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## Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park wins the Rosa Barba Landscape Prize

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**The design project for the parklands of the London Olympic Games has been granted the 9th Rosa Barba International Landscape Prize, given on September 30th in Barcelona, within the International Landscape Biennial of Barcelona. George Hargreaves, Mary Margaret Jones and Gavin McMillan, from Hargreaves Associates, are the authors of the project.**

Hargreaves Associates led the design for the 274 acre parklands that formed the centerpiece for the London Games, recognized as the 'Greenest Games' in history, with the park declared the 'winner of the Games' by the Mayor of London.

The largest new park created in Europe for over 150 years, the design synthesizes centuries of British park tradition, the reality of post-industrial brownfields, advances in sustainability and resilience thinking to create a new type of park for the 21st Century. Focused around the

restoration of the River Lea, the park includes a northern environmental park and a southern festival park that showcases the Olympic Gardens, which are themed around the countries who participate in the Games. The environmental north park converts the industrial canal into a naturalized meandering river corridor with lowland meadows and wetlands, sweeping lawns for gathering, and sculpted banks for viewing. The South Park creates gently terraced river banks and includes the themed Olympic Gardens ? a rich and colorful tribute to the plants of the countries that gather for the Games.

The Transformation Plan set the framework for the park post-Games, replacing paving and temporary sporting venues with park programming including a cycle track and outdoor performance area, and additional habitat landscapes. The Transformation Plan stitches the park to the surrounding neighborhoods and creates a regenerated regional landscape for this and future generations.

**Further information here.** [2]

The **Rosa Barba International Landscape Prize** is granted as part of the International Landscape Biennial of Barcelona, organised by the Architects' Association of Catalonia (COAC) and the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC). The award, with a prize of 15,000 euros, is granted with the support of Fundació Banc Sabadell.

The **Exhibition of the Rosa Barba International Landscape Prize**, which shows 312 projects submitted for the Prize, will be open until October 19th. Projects are divided into four categories: Articulation, Intersection, Regeneration and Transtition.

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