

The King's Cross Design District presents The Illuminated Garden featuring Super Nature TV



[The images showcase previous incarnations of Space Frames in King's Cross]

Lighting up the central space in Coal Drops Yard, the King's Cross Design District welcomes the return of the estate's ever-popular installation 'Space Frames'. This clever reusable modular design by Studio Mieke Meijer will be turned into an Illuminated Garden for the festival and become home to a fountain of ideas on circular design; Super Nature TV.

Super Nature TV is a compilation film from Modern Design Review. It features a curation of found films - made by designers, institutions and brands such as; Formafantasma, Atelier Luma, Kengo Kuma, Christien Meindertsma and Mary Mattingley - that each tell a story related to circularity, reuse and sustainable systems. Together, this rich tapestry of information gives an insight into the many different solutions and approaches currently being explored, cogitated and implemented by the international design community in an effort to create lasting change.

From designers involved in hyper-local production, architects dreaming of the spaces of the future to artists working with ecology, Super Nature TV brings together inspiring projects from recent years. The film is eclectic, embracing diverse found content; documentaries, interviews and promotional films are blended together in a rolling collage of inspiring information.

Super Nature TV is itself an exercise in recycling and reuse. Making use of existing content rather than pointlessly recreating it, and in a time when travel and public gatherings continue to be difficult, the film offers an alternative to the traditional design-week talk format. Super Nature TV brings together interesting voices on circularity and design in an accessible digital format. The film will also be available to view online throughout LDF, making it accessible to those who cannot attend the event in person.

Super Nature TV can be found in The Illuminated Garden at Coal Drops Yard, Kings Cross. At the centre of the garden – which is composed of modular Space Frames by Dutch design studio Mieke Meijer – is the Fountain of Knowledge. The fountain will play Super Nature TV intermittently throughout the festival.

The Space Frames, created by Netherlands-based industrial designers Studio Mieke Meijer. Designed to be reused and re-thought time and time again, this will be their third reinvention, this time as a playful garden.

The Space Frames respond to the beauty of the functional industrial architecture that surrounds them. In fact, they trace and mimic the graphic outlines of Coal Drops Yard's arches and Victorian architecture.

The interior of the Space Frames is a light but strong aluminium skeleton, made using an innovative modular system. They can be easily taken apart and reconfigured, meaning the work can be creatively re-thought and sustainably re-used over and over again. The frames are covered in an industrial polyester fabric more commonly used in the aviation industry. Remarkably, all of the Space Frames are handmade by Studio Mieke Meijer in their workshop.

Mieke Meijer, founder of Studio Mieke Meijer, comments, *"We are thrilled that King's Cross are bringing back the Space Frames this year in a unique and innovative way. After such a gloomy year, the glowing outdoor winter garden will offer people joy and provide a relaxing sanctuary of wellbeing."*

For those who would like to light up their own homes, the domestic version of the Space Frames are available to buy from MDR Gallery.

The Space Frames Illuminated Garden will be installed from Friday 17th September 2021 until 7th November 2021, and are free to visit. Super Nature TV will be available to watch in the space for the festival period and online thereafter.

Further activity to be announced soon. Stay up to date on the latest LDF news:
www.kingscross.co.uk/london-design-festival

The King's Cross estate continues to operate in line with the latest Covid guidance to enable the public to enjoy the activities safely with social distancing measures in place

-ENDS-

Press enquiries:

For further information including imagery and supporting quotes from brand and partners please contact:

Michelle Tonta Four Communications,
T: 07745489349 | E: Michelle.Tonta@fourcommunications.com

Emily Dennis, Four Communications,
T: 07752082747 | E: Emily.Dennis@fourcommunications.com

Notes to Editors

About Super Nature

Super Nature is a King's Cross initiative in which we use our public realm installations and activations as a vehicle to explore design, materials and production methods that have a positive impact on people and the planet.

When we collaborate with the natural world and each other, we have the potential to improve lives; from the food we eat, to the clothes we wear, the houses we live in, the air we breathe.

Super Nature is an ongoing project that is taking centre stage at King's Cross Design District during London Design Festival 2021.

About Studio Mieke Meijer:

Studio Mieke Meijer was founded by Mieke Meijer and Roy Letterlé. They work on self-initiated and commissioned projects from their workshop in Eindhoven. Constructive imagery, tangible materiality and tectonic detailing are the fundamentals of the studio's strong and recognisable signature. Meijer (Wezep, 1982) graduated from Design

Academy Eindhoven. Letterlé (Kerkrade, 1978) studied structural engineering at PTH Eindhoven. Meijer and Letterlé both lecture and give workshops at various educational and cultural Institutions. Currently they are teaching at Design Academy Eindhoven and HKU University of the Arts Utrecht.

Building methods and construction principles as applied in industrial architecture are an endless source of inspiration for the studio because of their consistency in structure, material and experience. By scaling down components and changing materiality, objects arise that can be used in a domestic or commercial environment but still keep their architectural and autonomous character. The liminal field between architecture and product design enables the studio to move freely, regardless of architectural restrictions and outside the boundaries of the traditional product.

www.miekemeijer.com @studiomiekemeijer

About Modern Design Review

Modern Design Review is an annual publication that covers the best of the product, people and theory at the effervescent tip of contemporary design. The publication offers a considered and curated insight into modern design: original and creative storytelling, plus plenty of contributions from talented photographers, writers and designers sets Modern Design Review apart. They choose to focus on ideas and themes that interest the editorial team, whether they are central or peripheral, and they are committed to exploring modern design with the creativity and curiosity that the discipline deserves.

www.moderndesignreview.com @modern_design_review

King's Cross

King's Cross is home to 67 acres of outstanding architecture, destination restaurants and a vibrant cultural scene. At its heart is the Heatherwick Studio-designed Coal Drops Yard; London's newest shopping district housed in a pair of artfully reimagined industrial Victorian buildings. The area's industrial past has inspired the 50 new and repurposed buildings, which are surrounded by beautifully-designed green spaces and public areas, including Granary Square and its iconic fountains. This bustling creative neighbourhood is a lively place in central London to visit day and night, and has a deserved reputation as a culinary hot spot.

King's Cross is somewhere you can live, work and play – over 20,000 people now work in the area, and it has close to 2,000 homes. This includes landmark development Gasholders London, comprising 145 new canal-side apartments within a triplet of Grade II-listed cast-iron gasholder frames.

www.kingscross.co.uk @Kingscrossn1c

Coal Drops Yard

Coal Drops Yard is a vibrant shopping and restaurant district in London's King's Cross. Coal Drops Yard was originally established in 1850 to handle the eight million tonnes of coal delivered to the capital each year, and was latterly the location of nightclubs Bagley's and The Cross. The area reopened in October 2018, reinvented by the acclaimed Heatherwick Studio, which has interwoven a contemporary design with the surviving structures and rich ironwork of the original Victorian coal drops.

Located within a reimagined set of historic buildings and arches directly adjacent to Granary Square and Regent's Canal, Coal Drops Yard houses over fifty stores from a unique mix of established and emerging brands, along with cafés, bars, top independent restaurants and new public spaces.

www.coaldropsyard.com @coaldropsyard