Media
Meet the CEO who just brought a team of 2,000 to White City

Food
The 16-cover sushi restaurant that has food critics stunned

Theatre
White City Theatre brings the West End to West London
Live and kicking

There’s a moment with major regeneration projects in London when years of planning culminate in a launch. After the dust settles and the food trucks roll out, a new everyday sets in. What’s remarkable one year since Television Centre’s public launch, is the new intellectual capital coming in and how rapidly White City is evolving.

On page 16, we meet Publicis Media CEO Sue Frogley who just moved 2,000 staff to 2 Television Centre. We also meet writer Jonathan Bell to get his take on the ongoing evolution of White City, in a new book chronicling the transformation of Television Centre. As ever, the story is still unfolding – follow @thisistvc on Instagram and Twitter for the latest.
The new 16-seat Japanese restaurant atop Television Centre, Endo at the Rotunda, received astonishing reviews and hosted the King of Jordan – all before officially opening its doors.

Sushi in the clouds

Every evening that Endo at the Rotunda is open, its eponymous chef Endo Kazutoshi gently places pieces of nigiri directly into the mouths of its 16 guests. It’s an act that’s intimate yet ceremonial, a gentle ritual that encapsulates his connection with every part of the dining experience.

Ever since the restaurant on the top floor of Television Centre soft launched in March, the reaction to it has been as staggering as its size is small. Writing in The Times, Giles Coren declared it “the most perfect meal I have eaten in a restaurant” in his 20-year career as a food critic.

Kazutoshi is a third-generation sushi master, who learned the art from his father and grandfather, and is now one of the world’s greatest chefs. Meanwhile, the restaurant design was undertaken by Kengo Kuma, one of Japan’s foremost architects, better known for work like V&A Dundee and Japan’s new national stadium for the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics. Kuma used to frequent Kazutoshi’s grandfather’s restaurant, and is renowned for his subtle responses to a building’s setting. The partnership was, as co-founder Benjamin Goldkorn puts it, “inevitable”.

This page: The bar at Endo is made from a single tree from the Tochigi Forest. Opposite page: Inventive dishes at Endo.
Goldkorn himself has been waiting ten years for this moment, he says. He and fellow investor Robin Leigh, formerly of Nobu, have wanted to work with Kazutoshi ever since the three of them met almost a decade ago. Finally, in this unique setting, the moment was right.

High atop Television Centre, the rotunda is a circular room walled in glass. Eight floors up, the space looks over the lights of west London. As Coren describes it, if it weren’t for the Westfield sign, you might be in Tokyo.

Goldkorn sums up the magic of the space: “We have a catchphrase: sushi in the clouds where the sea meets the sky. This is Endo’s dream, and it’s in the clouds because it’s what he’s been working towards all his life.”

Kuma has created another world up here. Waves of hanging paper undulate. So does the lighting. The curve of the sushi bar dominates the room. Made from a single tree from the Tochigi forest, the only way the team could get this huge piece of wood into the building was to winch it up by crane on the outside. Goldkorn describes its form as dividing the theatre from the audience: “And Endo is the theatre, with his four chefs who will be helping him to put on his play.”

The building’s history as a broadcasting icon was not lost on either of them, “It is about showmanship, and it’s about the presentation to an audience of an art form — and the BBC embodies all of that. We both, Endo and myself, immediately realised the potential of the metaphor.”

Sushi is deceptively simple: rice and fish. Kazutoshi’s secret lies in the relationships that he forms with every fisherman and every catch. He spends afternoons out on the boats with his suppliers in Normandy, Cornwall, Scotland, and further afield, to understand exactly where the food has come from. The aim is to bring the very sea that the fish once swam in to life in the mouth of the diner. As Goldkorn puts it, “Endo can identify and understand the amount of salt in the water, the temperature and the environment, and he will pay homage to it. He really feels he knows these fish.”

The rice, meanwhile, is sourced from Kazutoshi’s home town in Japan, together with barrels of the water that it grows in. The theory goes that only the same water can provide the right composition to cook the rice to perfection. It feels like a rare moment where Endo at the Rotunda’s exquisite attention to detail veers off into the absurd. Perhaps therein lies its success.

For the most part, the experience Goldkorn describes, while rarefied, remains informal, intimate and immersive, “For a sushi master, working in your kitchen and your restaurant — in effect you’re welcoming guests into your home.” It’s a place that embodies the dream of one of the finest sushi chefs working today, and we can’t wait to step inside.

Endo at the Rotunda, 8th floor, The Helios
Television Centre, 101 Wood Lane, W12 7FR

Reservations are essential.
Visit endoatrotunda.com to learn more.
Hot off the presses

Thinking Outside the Box is a new book that chronicles the transformation of Television Centre. We sat down with architecture writer and Wallpaper* editor-at-large Jonathan Bell to learn how he uncovered the story of this building.

How was this building shaped by emerging technology?
At the time it was built it was really cutting edge. They were literally shaping architectural spaces to accommodate camera equipment. And presumably within years of building it, things moved on. Cameras got smaller, they were able to move around, special effects changed. So the building continued to adapt. Bits were being added and demolished, there were new studios added. Once the BBC left, there were many layers of history.

What did this building mean to you before you started writing the book?
If you grew up in the UK, you knew it. It’s very evocative. In the pre-digital age it represented media culture, TV culture and celebrity culture before that even existed.

Can you tell us a little bit about the fact-finding process?
The nature of the people who worked at Television Centre are all quite archive-minded so there was an enormous amount of stuff about the day-to-day and the changes it underwent from a technical point of view, but also from a social point of view. This book is informed by a lot of first-hand reports. Some people literally spent their entire careers here.

You’ve included a lot about the history of White City before Television Centre was built. There was a bit of urban archeology to dig that out. I did a lot of looking at old maps, comparing old and new. That was very, very interesting to me personally because I love old maps.

Is there anything that an architect who’s practicing today can learn from this building?
It had this temple of broadcasting approach. It’s quite an enduring form – if it had just been a box it wouldn’t have had any of the resonance that it does.

You’ve written another book recently, about 21st century homes. How does the transformation of this building fit into the story of how we live today?
In the 80s and 90s we had this explosion of converting industrial spaces into residences. It’s a natural progression to move on to other buildings that people previously wouldn’t have thought were suitable for living in. People are more sophisticated now in how they view living spaces. I don’t think you could have done this conversion 20 or 30 years ago.

What did you learn about the building that you didn’t expect to?
What I did like very much was learning about the culture and hierarchy of the building. So you had the tea ladies, which sounds quite pejorative now, but their job was literally to bring tea to the men and they would bring their little rattly tea trolleys. You had the executive floor that was a bit like the British version of Mad Men where you had these intellectualish men in their executive suites gazing out over their world and deciding what the British Isles should see. I’m not nostalgic for that, but I do think it’s really interesting. It’s almost like the building was a little microcosm of how the British class system works, in architectural form.

Thinking Outside the Box is published by Artifice Press. To buy a copy, visit artificebooksonline.com

Illustration: Lyndon Hayes
It would be unfair to call The Modern House an estate agency. A publisher? Yes. A tastemaker? Yes again. A collection of some of the most extraordinary homes in the country? Absolutely. It just so happens that many of them are for sale.

“If there’s a Venn diagram, we’re in the middle with design on one side and commerce on the other,” says co-founder Matt Gibberd. “The reason people like coming to our website is because there’s really good design on there, but thrillingly, there’s also a price tag on it.”

Among those for sale is a selection of premium and penthouse apartments at Television Centre. Positioned atop the development, these spaces are a collaboration with leading architects and designers, including Bella Freud, Piercy & Company and Fran Hickman. “These are all names that we’re very familiar with, in terms of what we’ve been doing for years,” says Gibberd of the decision for The Modern House to take these on.

It’s often a cause for internal debate for the team to decide what is or isn’t listed on The Modern House. Usually it’s an intuitive feeling. While the organisation began with a stricter focus on midcentury homes, this definition has eased into a design-led sensibility that their audience will respond to. This has opened up the offering to include Georgian terrace homes, rustic converted barns and even new-build or mixed-use developments.

The Modern House was founded in 2005 by two former journalists writing about design and architecture. “While [co-founder Albert Hill] was working at Wallpaper* he was sent to Florida to do a story about a real estate agency that specialised in midcentury modern buildings,” says Gibberd. When Hill returned, he looked up modern homes for sale in the UK. “He couldn’t quite believe how badly they were being marketed.”

The Modern House does what the traditional agency doesn’t. Sales listings treat a property with respect, in the same way a magazine like Wallpaper* would treat a story about a building. Clichés like wide-angle photography and real estate euphemisms are strictly avoided. Instead, the photography shows lightly styled, lived-in spaces.

It’s this magazine-style approach that has caused growth to skyrocket over the last two years especially. The Modern House has taken the estate agency model and turned it upside down into a curated offering, filled with storytelling and imagination. Ultimately, it has taught its ever-growing audience to expect more from the spaces in which we live.

The Modern House is appointed to sell The Architects’ Series at Television Centre along with Savills and Strutt & Parker.
I had been living in London for almost a decade, when I decided to resign from my job as an investment banker in 2012 to start an eco-friendly clothes cleaner. Having been raised by a family from Provence, close to nature and mindful of the environment, committing to an environmentally friendly project has been close to my heart since childhood. During my banking years, I was a rather discontented user of dry cleaning services. I decided to make a change, to bring this industry forward and make it more modern by creating a fully natural alternative.

Despite its name, traditional dry cleaning is not a “dry” process: clothes are soaked in a liquid solvent. The most widely used solvent, Perchloroethylene, is toxic to humans and the environment. Perc has already been banned in many countries.

After extensive research, I decided wet-cleaning was the way forward. With the wet-cleaning technology, clothes are cared for to the highest standards and the process is both kind to the environment and to people's skin. I opened my first store in Marylebone in February 2013. My wife Mathilde had been involved in the adventure since its inception and joined the company formally in 2014 after we opened the second store in Notting Hill. She told me if we were going to be talking about BLANC every evening for the rest of our lives, she might as well dedicate her daytime too!

BLANC’s mission is to clean all clothes naturally – and always with love. We use non-toxic, biodegradable detergents and pure water because we believe that the world needs a sustainable way of cleaning the many clothes it produces each year.

Today, we have 50 employees, we clean over 1000 items per day and we have more than 100 corporate partners who trust us to care for clothes. A what a journey.

BLANC is a new eco-friendly cleaner located at Television Centre. Their innovative method avoids harmful chemicals in favour of sustainable practices. Founder Ludovic Blanc tells his story.

Cleaning up dry cleaning, one shirt at a time

What’s in a show apartment?

th2designs have collaborated with The White Company, who are headquartered on site, on two show apartments at Television Centre. We asked founder Shiela El Hadery about creating living spaces that don’t get lived in.

What are some defining qualities that your spaces all share?
The th2 stamp is attention to detail (from shadow gaps, to scale, to a fusion of textures), an eclectic mix of furniture and a restrained palette with the occasional pop of colour.

Have you collaborated with The White Company before?
It was the first time that we have collaborated in this way, but working with The White Company was a great experience. We are huge fans of the brand and supply their bed linen in our projects. I have it in my own home and can vouch for it first hand!

How do you approach a project where the building has a strong heritage, like Television Centre?
Television Centre is part of my personal history as I worked for the BBC in the 70s. The kitchen designed by Piercy & Company in the show unit is stunning and I am a big fan of the fluted marble. We approach all projects in the same way: get the space planning right and really design for comfort, style and flow. The design moves on from there.

What are the challenges of decorating a show apartment, as opposed to working with a client who will occupy the space?
One of the challenges is that it can end up looking sterile as it is almost too perfect and not how most of us live. Everything is new and there are no family photos or inherited items to reflect unique lives. The collection of furniture in this show apartment is very organic and comfortable which injects a welcoming feel.

To visit the show apartment at Television Centre, register your interest at televisioncentre.com.

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The power of the theatre can be boiled down to its transportational quality. What happens between those three walls on stage can uplift a viewer to another time and place altogether. But even this has its limitations.

Troubadour Productions have forged a legacy for breaking down the boundaries presented by traditional theatre spaces. The solution is in the structure. Take the classic West End theatre for example. It’s usually listed, which means there’s only so much the space can do. A producer can’t exactly rip out the seating for a new configuration. But for Troubadour’s 2010 production of The Railway Children, performed in a theatre structure purpose-built to straddle the disused Eurostar track at Waterloo, a real steam train chugged its way onto the stage. Try that in Soho.

The site-specific theatre concept took off. “We realised there’s a real market for doing theatres in an exciting, different way in cool areas of regeneration or areas that aren’t a strip of the West End,” says co-founder Oliver Royds. Fast forward nine years and a stint at a pre-revitalisation King’s Cross, Royds and his partner Tristan Baker are erecting a new performance space in another area of regeneration, right here in White City. Up Wood Lane from Television Centre at White City Place, the White City Theatre will open in July.

You may have seen the arches of scaffolding that are, as of press time, still under construction. “Our ethos is, give us a piece of flat land and plumbing and we can build a really exciting theatre quickly. And we can put exciting shows on.” The purpose-built space is completely flexible – seating can be reconfigured to enhance the performance experience, the stage can be transformed into expansive sets. Or, seating can be done away with altogether. Royds says they have discussed the possibility of turning the space into a series of different rooms that the audience can walk in and out of.

Rethinking the theatre experience from the traditional format is increasingly appealing to producers and playwrights, and Royds expects that will show in the calibre of productions coming to White City.

Although the programme for the summer launch has not yet been released, Royds and his team are already planning a series of initiatives to include the local community. They are especially interested in bringing in people who may never have been to a theatre performance. To do that, they are working with Hammersmith & Fulham Council on various incentives that are in place within the borough.

“I think there will be a really exciting array of shows, although we don’t have plans for a train to come in. But if they wanted to, the space is there!” White City Theatre will have two fully flexible spaces – one with up to 1,200 seats and the other up to 800 seats. The space promises a blank canvas where, short of bringing a physical train on stage, although never say never, anything can happen.

To learn more about White City Theatre and book tickets, visit troubadourtheatres.com

Box office: 0844 815 4866
Agency influx: Publicis Media moves in

With a staff of more than 2,000, UK CEO Sue Frogley is bringing Publicis’s seven agencies together under one roof for the first time at Television Centre. We met her at the new HQ eight days after the first wave of 600 people moved in. The office was already abuzz.

Moving an organisation of 20 people is not easy. How has it been moving an organisation of 2,000 people?

So, it’s not as hard as you’d expect! You just have to be exceptionally organised, really clear, communicate up front when everybody’s moving, how they’re moving and where. Just keep communicating! And get the admin right, that’s what we’ve done.

What prompted the move?

I was looking for space where I could bring the whole business together. I currently have five locations and I really wanted somewhere where all the brands within Publicis Media and specialist divisions could come together into one building. I saw this space and knew, this will be our home.

What will the benefit be operationally to have everyone together?

First of all, it’s physical. So instead of going around to five different locations, our specialist functions can be with all businesses. That is a massive advantage.

What is it about the space that attracted you?

Well, it’s a £1.5bn regeneration, so we knew the investment was there. It’s a media hub, so we knew we were with like-minded people in the right area. We weren’t taking a bet, we knew it was already established.

All seven agency brands will have their own floor. How will each agency’s personality be reflected in the space?

We gave each brand the same budget and said you can design the floor as you wish. What we don’t want is to become a homogenised group. It’s important the agencies maintain their brand and have a personality.

So you know when you’ve arrived on each floor, you know exactly which agency you’ve arrived in.

Was there anything about Television Centre’s history that attracted you, personally?

Yes, but I’m of a certain age! I still reference the Blue Peter garden, and 95% of our population here have no clue what I’m talking about. But even the younger population here know that wall with the atomic dots and on the first day, they’ll take photographs of it and send it to their parents and say “this is where I am, I’m proud to be here.”

Publicis Media
publicismedia.com
What’s new in White City

Tuning in to the latest news from W12: new neighbours, summer screenings and more.

Third wave coffee is coming to Television Centre

The idea for Flying Horse Coffee came to founder Phillip Way while on horseback, riding through coffee farms in Cuba. Fast forward to several years later, his wholesale coffee business is flourishing. He’s even recruited a coffee roaster to join the business, all the way from Melbourne.

One year after opening doors to the coffeeshop and roasting facility at Hackney’s Mare Street Market, Flying Horse is expanding west. Television Centre will be their first standalone coffeeshop, opening later this year. They’ll be slinging flat whites from 7.30am, with vegetarian-friendly sandwiches and salads to keep White City buzzing through the day.

flyinghorsecoffee.com

Elephant West

Contemporary art magazine Elephant has a new outpost in White City – complete with exhibitions, a salad bar and a bar-bar. Join the team every week for community events, such as Art Yoga, panel discussions and ongoing exhibitions.

elephant.art/events

New neighbours

British fashion atelier Ralph & Russo – known for dressing royals and celebrities – are moving to White City Place. The space will be twice the size of their existing atelier and will fit up to 400 staff. The brand joins fellow fashion giants Yoox Net-a-Porter at the White City creative hub.

ralphandrusso.com

Walkable White City

As part of the ongoing redevelopment projects in White City, public spaces and new pedestrian routes are improving the public realm. A new pedestrian route links Television Centre and Westfield London, with easy access to White City and Wood Lane tube stations.

White City Place app

Calling all employees working out of White City Place! Download the new White City Place app for exclusive offers and event updates.

Search White City Place wherever you find your apps.

Summer Screenings at White City Place

Returning for a second season, the White City community is welcome to enjoy the free public screen this summer, playing films, curated content and sports.

White City Place, 195 Wood Lane, W12 7FQ
whitecityplace.com
The lineup at Television Centre

Between stacked burgers, weekend brunches or a takeaway slice, there’s something to do here for every occasion, morning, noon and night. For more, follow us on Instagram @thisistvc.

Food & drink

**Endo at the Rotunda**
Endo Kazutoshi, the world-renowned sushi chef, has opened an exclusive 16-seat restaurant in the Rotunda.

Open now endoatrotunda.com

**Flying Horse Coffee**
Flying Horse roast and deliver sustainably sourced beans from around the world.

Opens summer flyinghorsecoffee.com

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

Open now homeslicepizza.co.uk

**Patty & Bun**
Patty & Bun is so much more than the two ingredients in the name suggest. The ultra-stacked burgers are some of London’s favourite.

Open now pattyandbun.co.uk

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

Open now theallis.com

**Bluebird Café**
Modern European dining from the White City outpost of a Chelsea landmark.

Open now bluebirdcafe.co.uk

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

Open now kricket.co.uk

Entertainment

**BBC Studios**
Three TV studios host live and recorded audience programmes throughout the week.

Open now bbcstudioworks.com

**White City House**
The latest addition to the Soho House family. The adjoining hotel offers 45 cosy bedrooms in the historic Helios.

Open now whitecityhouse.com

**Electric Cinema**
Enjoy the latest arthouse flicks (or zombie thrillers) in this plush new three-screen cinema. Tasty film snacks come as standard.

Coming soon electriccinema.co.uk

Wellness & retail

**BLANC**
An eco-friendly dry cleaner offering laundry and alterations using innovative cleaning technology.

Open now blancliving.co

**Soho Fit House**
Television Centre residents’ place for pumping, spinning, treading and a touch of ommm. Open to Soho House members, hotel guests and residents only.

Open now sohohouse.com
Food & drink

**Shola Karachi Kitchen**
Homestyle Pakistani dining by rising star chef Aida Khan.
sholakitchen.com

**W12 Studios**
A robust cocktail selection with rotating music and street food vendors.
w12studioslondon.com

**Herman ze German**
The best of the wurst, including schnitzel and German craft beer.
hermanzegerman.com

**The Athenian**
From the streets of Athens to the hungry diners of White City, The Athenian brings souvlaki and more.
theathenian.co.uk

**Butterscotch**
An imaginative café with afternoon tea, cakes, Allpress Coffee and even a build-your-own porridge bar.
butterscuchbakery.co.uk

In focus: White City Place

Further up Wood Lane from Television Centre, White City Place is a charged creative and business hub, home to game-changers like Yoox Net-A-Porter and the Royal College of Art. Explore White City Place for great food, fitness and retail.

**Fitness**

**Studio Lagree**
Power pilates from California using the innovative M3 Megaformer machines.
studiolagree.com/uk

**F45**
High intensity training with expert instructors.
f45training.com

**Fashion & lifestyle**

**Oliver Bonas**
Clothing, jewellery and accessories for the home – the perfect fix for the last-minute gift.
oliverbonas.com

**Huckletree**
A workspace accelerator for tech businesses and entrepreneurs across media, fashion and design industries.
huckletree.com
Live at Television Centre

The restaurants are open. The studios are recording. The gym is buzzing. And the apartments are completed, ready for living in White City, London W12.

Apartments from £785,000*
Premium & penthouses from £2,500,000*

New show apartment launching 11am – 5pm Saturday 11 May

TELEVISION CENTRE

020 8023 9315
televisioncentre.com

*prices correct at time of going to press