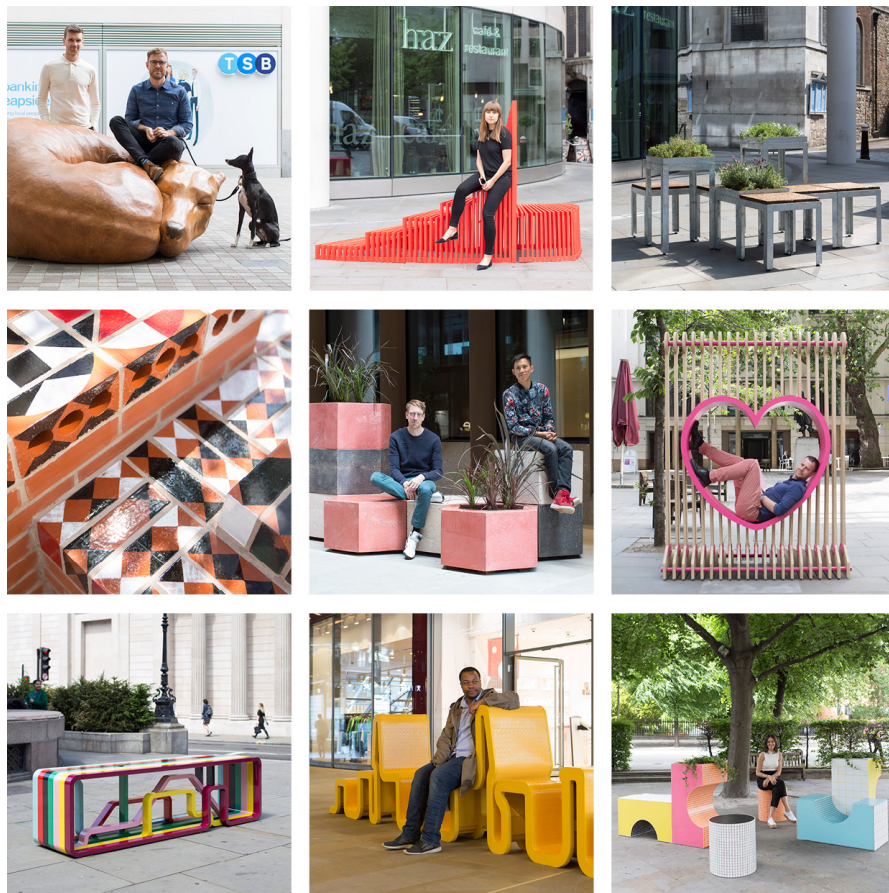


Open Call
A City of London Bench 2020



A City of London benches 2018 and 2019 © Agnese Sarvito

1

The commission

The London Festival of Architecture (LFA) and Cheapside Business Alliance (CBA) invite you to create one of several one off public benches, to be installed in the public realm of Cheapside, City of London ahead of the London Festival of Architecture 2020.

Following the success of the 2018 and 2019 design competitions, we now invite architecture students, recent graduates and emerging architects to submit a design proposal for the third edition of the City of London bench competition.

Supporting City of London's Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2017-2020 which identify better standards of health and wellbeing for the City residents, workers and visitors as one of the key objectives for the area, we are seeking for proposals that will transform the public realm of Cheapside as a place to pause, sit and relax – public furniture fit for a festival.

The benches should be sustainable and colourful but most importantly must invite the community to sit, enjoy and take note of the surroundings they are in.

If your design is one of the winners, you will be awarded £800 to make your bench ahead of the London Festival of Architecture 2020. This will be a chance to participate in a unique project and showcase your imaginative design to the public and the many festival producers involved.

2

The Context

The Cheapside Business Alliance in partnership with the The City of London Corporation are delighted to be working with the London Festival of Architecture for the third year running.

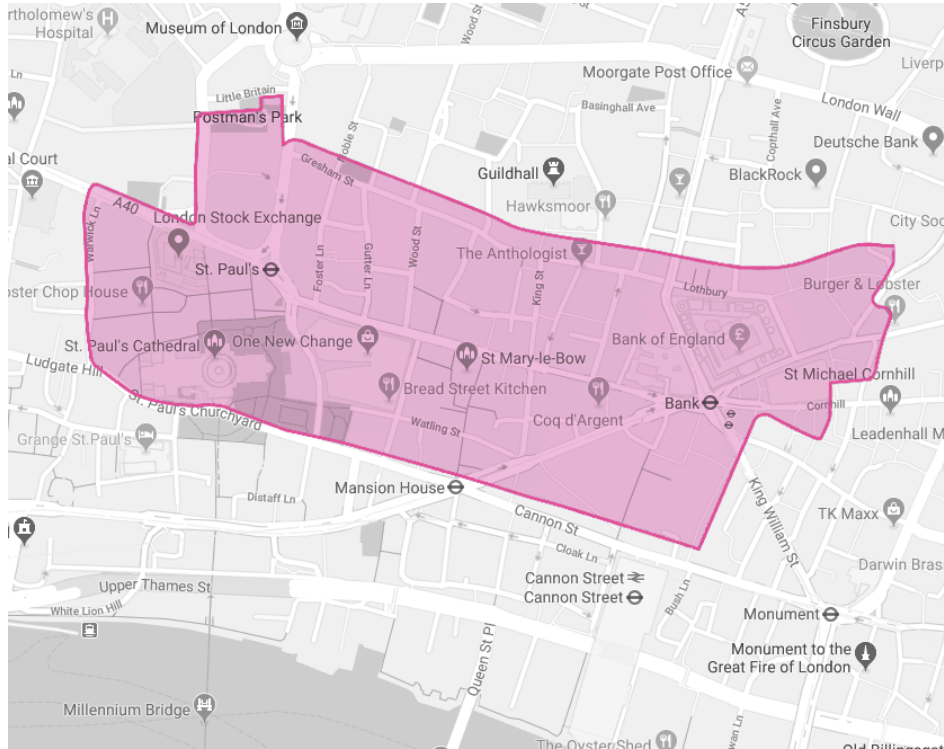
Cheapside continues to evolve into a leading London destination, with the past year seeing further investment through the opening of more businesses and leisure offerings within the footprint. Many Cheapside Business Alliance (CBA) programmes and projects continue to showcase this fantastic part of the Square Mile.

CBA is committed to continue delivering for the businesses, community and visitors of Cheapside harnessing the great potential of the seven-day destination through supporting their strategic themes - Environmental, Tourism and Culture, Marketing Business Alliance and Employment and Enterprise.

CBA are sponsoring a series of benches to be placed in and around the footprint showcasing iconic buildings, architecture and opens spaces.

3

The site



Cheapside Business Alliance Boundary Map

A variety of locations across the Cheapside area have been selected for the benches. These are areas where there is significant scope for public realm enhancement or seating provision. Previous locations included Bow Church Yard, Bloomberg Arcade, One New Change, public realm in front of the Royal Exchange, Cheapside 150 and Cheapside Sunken Garden. Individual sites will be revealed in parallel with the winning designs in February 2020.

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Design requirements

Each bench must offer a comfortable seat for a minimum of 2 adults. We are looking for pieces that function for visitors (are not purely sculptural) and are realistic to the brief (do not become pavilions or follies). They must be safe, durable and offer a low-cost and sustainable design solution.

We encourage submissions that take into consideration City of London's Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2017-2020. As an example, this could be done through designs that:

- encourage social interaction
- increase feeling of safety
- increase sense of belonging
- achieve greater awareness of surroundings

Further Guidance

- *Budget:* If successful, the £800 will need to cover all associated production costs (materials, transport, construction and deinstall). You can use salvaged materials or seek in-kind materials sponsorship to reduce expenses. The budget will be managed by the entrant.
- *Design:* The bench should be designed to prevent use or damage by skateboarders. It should be free-standing without the need for ground fixings. The seating design must protect the safety and security of passers-by, for example by withstanding damage, including blast fragmentation, and reducing the opportunity for concealment of hazards such as contaminants, sharp objects or explosive devices.
- *Health & safety:* The drawings will be checked by a City engineer for which you will also need to carry out a risk assessment. On delivery, the bench will be checked to ensure it is safe for public use. You may be asked to make modifications but on sign-off the bench will be the property and responsibility of Cheapside Business Alliance.
- *Durability:* The project will exist for 3 months and you should consider the longevity and appearance of your design accordingly, to ensure that no maintenance is required during this period. Subject to durability, the benches may be able to be in place for longer or moved to a different City location for a extended period.
- *Property:* The bench will be the property of the Cheapside Business Alliance for the duration of the installation. At the point of deinstallation the bench will become the property of the London Festival of Architecture.
- *Timescale:* The bench is expected to be installed between 1 June to 31 August 2020.
- *Installation:* Unless otherwise agreed with the Cheapside Business Alliance and the City of London Corporation installation will take place on 31 May 2020.
- *Deinstallation:* Unless otherwise agreed with the Cheapside Business Alliance and the City of London Corporation deinstallation lead by the winning entrant will take place on 31 August 2020.
- *Afterlife:* London Festival of Architecture will work with you to secure a permanent location for your bench after the deinstall. A small additional budget will be available for re-siting the bench.

Budget

The total budget available for this project for one bench is £800. This is to include all fees, fabrication, installation and deinstallation costs (materials, transport and construction).

Half of the fee will be awarded in May, on receipt of a signed agreement in which you commit to provide a bench as per your submission and any revisions as requested by the Cheapside Business Alliance and the City of London Corporation. The remaining fee will be given in June after delivery and approval of the bench.

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Submission

This submission should include:

1. Full name and contact details including postal address, contact number and email of project lead.
2. Brief biographies of all the project team.
3. Coloured photo of the design team (landscape) for promotional purposes.
4. A 200-word description about your practice along with any relevant technical expertise acquired through previous experience; please include a selection of relevant previous work.
5. Hand or computer drawn 3D design visualisation.
6. Construction detail drawn to scale, with key dimensions noted.
7. Outline all materials, budget and production process.

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Eligibility

The competition is open to students and emerging architects and designers. We welcome collaborations however the project must be actively led by a named emerging architect or designer. Emerging is defined by being no more than 7 years post graduate.

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Deadline and submission details

- Deadline for submission is Midday, Thursday 16 January 2020. Submissions received after this time will not be considered.
- For competition enquires please contact: rosa@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org
- Please send expressions of interest in a PDF format via: <https://www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org/benches2020/>
- The PDF should be no more than 5MB and 10 A4 pages.
- You will receive an email confirming receipt of your submission.

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Schedule outline

Submissions open: Tuesday 03 December 2019

Submissions closed: Thursday 16 January 2020

Winners notified: w/c 27 January 2020

Benches installed by: 1 June 2020

Benches deinstalled: 31 August 2020

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Judging panel

The Revd George Bush (rector, St Mary-le-Bow)

Dieter Kleiner (director, RCKa Architects)

Anne O'Neill (chair, Cheapside Business Alliance)

Brad Smith (apprentice building control officer, District Surveyor's Office, Department of the Built Environment, City of London Corporation)

Ellie Stathaki (architecture editor, Wallpaper*)

Clarisse Tavin (group manager - Major Programmes and Projects, City of London Corporation)

Tamsie Thomson (director, London Festival of Architecture)

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Further information

- Submissions will be judged on originality, demonstration of creativity and relevance to the brief, as well as feasibility and how the proposal works in the context of the site.
- The ownership of Copyright of the design will be in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, that is Copyright rests with the author of the submitted design.
- All designs remain the intellectual property of the designer however the winning designs when built, will be the property of the Cheapside Business Alliance.
- Please bear in mind that the project requires a fast turn around and may have peak moments when your practice will need to dedicate sufficient staff to deliver the project on time, on budget and to the high standard expected by all stakeholders.
- Your practice/collaboration needs to have the following insurance, to a sum relevant to the project budget, in order to be eligible to be selected: Employers Liability, Professional Indemnity
- Significant efforts are made by all stakeholders of the project to ensure wide media coverage.
- London Festival of Architecture, Cheapside Business Alliance and City of London Corporation reserve the right to use images from the submissions for promotional

purposes in press, social media and publications. All endeavours will be made to ensure accurate accreditation.

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Useful links

City of London's Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2017-2020:
<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/health-and-wellbeing/Documents/health-wellbeing-strategy.pdf>

London Festival of Architecture:
www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

Cheapside Business Alliance:
incheapside.com

City of London Corporation:
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

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Contact

To submit your entry please go to:
<https://www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org/benches2020/>

For general enquires please contact: rosa@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

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Disclaimer

The competition organisers are not liable for lost, misdirected, or late entries. Decisions of the jury represent their professional judgments and all decisions are final. While it is the intent to construct the winning scheme, the organisers reserve the right to not proceed with construction for any reason. Material submitted by you shall be your sole responsibility, shall not infringe or violate the rights of any other party or violate any laws, contribute to or encourage infringing or otherwise unlawful conduct, or otherwise be obscene, objectionable, or in poor taste. By submitting such material, you are representing that you are the owner of such material and/or have all necessary rights, licenses, and authorization to distribute it.

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LONDON FESTIVAL OF ARCHITECTURE

London Festival of Architecture

The London Festival of Architecture was founded in 2004, and is now firmly established as Europe's biggest annual architecture festival. The London Festival of Architecture 2020 will feature events across the capital from 1-30 June, and next year will explore the theme 'power'. The London Festival of Architecture celebrates London as a global hub of architectural experimentation, practice and debate, provoking questions about the contemporary and future life of the city while promoting positive change to its public realm. The London-wide programme is delivered by a diverse mix of architecture and design practices and practitioners, cultural and academic institutions, artists and many others.

www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

Twitter: @LFArchitecture



Cheapside Business Alliance

The Cheapside Business Alliance takes a more innovative approach ensuring the area thrives and prospers over the coming years as a 7-day destination. The number of smaller businesses in the area, whose contribution and presence make a valuable contribution in shaping the location, is recognised by the business community as an important element of our activity. As such we want to ensure that we support small businesses through a range of projects that help to promote their services and further enable them to thrive as part of our local economy and community. From inward investment through to increased footfall and spend we will work hard to develop and influence a strong mix of assets to maximise the areas potential.

<https://incheapside.com/>

Twitter: @CheapsideBA



'Here Lies Geoffrey Barkington' bench by Patrick McEvoy, June 2018

City Benches 2018 & 2019

In 2018, London Festival of Architecture, in collaboration with the City of London Corporation and the Cheapside Business Alliance for the first time organised a competition for a series of one-off public benches installed around Cheapside and the Eastern City Cluster areas. The winning designs responded to their settings with imagination and air, and were enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people during the LFA in June. Following the success of the 2018 design competition, London Festival of Architecture, in collaboration with the City of London Corporation and Cheapside Business Alliance are now running the competition annually.