

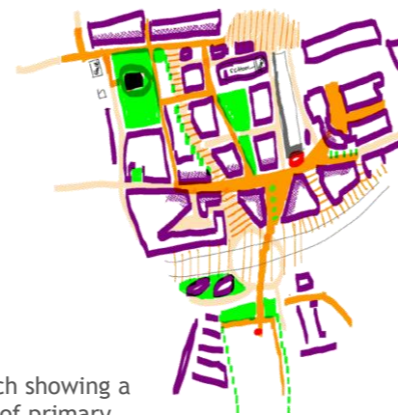
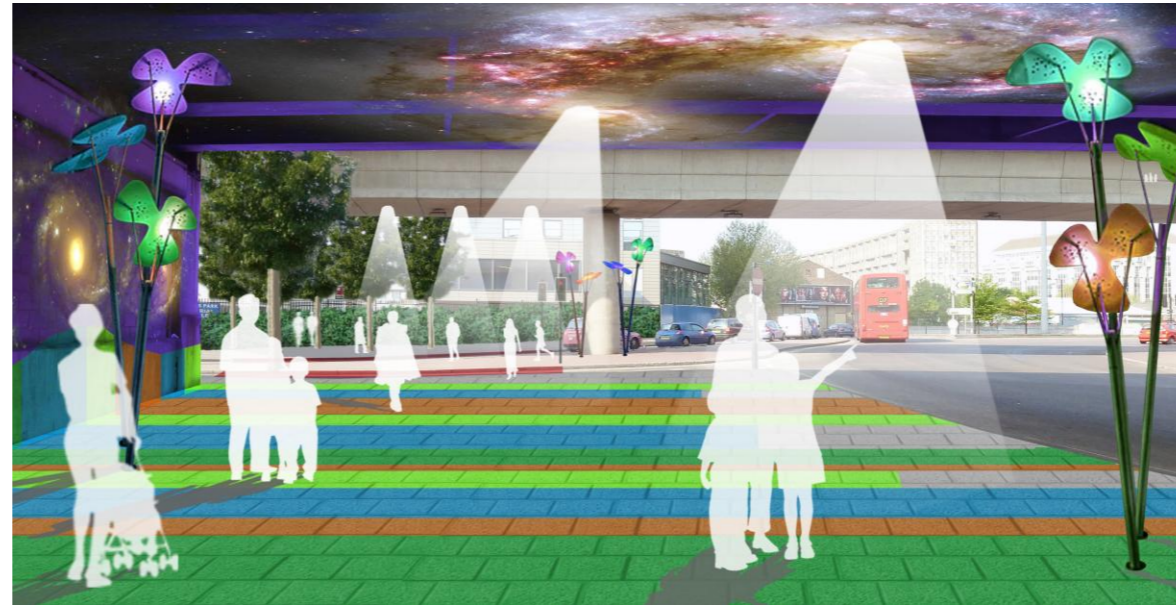
Blackwall & Poplar Connections

Client: London Borough of Tower Hamlets

David Orr was the public realm designer for the design team appointed by Tower Hamlets to review the public space within walking distance of Blackwall DLR station in East London following extensive recent and forthcoming development in the area. The whole area has been and remains an area of substantial change as its strategic position close to Docklands, to the Blackwall Tunnel and A13 road connections and rail connection to central London has made it the subject of numerous new high density developments. It remains though still a local neighbourhood of post war estates, Georgian homes and historic streets and greens. On top of these layers of history the area is blighted by considerable movement barriers, both the inherited dock walls road and the rail and road infrastructure imposed on it in recent decades. The study looks at how to address these considerable barriers and forge from it a public realm that restores human scale and meaning that is resilient enough to deal with the new pressures on it.

The proposals bring a strategy of pedestrian route re-definition connecting the small shopping centres, historic green spaces and a new station square incorporated as part of an emerging Blackwall Reach residential redevelopment next to the station. Using these anchors the proposals set out a series of links and road crossings that provide far superior pedestrian comfort and convenience that will help sustain the neighbourhood centres and allow new activities and spaces to be created that underpin the social qualities of the public space.

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Concept sketch showing a new network of primary walkable streets



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