The Final Garden

A productive pleasure garden influenced by the site’s Medieval to recent history, the plans include:

- An ‘orchard’ of standard fruiting trees grown on bespoke sculptural training structures
- A parade of fruiting plants along the South-facing wall
- A bespoke structure dividing the communal and public gardens, providing social, storage and working space and integrating water harvesting and solar power
- An earthwork amphitheatre / viewing platform surrounding the site’s ruins
- A large-scale bed in the public garden of mixed planting reflecting the site’s historic influences
- A community garden section with leisure, play, wilderness and productive areas (design yet to be finalised) developed out of the experience gained from the Harvest Garden
- A bespoke labelling & interpretation system, linked to an online blog/plant database

The Garden’s central feature is a raised earth form with a grassed top which evokes a range of influences - ancient Early British earthworks; the formal terraces of 19th century English gardens and even the suburban bowling green. The formal, angled slopes of its sides will be planted with a matrix of native British plants, probably Hart’s Tongue Fern, Wild Strawberry and Bugle. The aim is to refer to the sensibility of the British countryside, but also to the stylised ‘flowery meads’ familiar from medieval tapestries and pictures.

Indicative Planting

- Wild Strawberry (Fragaria vesca)
- Hart’s Tongue Fern (Phyllitis scrofolandrium)
- Lady’s Mantle (Alchemilla mollis)
- London Pride (Saxifraga x urbium)
- Foxglove (Digitalis purpurea)
- Greater Burnet (Sanguisorba officinalis)
- Bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta)
- Apothecary’s Rose (Rosa officinalis)
- Soft Rush (Juncus effusus)

Orchard

The garden’s West end perimeter (adjoining the Docklands Light Railway) will house an ‘orchard’ of large standard fruiting trees in training structures, probably apples or pears. These will be formally planted in a matrix under-planted with the resilient herbaceous plant ‘London Pride’. Hard landscaped pathways through this will continue throughout the site.

Raised beds

Recycled from Harvest Garden

Honesty stall

Recycled from Harvest Garden

Earth form

Amphitheatre around ruins

Parade

Wall-trained fruiting plants

Orchard

Standard fruiting trees

Mixed bed

With clipped holly or beech

Shelter

The project offers a fantastic opportunity for an architecturally and technologically innovative building to house all the site’s services and many social and practical functions. We would like to quote from the engraving of the site’s one-time gatehouse in this design, but also to reference the familiar and much-loved folly, bandstand, beach hut and garden shed.