

# CRYSTAL PALACE PARK

Crystal Palace Park

## SUPPLIERS

Architects  
**Chris Dyson Architects**  
 Café operated by  
**Brown & Green**  
 Façade Cladding  
**Arnold Laver**  
 Bricks  
**lbstock**  
 Aluminium windows and doors  
**Securiclear**  
 Galvanised steel bridge and handrail  
**SDM Fabrication Ltd**  
 Terrace & bridge floor finish  
**Millboard**  
 First floor engineered timber flooring  
**Platane Ltd**  
 Ground floor laminate flooring  
**Aqualock from UK Flooring direct**  
 Photography by  
**Peter Landers and David Churchill**

by **Chris Dyson Architects**

Chris Dyson Architects has completed a new café in south London's Grade I-listed Crystal Palace Park.

The distinctive two-storey building is the practice's first, complete new-build project, and comprises a café and terrace at ground level and a community space at first floor level. Wrapped in half-round cedar shingles, the design of the façade references the scaled skin of the Grade I-listed dinosaur sculptures at the opposite end of the lake. The café forms part of a package of improvement and conservation works proposed for the wider park. In the summer of 2014, a decision was taken to proceed with park improvement works following an extensive public consultation. £2.4m of funding was made available by the Mayor of London and Bromley Council and park

users were presented with a long list of improvement projects of which they would like to see taken forward. The development of a new café was one of the most popular choices. The consensus was that the previous café did not meet the public's needs or aspirations and that a revised catering offer would benefit the community, while raising the standard of design in the park.

The café officially opened earlier this year and is operated by Brown & Green, who run several outlets across south London. Internally, the ground floor space provides 60 covers, public W.C.s and an external service kiosk. The new ground floor terrace provides approximately 50 external covers. The first floor of the café provides a multi-purpose community space that can seat 60 with an external covered terrace. The space

is made available for use by local community groups and for hire as a venue. The first floor can also be used by the café during day-to-day operation to provide a second service point at lakeside path level during busy periods.

The building has four active façades with large amounts of glazing providing light and dynamic interior spaces as well as expansive, panoramic views of the lake and out towards the wider park. The first-floor terrace is connected via a footbridge to the lakeside path improving the building's connectivity, while a chimney stack in black brick acts as a wayfinding landmark within the park. The new building's orientation is perpendicular to the park's central axis, located at a key point that allows, for the first time, an accessible-for-all connection between the central axis and the lakeside

path. Additional pathways and planting help frame the building and terrace in the surrounding landscape, with deciduous trees chosen to invoke a strong autumnal colour and provide a visual connection to the existing trees of the park.

Chris Dyson of Chris Dyson Architects commented: "We are thrilled to have been chosen to design this key social amenity in the heart of Crystal Palace Park. I am delighted that the café is already proving to be such a popular destination with the local community."

Rental income generated from the new café will be used to fund improvements throughout the park, including the ongoing conservation of the iconic dinosaur sculptures and geological illustrations within the park.

[www.chrisdyson.co.uk](http://www.chrisdyson.co.uk)



