspaces, which included the challenge of a large event space - formerly an underground bank vault. The brief included converting the loading bay into a double-height event space, and NatWest's former cash vault into a lounge and games room. The basement level had no natural daylight, so the lighting design was integral in creating a consistent look and feel throughout the area. fdcreative.co.uk