

# DESIGNED FOR LIFE

Your revived Butler's Wharf has pause, play and connection at its heart. Our aim is to co-create a place that sits lightly on the land, that responds to the needs of the community and is delivered with real commitment by invested people. Our design reveals the form and function of the pier and its relationship to the river in active and playful interpretation, whilst creating intimate pocket parks to contemplate the open river views and integrating, much needed, homes for nature. Interventions will have multiple, interacting functions from reclaimed and re-fitted furniture built by local craftspeople, to carbon capturing trees, peaceful sensory gardens and intellectual stimulation – delivered by designers that are ultra-local and socially driven.

Useful Studio and Thomas.Matthews are part of the Useful Simple Trust, a family of professional design practices driving change. Truly considering the impact of our decisions has been part of the practice of Useful Studio, Thomas.Matthews and London Reclaimed /Goldfinch Furniture since the inception of our businesses.

Strategic themes of Zero Waste, Localism and Co-design have guided our thinking and will be at the heart of any development. Creating time to listen, to explore and to challenge will ensure that, together, we design a place for the many lives of Butler's Wharf.

## Return to riverbank

Our conceptual form is inspired by the willow – a traditional Thames side tree – to literally bring life to the riverside in a way that is sustainable and low maintenance, with maximum opportunity for biodiversity gain and a closer connection to nature for the community.

## Designed for diverse needs

Using position and form, our structure is designed to sensitively ensure play and relaxation can co-exist comfortably together, respecting the diverse needs of locals, visitors and residents.

## Access for all

In the spirit of Maggie Blake, our proposal will work hard to welcome visitors and connect Butler's Wharf to the local area to create a shared neighbourhood that is socially inclusive and ensures physical access for everyone.



PAUSE  
Remember and reflect

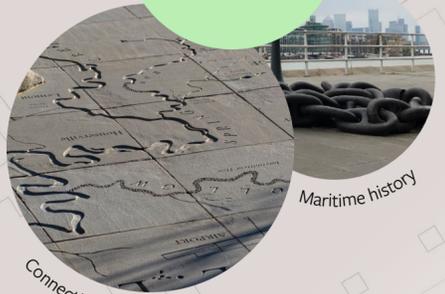


Detailed interpretation



Moments of discovery

CONNECT  
Local heritage



Connecting the past

PAUSE  
Quiet contemplation



Personal, enclosed spaces

PLAY  
Built for imagination



Integrated play co-designed with community

Uninterrupted views

CONNECT  
Coming together



Natural gathering areas

Multi-use, flexible spaces

PLAY  
Picnics and play dates



Open, safe spaces for all

PAUSE  
Relax and unwind



Informal social spaces

CONNECT  
Nature's playground



Increased biodiversity



Sensory planting



Natural materials

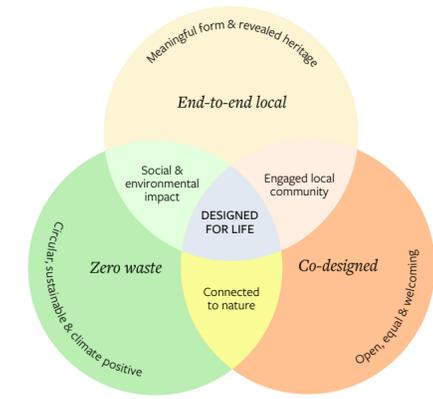
PLAY  
Getting hands dirty



Community garden sessions

\*Images are precedent examples only. All rights remain with the source.

## OUR PRINCIPLES



### Zero waste

*Circular, sustainable & climate positive*

Rescue and re-use existing materials, to retain value, reduce landfill and disruption, and minimise embodied carbon in new materials. We would look to retain and upgrade big impact carbon items such as lampposts, railings and paving. Structures will be light impact requiring as little groundwork as possible. Delicate and light-touch 'pop up' structures, built for disassembly and zero disruption to businesses and residents. Structures will actively create homes for nature, increasing net biodiversity gain.

### End-to-end local

*Meaningful form & revealed heritage*

Working with stakeholders to investigate the maritime, trade and local history of the area we will reflect this in the form & function of the place. Designed, grown and built in London - interventions will use locally sourced, reclaimed timber crafted through a programme to upskill local residents. These purposeful structures reveal local heritage through stimulating and playful interpretation, using local stories that reflect the historic and current diversity of Southwark. By activating community space, we hope to encourage local people to make more use of this secret spot.

### Co-design

*Open, equal & welcoming*

Your Butler's Wharf is a multi-functional structure, with platforms for activity defined and ready for your ideas - their purpose and form will be guided by the community. We are imagining adaptable structures for small social events, regular exercise classes or even mini festivals. Butler's Wharf is a shared neighbourhood - accessible for all. Our approach to stakeholder engagement is as individual as the groups of people we are working with. From online tools, to questionnaires, interviews and creative workshops, sharing ideas is central to a successful outcome for Butler's Wharf.

### A Collective Approach

We are collaborating with local business and charity, Goldfinch Furniture/London Reclaimed as we have important shared values. We envision this project to widen and include the community of Butler's Wharf. Our thinking for the competition is only the first step and we intend for our design proposals to evolve through neighbourhood insight and co-design.



Employment and training for local young adults

Useful Studio is an architectural practice committed to being a force for good. With Thomas Matthews, we are part of the Useful Simple Trust, a group of companies with a naturally collaborative approach. Through embedded design thinking, we engage our clients and users to deliver purpose driven design for our changing environment.

As a Social Enterprise and Employee Owned organisation we do things differently. Our people are highly motivated and committed because our structure and values mean that our combined success is shared equitably. We share part of our profit and re-invest the rest in research, social and environmental projects.

London Reclaimed is a local charity that aims to create sustainable and scalable businesses that offer work to young people most at risk of long-term unemployment. The charity has been training and employing 16-25 year olds with the belief that running viable businesses gives young people the best career opportunities.

Goldfinch employs and trains young people in furniture making and joinery using locally re-purposed timber where possible.

This collaboration will enable further local employment and upskilling through collective design, fabrication and delivery of the proposals for Butler's Wharf.



Embracing open views of the river, flexible social structures support imaginative use



Maggie Blake's access for all

### MATERIALS & TEXTURE PALETTE



Connection and discovery



A riverside garden for pause and play