

Curtain rises on scheme that puts Bard centre stage

HERITAGE Rachel Bishop finds out more about The Stage, Shoreditch

A new £750million development in Shoreditch will be built around William Shakespeare's Curtain Theatre.

The Stage, will centre on a public square that will showcase the sunken remains of Shakespeare's theatre, where *Romeo And Juliet* and *Henry V* were first performed.

What will be there?
The central square will be bordered by cafes, restaurants and shops. There will be a 37 storey residential tower providing 412 studios, one, two and three bedroom apartments and four bedroom duplex penthouses.

The block will also have a sky bar on the 32nd floor.

Two office buildings will provide more than 257,000sq ft of "blue chip commercial space".

A leisure/performing arts pavilion will have a 19th century railway viaduct located on one side of the new square. And there will be a luxury health spa on site, inspired by the famous *Gltern Basilia* in Istanbul.

And the historic side of the development?
The railway viaduct will be restored with the historic brick arches and contain shops and bars, with a park and cafe at the top of the passageway.

The remains of the Elizabethan Curtain Theatre and objects found during the dig will be excavated, preserved and transformed into a centrepiece that visitors will be able to walk above on a glass platform.

This will form part of a heritage centre, where visitors can also view objects from the dig and watch augmented reality scenes from Shakespeare plays.

Under current plans, the glass ceiling of the centre (which is below ground) will form part of the new public square, enabling visitors to look down onto the remains of the theatre.

Steps leading down to the centre form part of a 200 seat sunken amphitheatre.

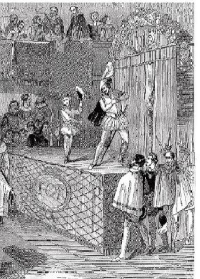


DETAILS

■ The Stage is launching between March 17 and 20, with the sales and marketing suite open daily from 10am to 5pm, located at The Viaduct, Fairchild Place, Shoreditch EC2A 3EN.

■ Call 020 3770 2154 or visit thestage.shoreditch.com for more information.

from Museum of London Archaeology rediscovered the remains of the theatre buried beneath a disused Victorian goods yard.



Above, in 2011 excavators from the Museum of London Archaeology rediscovered the remains of the theatre buried beneath a disused Victorian goods yard.

Left, CGI of how the development Below, the Curtain Theatre

This could spell the end for us, says centre

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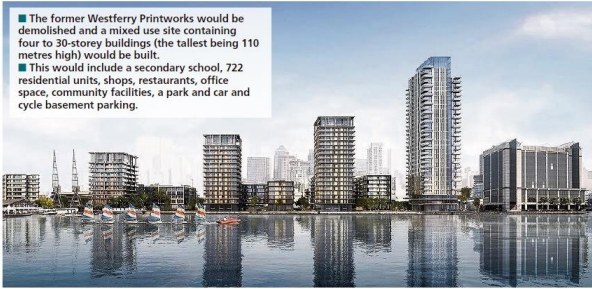
developer London And Regional Properties admits the buildings would have an "adverse and significant" effect on the wind at the north west of the dock - the boats' launch site.

The study, carried out by engineer consultants Rowan Williams Davies and Irwin, showed there could be a reduction of up to 37% in quality of sailing for novices. The document says: "With the completed development, over the entire sailing season, the results show a reduction (based on a percentage of total time) in the sailing quality in the north-west corner of the dock."

However, the Royal Yacht Association said in response to this assessment: "The criteria that have been used are relatively meaningless as they are not based on the real situation."

Martin said: "The developers are showing an interest in trying to sort us out and they recognise the development would be detrimental to the centre.

"We understand the need for residential units to pay for things like the new secondary school, which we very much welcome, but we just want this all to be scientifically



Sir Ben Ainslie pays a visit to the Docklands centre

"reliability of the assessment of the environmental impacts" regarding the wind assessment.

Canary Wharf councillor Andrew Wood told Boris Johnson's planning team: "The Printworks is a good development that I largely support but it has [this] one big problem that you can help to resolve.

"Every day on the Isle of Dogs we see the impact of planning failures and you need to avoid making things worse by approving this without change."

A City Hall spokesman said: "There is a growing need for housing, secondary school places and space across Tower Hamlets, all of which will be delivered by this scheme.

"The mayor has called in this application to take a detailed look and will take all views from concerned parties into consideration before making a decision in due course."

Rachel Bishop

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