

Transforming Falcon Road Bridge

A GIFT TO THE PASSER-BY

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A Gift to the Passer-by

Our team has focused on creating a bold new design that transforms peoples' experience of Falcon Road Bridge from a negative one into a unique and memorable experience for all.

On visiting the area Alvaro Barrington, our artist, put it perfectly; any improvements to the tunnel should be a gift that lifts peoples' spirits, from the shift workers on their way to work late at night to the young people returning home in the early hours of the morning. Tunnel-users will be immersed in a piece of architecture and art that is joyful, new and wonderfully strange yet familiar at the same time.

Inspiration: Fabrics and Plants

The array of net curtains in the windows of the Winstanley and York Road Estate captured Alvaro's imagination on team walks through the area. The patterned fabrics with their repeated floral patterns and scalloped edges became an early influence suggesting far away landscapes linked to the area through its diverse mix of residents. For Barrington plants are not only beautiful. They are also cultural symbols. The hibiscus flower occurs often in his paintings being associated with his father. He also thought about textiles made from yarn which explore his relationship with his Caribbean history and its culture of sewing. These two themes; plants and textiles form the basis for our design which is split into two layers.

Lower layer

The lower part of the tunnel walls will be transformed with a colourful mosaic made from locally sourced salvaged ceramics. Based on yarn paintings this ceramic wall would be developed in conversation with the local community and their stories. We will make the wall in collaboration with locals and students from the Royal College of Art in Battersea.

Upper layer

The upper layer of the tunnel would be covered with a landscape painting by Barrington, overlaid with a perforated metal screen with a repeated hibiscus flower pattern. The screen will have integrated lighting to create a gentle, friendlier and safer environment for people to pass through. We think of this element having a playful and delicate fabric-like quality. This layer will soften the space, absorbing sound and reducing echoes in the tunnel.

Lighting and canopy overhead

A series of wall mounted lights, orange globes of glass that suggest the sunset or sunrise will provide comforting warm light for passers-by. Below the upper layer is a corrugated metal canopy that will protect pedestrians from the drips of dirty water. Speakers integrated into the canopy will play sounds that during the nighttime will ensure there is a 'presence' in the tunnel to make it feel safer.

Places for Community

The proposal covers over the vast majority of the damp and dirty walls. The ceilings and entrances will be thoroughly cleaned and redecorated. New facilities such as community information points at entrances, a new community space within the arches and a sunny planted area with a bench will be provided at both ends of the tunnel to create a place for people to meet.



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