



transmission

**Issue 5
Launch Special**

**Dispatches from
Television Centre**

**Live at Television
Centre Festival**

A celebration of food, live music
and special performances

Behind the Scenes

A BBC 'lifer' with stories to tell

Heritage

When the unveiling of Television
Centre made headlines in 1960

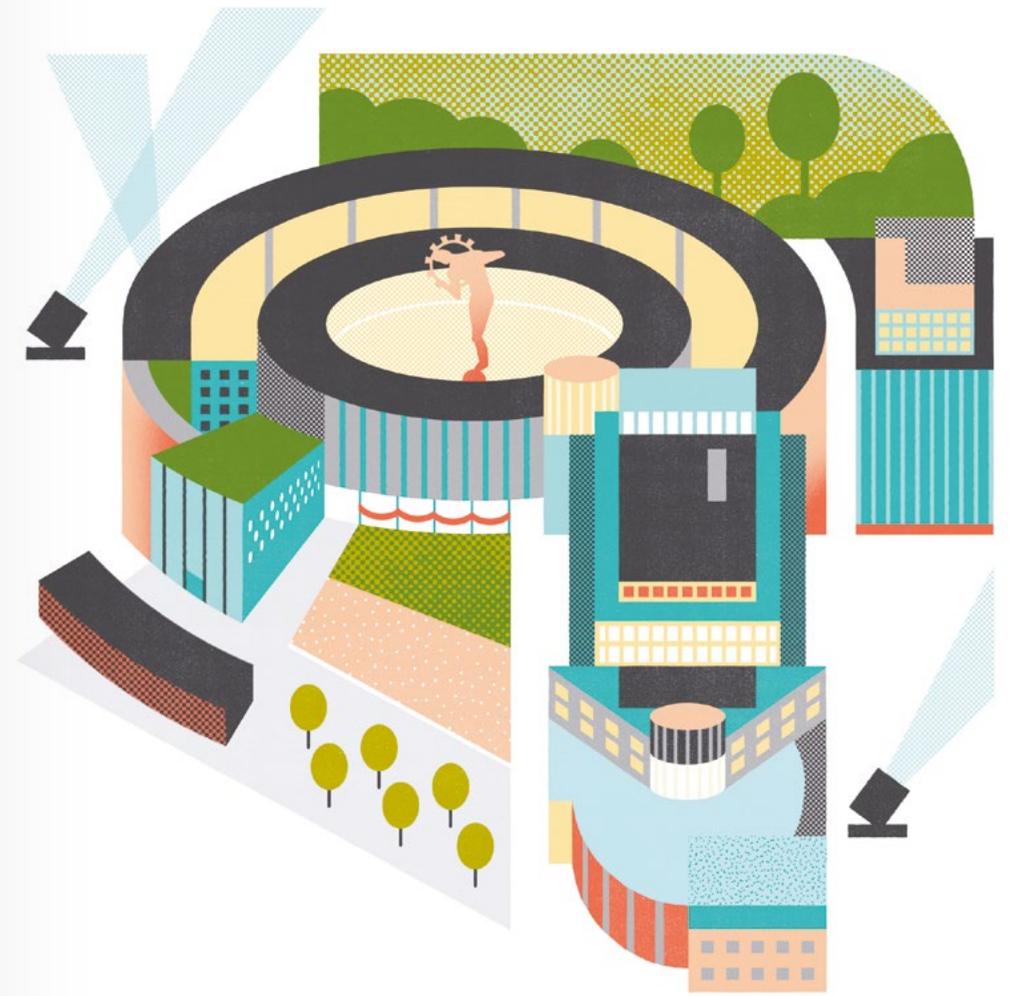
Television Centre is switched back on

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Live at Television Centre.
televisioncentre.com

Cover image:
Guy Archard

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and produced by dn&co.
dnco.com



In this fifth issue of transmission, we spill the beans on an action-packed three days in April to celebrate the official launch of Television Centre. Opening these doors to the public for the very first time is an historic moment, and it's one we've been impatiently anticipating in these very pages. It's not, however, the first big unveiling to happen at Television Centre. We look back at the very first studio broadcast, back in 1960. And we look ahead. With this revitalisation, Television Centre and, indeed, the wider neighbourhood is opening up with new places to eat, work, live and enjoy. The future is looking bright in White City.

Live at Television Centre Festival

Illustration: Craig & Karl

The forecourt at Television Centre 101 Wood Lane London W12

—
Thursday 12 April

5pm–10:30pm

Friday 13 April

noon–10:30pm

Saturday 14 April

noon–10pm

—
More performances and events
for all ages will be announced.
Visit televisioncentre.com for the
full lineup.

For three days, the forecourt at Television Centre will be transformed into an all-out festival to mark the official reopening. From food and music to live entertainment, it's a festival befitting the building, and it's not to be missed.



Music

He's worked with the likes of Adele, Paul McCartney and Jay-Z, and for three days he'll be working with Television Centre to curate an eclectic music programme. Seb Chew, the DJ behind the legendary YOYO, a club night that ran for ten years in New York and London, will curate a series of DJ performances.

The BBC Orchestra was founded in 1930, and is a resident orchestra at the Barbican Centre. You may have heard them on the radio or at The Proms, but for one night – on Thursday – they'll be performing at Television Centre. For those who know their Dr. Who from their Fawlty Towers, the orchestra will perform the BBC's most iconic theme tunes. See it from 7:30–8:30pm on 12 April, inside the atrium at 2 Television Centre.

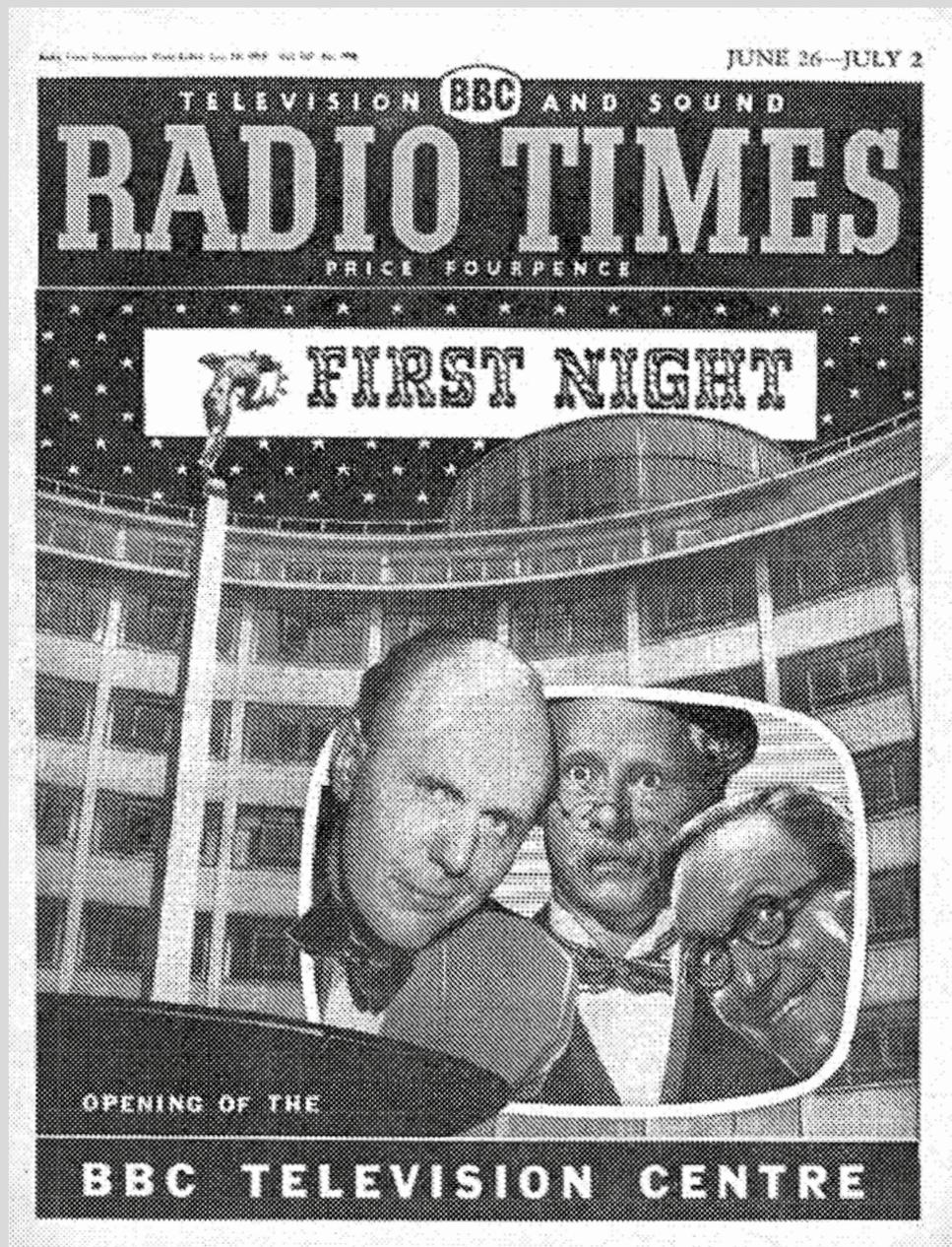


Food

Festival-goers will be able to preview the restaurants opening at Television Centre with special 'test card' menus. Try Patty & Bun's iconic Ari Gold cheeseburger or Cricket's bhel puri and Kerala fried chicken. Vendors will also include Bluebird Café, Homeslice and Hackney's Bad Sports taqueria, which will be slinging tacos and margaritas.

Entertainment

Sounds Like Friday Night is the indirect successor to the iconic Top of the Pops, which was filmed at Television Centre between 1964 and 2005. On Friday night we're planning a live recording in the open air.



The first time round

Leading up to the relaunch of Television Centre, a look back to the building's earliest moments in the spotlight.

1. The first studio performance

In June of 1960, BBC Television Director Gerald Beadle told the newspapers it would be the "Hollywood" of the small screen. The BBC had been broadcasting television since 1936 but up until then they improvised by adapting existing buildings like Alexandra Palace into studios. Television Centre was "the largest, best equipped and most carefully planned factory of its kind in the world".



The very first production was 'First Night', a 70-minute variety show that opened with a man dancing his way through the Television Centre car park, into the lobby and onto the reception desk. It aired at 8:35pm, just after a film about an imaginary day in the life at the BBC and was followed by the fourth episode of a six-part thriller.

The Guardian described the new building: "Inside the circular block, which is like a huge hollow drum, there is a grass lawn, a fountain and a golden statue of Helios. Yesterday the statue glistened golden in the June sun and the waters of the fountain echoed against the walls of the circular building."

2. The Queen's visit

Just over a year later, in November 1961, Television Centre had its first royal visit. Wearing long white gloves, the Queen was given a tour of Television Centre to coincide with the 25th birthday of the BBC's television service. The head of television design showed her through the design department, and she was also photographed meeting production staff in Studio 3.



3. The European debut

In a sense, Television Centre was launched to the rest of Europe in 1963 when the BBC hosted the Eurovision Song Contest. Yvonne Littlewood, who was directing the programme, remembers the entire production being positioned as an opportunity to show off the new studios, and so they got special permission to fly a helicopter over Television Centre and land on Studio 1. Filmed from the sky, Television Centre was broadcast into the living rooms across Europe. The song contest, however, was won by Denmark.



Around the clock at Television Centre



This spring, a deli and seven new restaurants (and counting) will keep patrons libated and well-fed, morning, noon and night.

1 BAYLEY & SAGE

A good place to start the day is Bayley & Sage, the fine food deli that has become a west London staple. Coffee, pastries, produce, artisanal jams and fresh bread await. Perfect for grab-and-go or to plan a meal at home. Opens May.

2 HOMESLICE

Grab a buddy and share a 20" pizza. Do not be deterred by the unconventional toppings. Instead, trust in the mushroom, ricotta and pumpkin seed, or the spiced lamb with cabbage. Craft beer is on tap. Opens April.



3 PATTY & BUN

It would be an understatement to say Patty & Bun's burgers are explosively juicy. Try the classic Ari Gold cheeseburger. Feeling adventurous? Pair it with a milkshake. Opens April.

4 BLUEBIRD

Chelsea's chic establishment is just a moment from its grand opening. Think modern European fare: oysters, chateaubriand, and roast baby chicken. Opens April.

5 KRICKET

Traditional Indian flavours collide with seasonal British ingredients, and the union of the two is a delicious one indeed. The samphire pakoras are the perfect encapsulation of this, and are not to be missed. Opens July.



4

5



6

7

6 THE ALLIS

The all-day menu paired with a rotating cocktail and martini offering makes The Allis the perfect place for a nightcap at Television Centre. Opens April.

7 ELECTRIC CINEMA

Ease into the evening with a film at the Electric Cinema, an affair that's elevated from the usual big box cinema experience by plush seats and a full snack menu. Opens May.

Patty & Bun



**is taking over
the world**



Try the Ari Gold cheeseburger for yourself this April, when Patty & Bun opens at Television Centre.

In just a few years, Patty & Bun have opened 9 restaurants in London, one in Brighton, and two more are on the way. But instead of a fast-food chain, founder Joe Grossman created a party.

It's still a few hours before Patty & Bun's Old Compton Street location is due to open, and apart from a bartender preparing for the day, it's quiet. That is, until the door flies open and Joe Grossman walks in.

The sound of his voice, boisterous, unfettered enthusiasm fills the room and lingers after he's run downstairs to check on the kitchen. Grossman, a whirlwind of high fives who has eaten "an illegal amount of burgers" in his lifetime, is a living, breathing embodiment of the empire he founded. And this spring, that empire extends to Television Centre.

"I grew up in Barnes, and went to school in Hammersmith and I live in Notting Hill, so it's like boom! West London, baby!" he says over a mint tea at Soho House. "I suppose it's part of my identity."

Patty & Bun is, as a rule, against a cookie cutter approach to growth. Each location has a distinct

feel to reflect the neighbourhood, from the cosy spot in Marylebone to the exposed brick basement in Shoreditch. But despite their differences, each restaurant is bumper-to-bumper full, all burgers, booze and music. At Television Centre, he expects a slightly more polished incarnation with a long bar.

For independent operators, growth is a challenge. But Patty & Bun seems to have cracked it, and a lot of that can be attributed to two things: the charm of the brand and damn good burgers.

Consider the Ari Gold cheeseburger, named after the Hollywood agent on *Entourage*. "We don't take ourselves too seriously. We like to have a bit of fun, bit of nostalgia," says Grossman who named all the burgers. The new vegan option is Whoopie Goldburger (tempeh mushroom fritter, onion, vegan Gouda), then there's the current special, Pat Butcher (aged beef, mature cheddar, truffle mayo), named after the long-standing *EastEnders* character. "Search Pat Butcher and you'll be like, how can you name a burger after her?"

What these all have in common is this: they are all gloriously and unapologetically messy. Grossman gets satisfaction from seeing patrons with sauce dripping down to their elbows, because that's just what makes them so good.

The idea for Patty & Bun was born in America, after Grossman caught a glimpse of Shake Shack. That was the original inspiration, to create an English cult version of the American behemoth. "I was just sick and tired of going out to these fancy restaurants. It was the time for burgers, pizzas, and fried chicken."

Patty & Bun is the result of relentless energy and an introduction to chef and restaurateur Mark Jankel, who helped Grossman get Patty & Bun on its feet. "Jankel had a this little prep kitchen in Battersea at this place called the Doodle Bar and I just started on a Friday night serving Patty & Bun out of the hatch window."

The first permanent location on James Street in Marylebone opened in 2012. Then came Liverpool Street. Then locations around London: Soho, Shoreditch, Fitzrovia, and the music festivals, which they still do today. Grossman is relieved he no longer has to work the 140 hour weeks he did in the first year of James Street. But with Television Centre opening in just a few weeks, followed by another in Borough, he shows no sign of slowing down. And certainly, no sign of quietening down either.



He spent over 30 years overseeing the operations at Television Centre. We asked what it was like to work at the former television factory.

Meet Mike Eaton

What was your first job with the BBC?

I started with the BBC in April 1977, but not here. My first job was working in audience research at the Langham Hotel in central London. Then I moved to working in the gramophone library, which was basically running around getting records out of the library for producers and DJs.

In your early days at the BBC, what was Television Centre to you?

My only involvement with Television Centre in those days was as a club member. Everyone who worked for the BBC could use the club facilities. There was a very famous club on the fourth floor...



Opposite: Mike Eaton, photographed by Sam Bush.

This page: The BBC Club, and a huddle of actors and comedians gathered in the Club. Copyright BBC Photo Library.

Do tell.

The best example is a guy called John Sullivan, who came to work at Television Centre as a scene shifter. Those are the guys who lug the scenery in and out. He had ambitions to be a script writer. He was a member of the club, as we all were, and ran into one of the big light-entertainment producers at the bar. He says, "Look, I've got an idea for a script, I'd really like you to have a look at it." Sure enough the producer does have a look at it, and that becomes a situational comedy called *Citizen Smith*. He then went on to write *Just Good Friends*, *Dear John*, and a little programme called *Only Fools and Horses*. That's very much the way this place worked.

What was your role at Television Centre?

When I started here I was responsible for the safety and organisation of public audiences coming in for the live audience shows. In those days all the great situational comedy shows were done in front of live audiences; there was no canned recorded laughter. It was my job

to get them in and out of the building. For the bulk of my time here, from 1983 until it closed, I was part of Television Centre's management team. There were five of us, and always someone on duty, 24 hours a day. I was responsible for the operational running of the site, dealing with the most mundane leak or overflowing urinal to working with protection authorities for royal visits and dealing with bomb threats.

Because parts of Television Centre are Grade II listed, we know a lot of design features have stayed. Are there any other relics you can tell us about?

In the lobby there's a groove in the terrazzo from where visitors would all stand when they registered at the front desk. You can feel the traffic there, where people would all stand in that same spot.

It must be surreal to see it now.

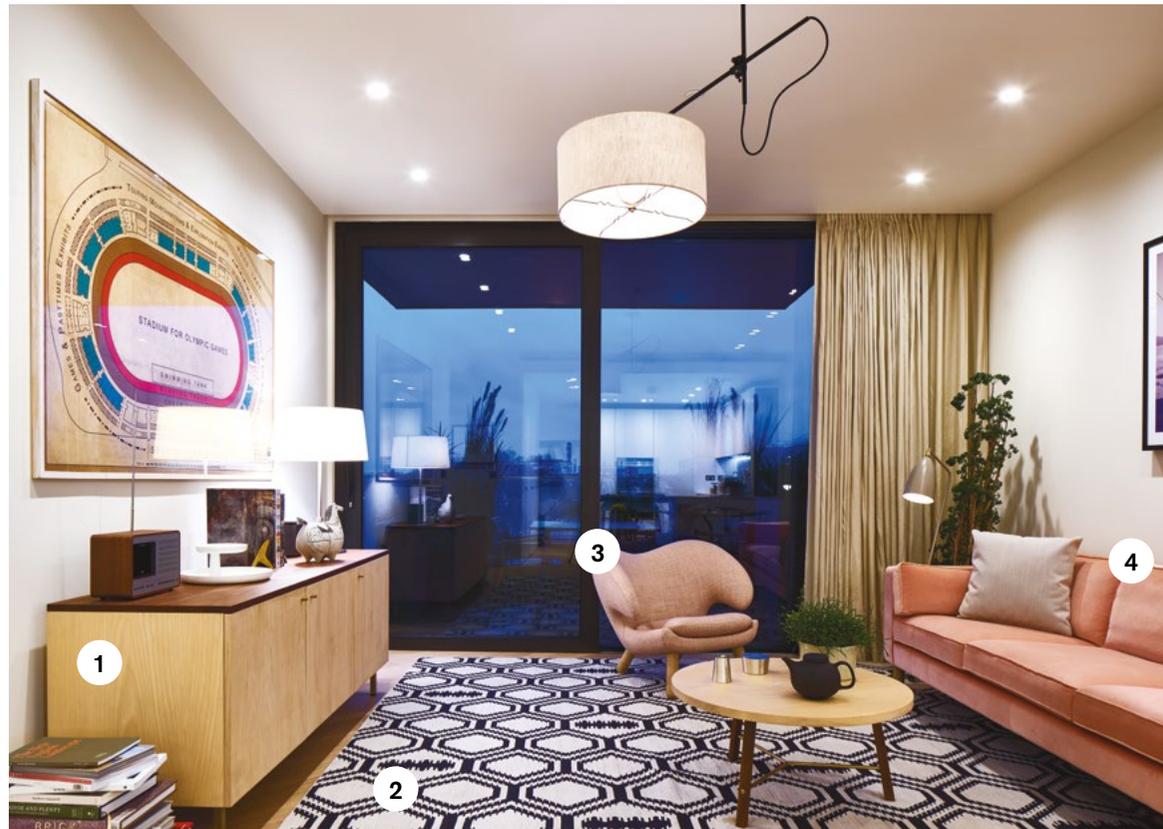
It is. It will always be Television Centre, but at the same time it's a very different Television Centre. Because I was around during the transition it probably hasn't hit me as hard as someone who hasn't been here since the place closed.

What is the legacy of Television Centre?

I know people say this about a lot of places, but you can honestly say it about this one: anybody who was anybody came here. The biggest stars, artists, personalities, world leaders. I shook hands with five British prime ministers during my time at Television Centre. They all came here.

Setting the scene

The scene is set at Television Centre's show apartments. We ask the interior designers to point out their highlights.



Suzy Hoodless is a Holland Park-based interior designer, who got her start as design editor at Wallpaper*. She has also styled the lobby and residents' lounge at Television Centre.

1 Sideboard Two
Designed by Another Country, an important partner for our work at Television Centre, their pieces are simple, beautiful and incredibly well made.

2 Dhurrie rug
Designed by Vanderhurd. We worked with this studio to produce a collection that's specific to Television Centre, inspired by the last photography to be taken of the original site before it was revitalised.

3 Chair by Finn Juhl
Designed for the 1940 Copenhagen Cabinetmaker's Guild Exhibition, the chair was almost forgotten until it was rediscovered and relaunched in 2001.

4 Sofa by Søren Lund
We work with a lot of heritage furniture makers from Scandinavia. Søren Lund have been designing and manufacturing high-quality, modern furniture for over 50 years from their North Jutland workshop.



5 PH5 Pendant
Designed by Poul Henningsen for Louis Poulsen in 1958. It's a design classic in a contemporary colour palette.

6 Art by Michael Craig-Martin
The art in the apartments is inspired by the architecture, both the original and the new. These pieces are by Michael Craig-Martin from the *Then and Now* series, a witty commentary on change.

7 Textiles by Christopher Farr
A west London studio based not far from Television Centre, we worked with Farr for the upholstery of this bed. It was important it was cosy, yet contemporary.

8 Accessories
We wanted the mood to extend into every corner of the house. We styled the bathroom with candles from Lola James Harper and toiletries from Aesop.





BoxNine7

This interior design outfit has styled two show apartments, and created a bespoke suite of furniture packages available to new residents at Television Centre.

1 The colourful cushions and throw create a focal point, and bring the bedroom to life.

2 The headboard is upholstered to provide a soft tone to the white walls.

3 Using dark frames to hang these light artworks creates contrast and a sense of drama.

4 We used a mix of finishes across the living area: walnut, brass and oak. The intent was for it to be vibrant and eclectic but to work cohesively as a whole.

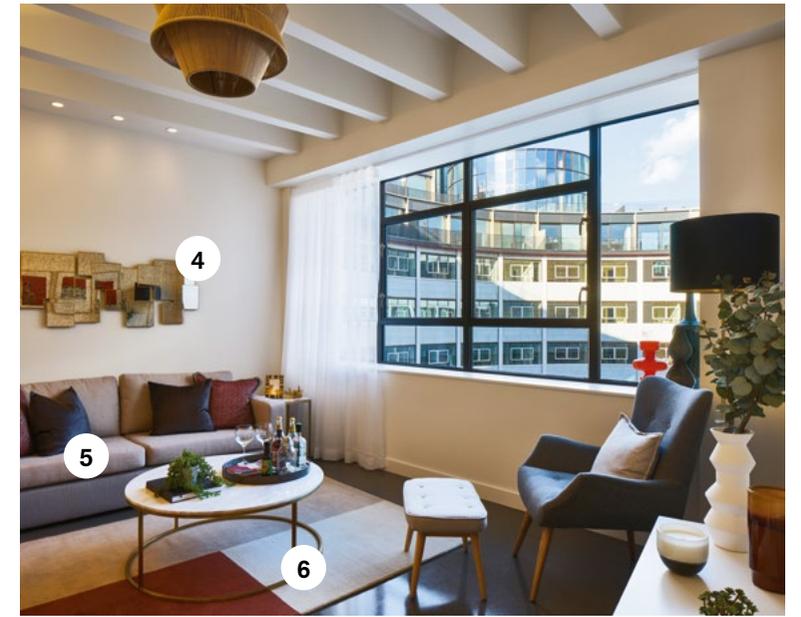
5 The sofa and armchair have been designed to provide a functional and comfortable space, suitable for entertaining and relaxing.

6 The circular coffee table in the centre complements the strong, angular architectural finishes of the space.

7 The wood of the kitchen accessories and use of greenery create an organic and natural feel that in turn complements the terrazzo stone of the kitchen.

8 We styled this space to transform it from a kitchen into a social space, suitable for entertaining.

9 Styling angular spaces with small yet bold accessories creates a homely feel.



The lineup at Television Centre



Clockwise from left: Homeslice, Cricket, Sounds Like Friday Night at BBC Studioworks



Coming up at Television Centre: new shops, restaurants, a cinema and gym. These are just a few of the neighbours set to open during the year. We'll be announcing more in upcoming issues of transmission.

Wellness

Soho Fit House

Television Centre residents' place for pumping, spinning, trotting, treading, lifting and a touch of ommmm.

Opens April/May
sohohouse.com
@sohohouse

Entertainment

BBC Studioworks

Three historic studios host live and recorded audience programmes throughout the week.

Open now
bbcstudioworks.com
@bbc_studioworks

White City House

The latest addition to the Soho House family. The adjoining hotel will offer 45 cosy bedrooms in the historic Helios.

Opens April
whitecityhouse.com
@sohohouse

Electric Cinema

A new three-screen cinema opens to the public in May 2018. Enjoy the latest arthouse flicks (or zombie thrillers) in a plush setting.

electriccinema.co.uk

Food & Drink

Bayley & Sage

Independent delicatessen and gourmet grocer with nearly 20 years of lunchtime authority.

Opens May
bayley-sage.co.uk
@bayleyandsage

Homeslice

Regularly hailed as London's best pizza, with unorthodox toppings and prosecco on tap.

Opens 9 April
homeslicepizza.co.uk
@homesliceldn

The Allis

A cocktail concept by the Soho House Group. It may originate from Chicago, but we hear they make a mean Manhattan.

Opens April
theallis.com

Patty & Bun

London's favourite burgers come to Television Centre. Stacked buns that unhinge the jaw.

Opens April
pattyandbun.co.uk
@pattyandbunjoe

Kricket

A hybrid of British ingredients prepared using authentic Indian techniques and spices.

Opens July
kricket.co.uk
@kricketlondon

Bluebird

Modern European dining with an interior to please the well-heeled.

Opens early April
bluebird-restaurant.co.uk
@bluebirdchelsea

What's up, White City?

Westfield expands with huge new John Lewis

Ten years after Westfield first opened its doors in White City, the first wave of its expansion opened on 20 March. Phase 1 includes new mall staples like a Boots and H&M, as well as an eight-floor John Lewis. Phase 2 happens this summer, with more shops, All Star Lanes bowling and Ichiba, Europe's largest Japanese food hall.

uk.westfield.com/london



Opens April: Bluebird

The first restaurant at Television Centre opens doors in April. If the original Chelsea location is any indication, then we can expect a chic clientele with oasis-like interiors to match, not to mention a sun-drenched terrace.

bluebird-restaurant.co.uk

White City House is now taking bookings

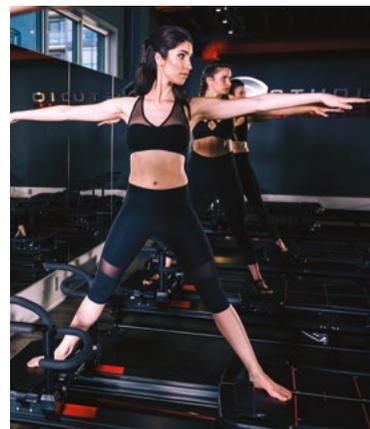
Soho House is moving in. The members' club is fêting its launch in April, but the 45-room hotel is already accepting bookings, with stays from the end of the month.

whitecityhouse.com

Spring into fitness at White City Place

Opening this spring: two new fitness studios at White City Place. Studio Lagree is a pilates studio using the innovative Megaformer machines for a Hollywood-inspired workout. F45 is all about the high intensity circuit training – so be ready to bring on the sweat.

f45training.com
studiolagree.com/uk



Live at Television Centre

Join the first residents, Soho House, Bluebird and the BBC in calling this West London icon home.

Studio, 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments ready to move into now.

Final studio £645,000*
 1 beds from £725,000*
 2 beds from £960,000*
 3 beds from £1,495,000*

White City, London W12.
 12 mins to Bond Street,
 22 mins to Bank.

020 8811 8720
televisioncentre.com



*prices correct at time of going to press

LIVE AT TELEVISION CENTRE FESTIVAL

Tune in for three days of food, music and special performances to celebrate the official opening of Television Centre

FOOD

12–14 APRIL

MUSIC

Special menus from:

Patty & Bun
Homeslice
Butterscotch
Bad Sports
Krieket
Bluebird Café

Thursday
5–10:30pm

Friday
noon–10:30pm

Saturday
noon–10pm

DJ programme
curated by Seb Chew
+

Performances by
the BBC Concert
Orchestra
+

More to be announced

101 WOOD LANE, WHITE CITY
televisioncentre.com