THE DOUBLE UNIT PUBLICISTS

PRESS CONTACT: <u>charlotteevans@thedoubleunit.com</u> +44 (0) 207 099 7829





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LONDON FESTIVAL OF ARCHITECTURE: APT UNVEILS PLANS FOR 'THE APT NEIGHBOURHOOD' INSTALLATION IN CLERKENWELL

When the <u>London Festival of Architecture</u> released their theme for 2021 as 'Care', <u>Apt</u> set about exploring the meaning of 'care', and after such a turbulent and challenging year, quickly came to realise that there was one overarching theme that kept coming up, community.

Community was the thing that they had all missed so much throughout the pandemic. The ability to travel to meet friends, eat lunch with colleagues in the local park, to say good morning to the bus driver, share a familiar smile with a barista, passing a secret crush in the street, spotting a new piece of street art and pausing to take a photograph. And so, they wondered how they could use this opportunity to try to bring back a bit of the community, whilst still being mindful of the remaining restrictions.

Their solution is a community installation made up of a series of street furniture pieces, located in Agdon Street Park, opposite their studio in Clerkenwell, designed to re-engage the community and encourage friends, neighbours, and passers-by to gather, interact, use, and enjoy the space and the installations at their leisure.

The urban furniture pieces have been designed based on a series of 'Apt' shapes, which form part of their brand language, and link back to their neighbours through the material selection and function. Functions are flexible and the pieces can be used as bar tables, chess/games boards and relaxed seating. The top face of each object will be inlaid with different sustainable and locally sourced materials.

The theme of 'care' also informed their material selection. Caring for the planet is equally important to them as is caring for the community. Apt tried to source materials from local vendors who either have a sustainable approach or use recycled materials. Vegan leather from <u>Panaz's</u> sustainable line has been used to upholster the chairs that are designed to pair with the chess table, while the recycled plastic on the slide is by <u>smile plastics</u>, manufacturers of hand-crafted panels from waste materials. The tiles were donated from <u>Solus Ceramics</u> as well as some further materials from <u>Schluter</u>.

Catch the installation from: 16 – 30 June 2021 at Agdon Street Park, opposite Apt Studios at 235 St John Street, EC1V 4NG.

LINK to images.

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Notes to editors:

About Apt

Apt is an architectural practice underpinned by a creative and collaborative approach. We create architecture that inspires through great design, innovation and craftsmanship.

We work as a collective in a transparent and logical way. We do not have a 'house' style and look at every project afresh; creating desirable places to live and work that are richly detailed and diverse in character, celebrating the culture, customs and heritage of their setting, reinforcing a sense of identity and place.

From our studio in the heart of London's design district we work across multiple sectors including housing, commercial, heritage, arts and community projects of all shapes and sizes across London and the UK.

This is Apt.

www.apt.london #thisisapt