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# ARCHITECTURE

JANUARY 2020

MAGAZINE

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# MAGAZINE LONDON

by **Nissen Richards Studio**

**Magazine London, a major new event space, has opened on the North Greenwich Peninsula in London.**

Designed by award-winning architects and cultural sector specialists Nissen Richards Studio, the building is an eight metre high, monolithic, L-shaped black box and a striking new neighbour for the O2 to its right. As visitors approach from North Greenwich Station, Magazine London forms a dynamic new horizontal plane against the vertical cluster of Canary Wharf towers on the north bank of the Thames.

The purpose-built destination is now the largest of its kind in London, made up of over

3,200 sqm of versatile interior space, catering for up to 3,000 people and able to extend to accommodate a further 7,000 people by using the venue's outdoor showground. Situated on a brownfield site on the Thames riverbank to the west of the O2, the venue is designed for temporary use (from 10 to 12 years), whilst the area undergoes extensive residential, commercial and cultural transformation. Although temporary, the building is strong and robust, with brutalist influences and a contemporary aesthetic and includes two raw steel cantilevered staircases, leading up to two mezzanine spaces. These form two of the four internal sections available for hire or separate

usage, including Space one: the entrance area or foyer, where full-height glazed walls at either end offer spectacular views through to the Thames and beyond, plus Space 2: the venue's largest auditorium or event space. Visitors enter the building directly into the foyer space; Space one, where floor-to-ceiling glazing provides views right through to the full-height glazed back wall and the river beyond. The elegant, glazed curtain walls have been designed in regular modules, with slim-profile glazing mullions for minimum visual disruption. The 875 sqm space has a maximum capacity of 1,750 people. External landscaping beyond and to the left of this space includes The Deck and The Yard.



## PROJECT TEAM

CDM Principal Designer

**Stace**

Structural Engineer & M&E

Engineer (Pre-Novation)

**Aecom**

'Magazine' Branding

**Carter Studio**

Main Contractor

**Losberger DeBoer**

Structural Steel and

Cladding Subcontractor

**Astron**

M&E and

Services Subcontractor

**Acclimatise**

Slab and

Groundworks Subcontractor

**Maxeva**

Fit-Out Subcontractor

**WM Events**

Signage

Fabrication Subcontractor

**Cherwell Signs**

Curtain Walling Subcontractor

**Imperial Facades**

Steel Doors Subcontractor

**Ascot Doors**

Washrooms Subcontractor

**Washrooms Ltd**

Steelwork and

Staircases Subcontractor

**Total Steelwork &**

**Fabrication Ltd**

Platform Lift Subcontractor

**Sheridan Lifts Ltd**

Photography

**Gareth Gardner**



black-tiled terrace areas, and the showground beyond. Security barriers at the main entrance take the form of hexagonal concrete bollards, an inspired re-use of materials from an earlier project.

The light-filled entry space also creates an immediate sense of scale: to the right, two cantilevered staircases lead both to mezzanines one and two (offering 300 and 280 sqm of space respectively), which can be used as bars, VIP areas or overflow for higher guest numbers or otherwise as break-out, seminar and exhibition spaces. The stairs have a raw steel outer balustrade and feature black timber treads and stainless steel handrails. Directly below the mezzanines are two

dividing gates, enabling the larger spaces to be opened and closed for separate concurrent events, or else to seal off ongoing preparation for an event, particularly in the larger, fully-enclosed auditorium space, which also has its own dedicated rear access for stage-builders or event teams.

Space two is the largest internal space at Magazine London. Here, the vast walls are also stained black, creating a striking backdrop for event producers to stage brand introductions or dynamic events. The space also features an eight metre high ceiling with added lighting rigs and exposed services, including service runs, fresh air ducts and cable trays, as well as polished black

concrete floors.

Its internal steel structure features innovative, angled columns that come down almost to a point at ground level, helping create more space, as well as reducing manufacturing costs. The space also features removable staging infrastructure, an effectively invisible sound box built into the archway entrance area and direct vehicle access for automotive launches and displays. A back-of-house area includes a plant room and a bespoke kitchen for large-scale catering. Space two is ideal for conferences, award ceremonies, dinners, exhibitions and events.

[www.nissenrichardsstudio.com](http://www.nissenrichardsstudio.com)