

Designers brief: Parklets , Moncrieff Place

Sustrans are seeking to commission a designer/manufacturer to provide the design, technical detail, construction and installation of a series of 'Parklets' as part of the community led street design project Pocket Places, in Peckham, London.

Parklets as a concept originated in the U.S where one or two parking spaces were temporarily transformed into a park, creating a space for social interaction, rest and play in a space which was previously reserved for one or two parked cars. The idea has since spread across the globe, manifesting in a range of designs, from very short-term one day 'Parklets' to semi-permanent installations expected to last several years.

Pocket Places would like to adopt the Parklet concept as a way to further evolve the space outside the Peckhamplex Cinema into a well-used social space, located in the heart of Rye Lane, Peckham. While there are no parking places as such in this location the concept fits the parameters of the space.



Sponsored by Manifesto Bicycles and Subrosa Coffee, City of Oakland, California,

About Sustrans:

Sustrans makes smarter travel choices possible, desirable and inevitable. We're a leading UK charity enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. We work with families, communities, policy-makers and partner organisations so that people are able to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys, with better places and spaces to move through and live in.

As part of our work we bring communities together to help them redesign their streets to make them safer and more attractive places to live, where people come first. These projects are known as DIY Streets and offer an affordable, community-led alternative to the home zones design concept.

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-services/what-we-do/community-street-design>

About the project:

Pocket Places Peckham is one of nine Pocket Places projects across the UK with Sustrans working in partnership with Southwark Council and the People's Health Trust. Sustrans works with local residents and other partners to create high quality urban environments that promote sustainable travel and are safe and pleasant to live in and travel through. Key elements in creating liveable neighbourhoods are safe and enjoyable walking and cycling routes and well-located amenities such as local shops, schools, and green open space.

The aim of Pocket Places is to transform underused spaces along the main high street in Peckham, Rye Lane, into lively community places. Our approach has been to develop ideas with the local community and then trial them temporarily in the spaces before making the more successful trials permanent. From experience we know that a temporary trial can be a very powerful tool in demonstrating the positive benefits of any proposed changes as well as a way to understand the less successful elements.

<http://pocketplacespeckham.wordpress.com/>

The Site:

Moncrieff Place is one of three Pocket Places along Rye Lane, its location is key for several reasons;

- It represents an important access route for pedestrians and cyclists accessing Rye Lane from East Peckham.
- The space leads to a pedestrian and cycling route across Rye Lane into Elm Grove where it links with two important green spaces; Holly Grove Shrubbery and Warwick Park and on to Camberwell beyond.
- Two popular cultural centres are accessed via this space; Peckhamplex Cinema and (in the summer) Franks Bar along with the various exhibitions and events that take place as part of the Bold Tendencies project in the Multi-storey Car Park.
- Peckham Town Centre is locally understood to be Peckham Rye Train Station which is just a stones throw from Moncrieff Place. Together with the square which is soon to be developed in front of the station Moncrieff Place will provide a flexible, social community space in the centre of town.



The brief:

As part of the Pocket Places project various ideas were developed with local residents and business owners around sculptural greening coupled with a need for places to meet, sit and play. This idea was trialled through a collaboration with What-If: Projects who recreated their installation ‘Octavia’s Orchard’, transforming it into ‘Rye Lane Orchard’ for the trial period.



Photo Courtesy of Gorka Aparicio

While the trial of ‘Rye Lane’ orchard was largely successful questions over the future of the Multi-Storey car park remain and for this reason it is not possible to plant the trees directly into the ground. However, it is important that this site remains accessible and widely used by the community.

Sustrans would like to commission a minimum of two semi-permanent Parklets located across the site which provide seating and planting among other features.

Objectives/Parameters:

- The Parklet should be semi-permanent in nature and should have a lifetime of 5 years minimum.
- Priority should be given to the area in between the cycle racks along the north wall of the space.
- A small Parklet should make use of the undercover area in front of the Cinema, maintaining access to the notice boards and enhancing their use where possible.
- An additional Parklet against the southern wall of the space would enhance the feeling of an outdoor lounge but alternatives to this would also be considered.
- Anti-social behaviour was not an issue during the trial but could affect installations located in the undercover area.
- All elements of the Parklets must be secured against movement or theft.
- The parklets should encourage casual interaction between users and provide a space that is accessible to all.

- Designs specified will be low maintenance, any maintenance should be at a level that Peckhamplex Cinema staff can manage easily. There is access to an outside water source.
- The Parklet should feature seating and planting and where possible this should be at various levels.
- If possible, additional cycle parking would be provided as part of the design.
- Considerations should be made as to the turning circle of market traders' vans accessing the yard behind Santander.
- Access for emergency vehicles and refuse vehicles must be maintained throughout.
- Use of the trees in containers from 'Rye Lane Orchard' is encouraged.
- Consideration should be made towards preventing local wildlife inhabiting the Parklet.

Concept Design:

To demonstrate our vision below is the artist's impression and the concept design.



Moncrieff Place: Artists Impression



Moncrieff Place: Concept design

Budget:

£30,000 total budget to include:

- Design Fee
- Initial designs
- Technical drawings
- All materials
- Construction
- Installation
- Opening event

Timescale:

- Jan 2015 Put the Artistic Brief to open call
- Jan 2015 Artistic development of proposals
- Feb 2015 Submission of proposals
- Feb/Mar 2015 Selection of artist and announcement
- Mar-Apr 2015 Artist appointment and start development
- May-June Parklet construction and installation
- Jun-Jul Launch of Artwork

Detailed schedule to be decided on appointment.

Further resources:

Pavement to Parks, San Francisco - <http://pavementtoparks.sfplanning.org/>
Park(ing) Day - <http://my.parkingday.org/>

Deadline for submissions:

25th February, by 5pm.

To apply:

Please include:

- A short proposal
- An outline costing
- An outline schedule

For further information or to discuss this commission please contact:

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