

Cavendish Square, London



Client: Marchday Group PLC
Contractor: N/A
Project Manager: N/A
Structural Engineer: Arup
Quantity Surveyor: David Morley Architect/ Arup

An urban oasis, lined by trees, the usable public space at Cavendish Square has been increased and a café and restaurant are introduced around a new pedestrian friendly piazza. Street furniture, signage and paving, and the removal of physical barriers create a more accessible space, with better lighting for security.

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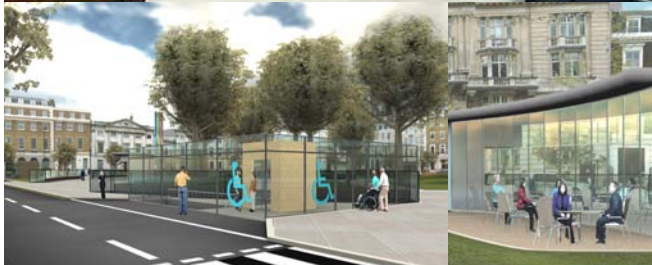
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Cavendish Square was one of the first of London's great Georgian Squares. Conceived as part of John Prince's masterplan for the area the Square was originally laid out by Charles Bridgeman the garden designer. There have been many changes around the Square which has retained its fundamental character as providing a breathing space for the community in the area of the Square. This community has changed from the residential ownership when it was founded to offices and consulting rooms.

In the 1970's there was the most significant alteration with construction of an underground car park with ramps, access roads and brick walls surmounted by railings. Today the green heart of the Square is isolated from the surrounding areas and lacks amenities for the public.

The car park lacks proper disabled access and even for the able bodied on foot can present a forbidding aspect.

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The car park will benefit from a new lift access and roof lights to the upper level while the Square itself will have an increased area of hard paving to allow better all weather use of the facilities. This will also provide the backbone for a Christmas Market and other events. Proposals for a new café and restaurant will help conceal the ugly vents and other equipment for the car park and possibly conceal the cavernous access ramps.

New signage will identify the location of the Square from Oxford Street allowing it to act as the oasis that is proposed in the New West End Company's proposals for the area.

