

Appendix C - Pavilion Description



The reconfiguration of the Aldgate Gyratory system will create a new public space between St Botolph's Without Church and Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School. It is proposed to site a pavilion at the north end of the park to provide a café and community space. This facility is important to the success of the area as a recreational amenity which is welcoming and appealing to a wide range of users. It offers opportunities for more passive enjoyment of the new space, as well as providing natural surveillance and a base and meeting point for community events. By encouraging the fullest possible use and enjoyment of the new space, for the widest possible variety of activities, its benefits to the local community can be maximised. The risks of anti-social behaviour can sometimes be associated with public realm which is under-used, or monopolised by one section of the community. With the introduction of this pavilion these risks can be minimised. In addition, the pavilion will itself be a striking and attractive feature which contributes to the enhancement of the amenity.

Following the success of the visitor information centre at St Pauls there was a desire to create a family of these pavilions around the City which would help identify the 'brand' of the City of London. Make, who were the architects for the St Paul's Pavilion, were therefore commissioned to design the pavilion.

In the early stages of design development, before Make's involvement, the concept was for a small kiosk offering a limited range of food and drink. As the design developed it was recognised that a larger building providing a wider range of food and drink would better serve the space and the local workers and residents. The brief therefore developed to a building with a footprint of 140m² containing a server, back of house facilities, staff facilities and toilets that would also be available for public use.

The concept that Make has developed is the pavilion as a piece of origami made up of a series of planes draped on to the square with a high degree of transparency between the solid planes. Unlike the earlier pavilion which had only to face St Pauls Cathedral this one has to address a series of views and directions from which users may approach the building.

The initial design was for a symmetrical building with all the facilities in it. However it was felt that the size and massing of the building would be too visually dominant. Furthermore the inclusion of back of house facilities meant that one side of the pavilion was blank thus reducing the building's transparency and its addressing of views and entrances.

The pavilion sits over one of the existing pedestrian subways that will be blocked up as part of the Gyrotory System works. It was therefore decided to look at using this space for toilets and back of house facilities. By placing these functions in the subway it meant that it was possible to reduce the footprint of the pavilion to 105m². Placing back of house facilities below ground meant the previously blank aspect of the building could be opened up thus enhancing transparency and addressing views and desire lines. The building was also made asymmetric.

The reduction in the footprint, the move to asymmetry and a slight relocation to better integrate with the landscape substantially reduced its visual impact to a level that was felt to be appropriate in the context of the whole development.

The current proposal is for a pavilion building with a footprint of 105m², containing a seating area, servery, a small preparation area, storage and disabled toilet. A lift, which will be mainly for goods use, connects down to the back of house function in the re-used subway. There is also a dumb waiter for moving food and crockery between the two levels. The principle route for customers is a stair that makes a connection into the side of the existing subway.

The re-used subway contains the food preparation area which will have a small cooking facility. There will also be four unisex toilets which will also be available for use by members of the public. The staff facilities and food storage are also contained at this level.

The design has also been developed in the light of lessons learned from the St. Pauls pavilion. The construction there involved making a structural frame, waterproofing this frame and then applying a stainless steel skin to the outside. This not only produced a very deep section to the envelope but also led to a lengthy construction period.

The construction methodology has partly informed the choice of material for the Aldgate Pavilion. The steel skin is also designed to form the structure of the pavilion so the weathering skin and the structure is one integrated element. Thus that the envelope is greatly reduced and the building profile minimised. The inside of the skin will have insulation spray applied to it, which in turn will be finished with a timber lining.

Over time Cor-Ten steel develops a weathered rust coloured surface that is protective and consistent in appearance. Furthermore the weathering development can be stopped at a chosen colour by the application of a clear acrylic coating. The colour of the envelope will match the weathered red brick of the adjacent listed buildings.

The Cor-Ten steel will form an extremely robust skin to the pavilion. In the event that the skin is graffitied it is a simple matter to remove this and then apply chemicals to accelerate the weathering process so that it matches the existing. No trace will be seen of the area that has been cleaned.

Entrance doors are provided on each side in the transparent element, during summer the large sliding windows can be opened at the front of the pavilion to provide a seamless transition

between inside and outside. To reinforce this seamless transition a similar stone floor to that used externally will be used.

It is intended that the operator will be a social enterprise rather than an alternative commercial structure. To ensure alignment between the design and the expectations of an operator a number of actions have been put in place. The catering consultant who carried out the original feasibility study of the area has been commissioned to produce a detailed design of the kitchen and servery to ensure technical compliance. Industry operators have also been approached to obtain their views on the fit between design and operating requirements.

Subject to authorisation to proceed at Gateway 5 a planning submission for the pavilion will be made shortly afterwards.