

Alumno is pleased to be supporting the 20th edition of the *Southwark* magazine

Alumno has a long history of working in the borough and has enjoyed a positive working relationship with the forward thinking council.



Alumno has always focused on cultural placemaking and including the local community in our project briefs. Our third Southwark scheme, the former Southwark Town Hall on Peckham Road (completed Sept 2016), provides affordable accommodation for Goldsmiths students.

Our collaboration with SPACE studios means there are also 12 artist/creative industry studios in the basement and mezzanine floor of the building. These studios have regular open days inviting the public to look behind the doors of these creative enterprises and buy goods direct from the makers.

Alumno has sponsored one Goldsmiths graduate every summer since 2016. This graduate has a rent-free studio for a year to help start their creative career. This provides a massive boost to creative arts students starting out on their professional life. The burden of high rents often pushes talented people out of the capital to the detriment of the city.

Alumno`s latest project in the borough is at 78-89 Alscot Road in Bermondsey. The site is in a predominately residential area, opposite Bermondsey Spa Gardens, which acts as a hub for activity within the neighbourhood. Alumno`s proposals include rooms for 143 students, enhanced public realm and art installations. The project would also provide facilities for meetings and managed access into the ground floor cinema room for the local community.

Alumno is dedicated to the wellbeing of new residents, as well as the existing community and businesses of the local area. We have commissioned scientist and local resident Danny Ball to research methods to improve and pioneer the way the Alumno building provides navigation, to assist all residents using Audio Based Navigation Systems. We intend to extend this system to the immediate vicinity of the scheme. Danny is a researcher at the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience at University College London and the founder of Blind Mind and Space. His work with Alumno and Southwark Council in the area of Applied Neuroscience for the Built Environment will help blind and sighted individuals alike enjoy the developments of Alumno in Southwark and surrounding places of interest. Danny says "The goal of my research is to improve the urban environment and make the city truly accessible and inclusive, enabling all to enjoy the exciting developments of Alumno."

A planning application has been submitted to the council for this ambitious development. It has good access to amenities and public transport and will breathe new life, investment and functionality into the site. As well as providing high quality student accommodation, Alumno, along with the onsite management team, will offer a direct contact point for neighbours and the wider community. Being part of the community and offering managed access means the potential new scheme could make a positive contribution to the neighbourhood where long-term regeneration is already underway.

For more info on Alumno please visit alumnogroup.com and alumnobermondsey.com
For more info on Danny Balls` research please visit blindmindand.space

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alumnogroup.com