

EAST VILLAGE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW GARDEN MOVES TO PERMANENT NEW HOME IN EAST LONDON

AWARD-WINNING GARDEN MOVES TO ARC IN THE PARK, HELPING CREATE SKILLS
AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL YOUNGSTERS

Delancey's Gold award-winning East Village garden **from this year's** Chelsea Flower Show will today (31st October 2013) open its doors to the public at its new home in Arc in the Park in Canning Town, East London – completing the garden's journey from west to east and mirroring **the social trend for 'migration east'**.

Since the Chelsea Flower Show in May, East Village – **London's newest neighbourhood on the site of the former Athletes' Village** - has been working with regeneration charity Groundwork to relocate plants and structures from the Chelsea show garden to reinvigorate the community space at Arc in the Park in Canning Town.

Arc in the Park is a fully inclusive adventure play and sports facility, which includes a garden area with a variety of plants, wheelchair accessible pathways, quiet reflective space, performance space, benches and tables. Run by innovative Newham charity Community Links, the Arc offers a supportive stepping stone to inclusion for disabled children and young people.

The relocation of the Chelsea garden to Arc in the Park has not only created an amazing green space for the local community to enjoy but has also been delivered by eight Groundwork Green Teams made up of unemployed 18-25 year olds from the local area. Referred through job centres or council employment schemes, their involvement in the project has taught them new skills and provided several of the team members with a ladder to employment.

The original Chelsea Flower Show garden was designed by world-renowned landscape architects Michael Balston and Marie-Louise Agius of Balston Agius and was inspired by the form, history and ethos of East Village, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and the Lea Valley area. The items relocated west-to-east from Chelsea to the Arc **include the garden's herbaceous** plants, flowers, shrub borders and mature trees, creating a new area that reflects the green open spaces, orchards and parks that run throughout the new East Village neighbourhood.

Get Living London, joint-owners of East Village with Triathlon Homes, is also supporting Groundwork London by funding the wider RHS Chelsea Re-use Scheme which will remove and identify new uses for plants and landscaping from other gardens and displays at the Chelsea Flower Show. Last year, Groundwork London collected and redistributed nearly 400 tonnes of materials and over 8,000 plants, all of which benefitted community projects in neighbourhoods across the capital.

Ben Coles, Director, Communities and Local Partnerships, Groundwork London said: "At Groundwork London we are passionate about creating better places by reinvigorating existing areas that need attention, so we are very grateful for the support and materials given to us by East Village and their Chelsea Show Garden. Their funding will enable the charity to significantly transform unloved and unused spaces in the many boroughs across London, including a very special one in Newham – **the home borough of East Village.**"

Derek Gorman **from East Village said:** “**The East Village** neighbourhood on the doorstep of the Olympic Park already has some outstanding green open spaces so our award-winning Chelsea Flower Show Garden was chance to give something special back to other local communities. The relocation of the East Village Show Garden has not only helped transform the much-loved Arc in the Park in Canning Town, it has also given local youngsters the chance to pick up a **range of new skills and training. We’re also delighted to support** Groundwork London and to play our own small role in the invaluable work they do to deliver community projects across the capital.”

Marie-Louise Agius, co-designer of the East Village Show Garden, **commented:** “The new East Village neighbourhood has a long-term commitment to London and a thoughtful approach to quality landscape design that myself and Michael Balston were looking to emulate in the show **garden at this year’s Chelsea Flower Show. We’re delighted to be involved in** the relocation of the East Village Show Garden to Arc in the Park and we hope the new space will be a source of much pleasure for people in the local community. The additional support East Village has given to Groundwork is statement for environmental responsibility and sustainability, which is just as important a part of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show as the magnificent gardens, plants, **sculptures and landscapes that exhibit at the show each year.”**

-ENDS-

Notes to editors:

About East Village:

- East Village is London’s first Olympic legacy village and newest neighbourhood on the doorstep of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park
- The community will deliver high-quality new homes for individuals, couples and families, with a range of options to suit everyone, from one bedroom apartments to four bedroom townhouses, private rental to shared ownership
- Set in 27 hectares of breathtaking parkland, with more than 10 hectares of mature parklands, new parks and open space
- Positioned next to the world-class sporting venues of The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, East Village is located within 285 hectares of parkland, waterways, and nature trails connected by paths for jogging cycling and walking
- One of the best connected neighbourhoods in London with Stratford International and Stratford Regional stations offering links to London’s key locations such as the west end in 20 minutes, St Pancras International in 6 minutes (by High Speed 1), Canary Wharf in 12 minutes, Ashford in less than 30 minutes and London airports within an hour
- East Village will offer a world-class education campus Chobham Academy for students aged 3-19, a state-of-the-art medical centre and over 30 independent shops, cafes and restaurants
- Visit eastvillagelondon.co.uk to find out more

About Delancey:

Delancey is a specialist real estate investment company with a property portfolio that covers retail, residential and commercial developments across London and the UK, and which has a strong track record when it comes to creating and managing high quality places that people want to live and work in. Its work includes extensive, residential, investment and development interests.

Delancey, along with joint venture partners Qatari Diar, are the legacy owners of the 1,439 private homes in East Village. Delancey and Qatari Diar have invested around £557 million for the purchase and long-term management of the East Village, and the purchase represents a significant and very high profile, long-term investment for both partners. It offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to be able to develop and deliver a vibrant new neighbourhood and community for London, and one which we believe we are in the best possible position to be able to deliver for the good of the Olympic Legacy, the housing needs of Londoners and for the regeneration of Stratford.