transmission

Issue 1

Dispatches from Television Centre

Food
Slice of life: Meet the team behind Homeslice

Landscapes
A closer look at Hammersmith Park, which isn't where you think it is

Culture
Many moons ago: The story of the BBC's broadcast of Apollo 11

Bright lights, White City

Television Centre
89 Wood Lane
London W12 7FA
020 8811 8720

Live in Television Centre.
televisioncentre.com

Cover image:
The Japanese Garden
at Hammersmith Park
by Tian Khee Siong

Transmission is edited
and produced by dn&co.
dnco.com

The future is a bright one in W12. Warehouses are turning into homes, industrial spaces are becoming startup studios and both Imperial College and the Royal College of Art are expanding their campuses into White City.

But it's not all new kids on the block. To people like Mario Testino, Stella McCartney and fast fashion retailer Monsoon, who all operate their businesses from the area, this corner of west London is old news. To businesses like the Soho House Group, who are set to open a new members' club, hotel and gym, or like YOOX NET-A-PORTER, who are moving their tech operations to White City Place, this once overlooked slice of the city marks the next frontier.

Indeed, the historic Television Centre is a catalyst for much of the surrounding regeneration – and this circular structure is going through a transformation of its own. Call it the reinvention of the wheel, because for the first time in its history, Television Centre will be opening its doors to residents, diners and revellers, with BBC's television production humming along in the background.

There's a lot more where that came from, so in the words of our friends on the telly: stay tuned.

Illustration: Mike Lemanski

How Homeslice went from a DIY pizza oven in east London to serving the best slices citywide

All fired up

A few items into Homeslice's menu, things start to get weird. Pleasingly weird. Classic pizza toppings of the ham and cheese variety are replaced by inventive offerings with only the margherita as a safety net. Think: butternut pumpkin with broccoli, pecorino and crispy onions. Wild venison with kale, onions and dukkah (an Egyptian blend of nuts and spices). Oxtail and watercress with horseradish and sorrel cream.

"When looking at different toppings and different ingredients, we're not looking at it only as a pizza," says co-founder and chef Ry Jessup. "The pizza is a plate for us on top of which we're creating a dish. We don't make it interesting for the sake of it, we use everything that's available to us." With the breadth of ingredients, it's clear the minds behind the pie, Jessup along with Mark and Alan Wogan, are ardent eaters. The culinary diversity of London comes together here on an impossibly light crust.

It's this – and their unwillingness to compromise on the quality of ingredients – that has repeatedly wedged Homeslice's Shoreditch, Covent Garden and Fitzrovia locations high on lists of the best pizza in the capital. As of next year, Homeslice will be serving its famous fare out of a brand new outpost at Television Centre. The upcoming opening is the first in a brand new building and will have a much larger outdoor seating space than other locations. "Our intention is that wherever we open a Homeslice we're opening your local pizza joint, rather than a cookie cutter chain restaurant," says Mark. "So it has to suit the environment it goes into."

Jessup met Mark when he was working at Flat White in Soho, a café and small-bite spot that claims to be the first to serve flat whites in London. Mark was a regular ("A very picky customer!" says Jessup) and after several run-ins, Mark agreed to come try the pizza Jessup was making out of a homemade wood-fired pizza oven. The Wogan brothers, who had worked together previously, had always wanted to open a restaurant. Homeslice's first bricks and mortar location opened its doors ten months after Mark tasted his first slice.

The forthcoming location in Television Centre is not uncharted territory for Mark and Alan, whose father Sir Terry, the late great television personality who fronted programmes like Blankety Blank and Children In Need, had spent a fair share of his time on this very site – a proud homecoming, any way you slice it.

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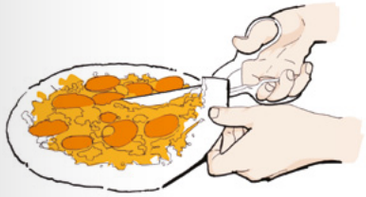

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Illustrations: Lyndon Hayes

The idiosyncrasies of eating pizza

Homeslice's pizzas are 20″, to be shared between two to three people, or served individually by the slice. Those are just two ways to do it. We look at the idiosyncrasies of eating pizza

1 NYC Fold
The New York slice is almost as iconic as Lady Liberty herself, and it's meant to be eaten in a New York minute. The most efficient means to mitigate a sloppy situation is to fold it in half and bite.

2 Scissor slice
Where pizza wheels rarely do a thorough job, this is a hack for the home. Some restaurants have even started serving their pizzas with a pair of scissors. It works.

3 Everything but the crust
A rookie mistake, truly. Potentially executed by those trying to be "carb-conscious." We recommend forgoing this completely and savouring the doughy goodness in the company of a good chilli oil.

4 Knife and fork
For those with a higher sense of decorum or generally with Neapolitan sensibilities. The benefit here is the slow enjoyment of the dish. It ensures you will not inhale the thing within a matter of moments.

5 Doubles
Find a partner, order two pizzas, and split them for ultimate eating. Homeslice take care of this by offering the topping of two on separate halves of the pizza.

In focus

Homeslice chef and co-founder Ry Jessup

What spurred the idea to build a pizza oven?
It was just a summer project, really, something to do and have a bit fun. We weren't looking to turn it into a business to be honest. But the more time we spent on the oven – and the more money we spent on trying to finish it – we realised maybe we could turn it into something real.

Can you tell us what the first oven was made of?
We had a frame made out of box section steel. We put it in the communal area of my friend's flat in Whitechapel, and we constructed a concrete oven on top of this steel box. It had refractory cement on the inside, which was the structural integrity of the oven, and then we covered it in a compound called vermiculite on the outside, which was the insulation.

This sounds pretty technical. Do you have a background in building things?
I don't, my background has always been food. One of the friends who I was building it with was a builder, and the other has a design degree and was very interested in product design. I was the food guy, so we all had our jobs.

So what happened after?
We finished the oven and then we organised an event at what was then the London Field's Brewery, which then turned into Climpson's Arch where Som Saa and things like that started. They were launching their new brewery and we teamed up with them. We did the opening party and we sold out halfway through the day. So we made more dough and then started baking and sold out again at 10pm that night.

Did you feel something was missing in London's pizza landscape?
I think so. I've always been a huge pizza fan. The traditional pizza market is very, very strong. But unfortunately, any time there was something more experimental in terms of toppings, you lost the quality. So I wanted to do something that had a modern twist and didn't necessarily follow all the traditional toppings, but had the traditional integrity, quality, methods and processes.

Homeslice Neal's Yard
13 Neal's Yard
Covent Garden
London WC2H 9DP

Homeslice Fitzrovia
52 Wells Street
Fitzrovia
London W1T 3PR

Homeslice Shoreditch
374–378 Old Street
Shoreditch
London EC1V 9LT

Illustration: Lyndon Hayes

Ten thousand tiny pieces

Copyright BBC photo library

An iconic mosaic mural by British artist John Piper was the welcoming beacon at Television Centre. We piece together the story behind the masterpiece

This page:
Television Centre entrance hall, 1962

Opposite:
The iconic mosaic shown in a rendering of the reimagined Television Centre

Copyright BBC photo library

As Television Centre undergoes its major facelift, a piece of British artistic genius remains tightly wrapped in protective sheeting: the mosaic by John Piper from Television Centre's former main entrance. Comprising tens of thousands of tiny ceramic pieces in every shape and colour, it was painstakingly arranged in a factory in Kingston before its installation above the welcome desk of the then brand new BBC headquarters.

As an artist, Piper brought together two – some would say competing – schools of art: Modernism and Romanticism. He mixed a desire to produce more expressive art with a deep love of the British landscape. The result covers everything from medieval ruins to the vast factory floors of wartime Britain. He spent WWII as an official war artist, travelling the country extensively to document its effects.

A few years prior, when television was still in its infancy, Piper was invited to host the world's first televised arts programme. In grainy black and white, Piper walks around a large studio filled with Van Goghs and Rembrandts perched on easels. As he weaves his way round, he stops to draw comparisons, and describes the impression of the paintings – their scenes, their energy, their colours. It's a tough ask. But the way he brings the art to life through the the static of television is the same quality that makes the Grade II listed mosaic at Television Centre as brilliant and vibrant as it is.

The vast mosaic has a fizz of kinetic energy, all the more brighter and more prophetic when you consider the building would not broadcast colour television for another seven years. But this was no ordinary commission. Rather, it was a love letter to an institution that in many ways helped establish Piper as the painter of his generation.

Illustration: Lyndon Hayes

In focus
Artist John Piper

1903
Born in rural Epsom, John Egerton Christmas Piper spends his childhood cycling around and drawing old monuments in overgrown churchyards.

1922
Joins the family firm of solicitors before refusing partnership, and thus forfeiting his inheritance.

1929
Choosing art school, Piper was also to drop out of the Royal College of Art disillusioned with its strict regime.

1936
Piper makes the first televised arts programme for the BBC.

1939
Invited to paint secret bunkers for Air Raid Precaution, he becomes an official war artist, famously painting the impact of the blitz.

1960
Piper's celebrated works now include stained glass for the new Coventry Cathedral and the Washington National Cathedral in the U.S. capital. That year, the mosaic at Television Centre is completed.

A little pocket of Japanese zen

in Hammersmith Park

Photography
Tian Khee Siong

Tucked away behind Television Centre, Britain's oldest public Japanese garden blooms year-round

White City was a very different place in 1910. Television – let alone an entire structure built for its production – was still a glimmer in the distant future. Instead, a series of grand pavilions lined the area for the Japan-British exhibition. That year, a vast display (roughly twice the size of a football pitch) was the largest international exposition undertaken by the Japanese Empire to date.

With the stage set, this was Japan's time to shine on the international stage. Art, crafts, manufactured goods, cultural artefacts and the latest technology were displayed in London to the world. Among them, a set of traditional gardens, each cultivated with the utmost care to adhere to centuries-old gardening traditions. For absolute authenticity, shrubs, trees and even stones were transported from Japan. And one of these gardens from the Grand Exposition still stands in White City today.

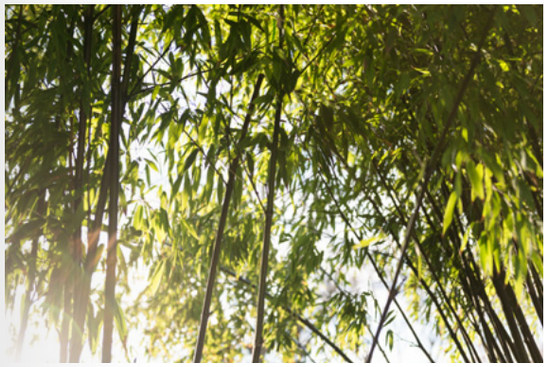
The Garden of Peace in Hammersmith Park has retained many of its original features. The same pond still stands, and so too does the little stone bridge that crosses it. Many of the plants that stand proudly here today are the same that were brought over from Japan more than a century ago.

Japanese gardens are a cerebral thing. With great precision and great restraint, the landscape tells a story. At the Garden of Peace, each plant has a purpose; there are no superfluous florals here. It follows the tradition of a stroll garden where a path of stepping stones defines the journey: where to walk, and where to pause. The first stop is the stone garden, which follows the story of the turtle and the crane as they make the voyage to Shangri-La, the place of eternal happiness. The garden symbolises youthfulness, the journey through life with a sense of play.

The stone steps continue through the little garden and up to the pond, which invokes a rocky seashore with surrounding foliage that muffles the sound of the nearby streets. Keep walking around the pond and you'll spot the rhododendrons, azaleas and mahonias flowering in the spring, with evergreen bushes, spindly bamboo and ferns that keep the gardens green all year round. A gently flowing stream runs down two waterfalls into the pond, where Television Centre can be seen reflected in the water.

Gardens have transportive qualities and can serve as the antidote to the city. And even here in this little Japanese garden, respite can be found.

There's more to discover in the landscaping in and around Television Centre, head to televisioncentre.com/landscape.



A night on the town

Between the chic bars of Notting Hill, the music venues of Shepherd's Bush and the watering holes of Westfield, we explore the past, present and future of nightlife in and around White City

The Allis

Coming soon: a day-to-dinner dining concept from the Soho House Group

If you find yourself in Chicago, the Allis is a sure bet. Housed in a five storey industrial warehouse alongside Chicago's Soho House members' club, it's the type of place where you can lounge over a laptop and a frothy cappuccino or swill spirits after a steak dinner. Indeed, they even have a special menu just for Negronis and Manhattans.

In London, their eyes are set on White City. Coming soon to Television Centre will be the third outpost by the Allis (the second is in Istanbul, overlooking Palazzo Corpi, an 1870s mansion commissioned by a powerful shipbuilder and later used as the U.S. embassy). What all three of these locations have in common is the heritage of their buildings – and the decision for the interiors to uphold the building's former glory. The new restaurant at Television Centre promises more of the same, with nods to the building's iconic mid-century design and cheeky references to the television shows once produced on-site. The Allis opens late 2017/early 2018.

Below: The Allis Chicago

A brief history of cocktails in London

The history of the cocktail is a contested one. Ask someone Stateside and they'll claim its origin is as American as apple pie. A recent discovery, however, found that the word "cock-tail" was used in a London newspaper in 1798, about five years before the earliest recorded American usage.

We can rewind even further, however, to 1688 when an unusually good yield left William III with more grain on his hands than the country had use for. He reduced taxes on distillations and roughly 500,000 gallons of spirit were produced in the following year. Fast-forward again to the 20 million produced in the 1720s and we can all see where Hogarth's famous "Gin Lane" etching came from.

The earliest instance of the cocktail being defined as how we know it today came from an American publication in 1806, which referred to it as "a stimulating liquor, composed of spirits of any kind, sugar, water and bitters". Stimulating indeed, the surge in popularity of cocktails in America is attributed to the legendary bartender Jerry Thomas – who wrote the first book of cocktail recipes. Incidentally, just before writing his book, he perfected his craft while living in London.

Illustration: Lyndon Hayes

Top of the Car Park
Wood Lane
London W12 7RJ
pergolaontheroof.co.uk

Pergola on the Roof

Bottoms up! Way up! To the rooftop of Television Centre

What might just be London's best kept secret is also its best rooftop: Pergola on the Roof takes street food off the street to 50m above White City. A nondescript doorway and a dark corridor leads to the lift; that's where the fanfare-free entrance ends and the Pergola experience begins.

The top floor parking deck is filled with handsome deck furniture with an equally handsome clientele, sipping rosé or glühwein depending on the season. Pergola changes with the months: in the summer it evokes serious Mediterranean al fresco vibes, in the winter a Nordic paradise shrouded in evergreen garlands and no shortage of hygge. But regardless of the season, Pergola delights in its imposing views over London, where each sunset is a spectacle.

The food is a who's-who of London street food fare and cult favourites: Patty & Bun burgers, high-end kebabs from Le Bab, and tapas from Salt Yard – to name but a few. A reinvented Pergola on the Roof will reopen the summer of 2017. Now that's worth raising the roof about.

Nighttime in west London

Illustration: Mike Lemanski

1 Pergola on the Roof
An unassuming lift ride away and you're standing atop London, with tasty street food and magnums of rosé by your side.

Top of the Car Park, Wood Lane, W12 7RJ
pergolaontheroof.co.uk

2 Smith's Cocktail Bar
A little cocktail bar below the Brook Green Hotel in Shepherd's Bush. Plush furniture, exposed brick walls and a robust cocktail list – all the trimmings of a speakeasy.

170 Shepherd's Bush Road, W6 7PB
brookgreenhotel.co.uk/smiths

3 Defector's Weld
A charming pub that's frequently lauded by the locals, and with the Time Out awards to boot. Craft beers, a cocktail list and a homestyle take on pub grub.

170 Uxbridge Rd, W12 8AA
defectors-weld.co.uk

4 Trailer Happiness
On the greyest of London nights, Trailer Happiness is a shining holiday respite. This tiki bar and eatery offers tropical cocktails and Asian-style dumplings.

177 Portobello Road, W11 2DY
trailerhappiness.com

5 Portobello Star
It's a bar, it's a pub, but mostly it's a mecca to gin. The site of the Portobello Star has been serving drinks in one way or another since 1740, a tradition it continues today with aplomb.

171 Portobello Road, W11 2DY
portobellostarbar.co.uk

6 Redemption Notting Hill
A hip west London cocktail bar with one thing missing: alcohol. Intricate drinks and healthy dining are the highlights here, just don't call them "mocktails".

6 Chepstow Road, W2 5BH
redemptionbar.co.uk

The lineup at Television Centre

Coming up next at Television Centre: new shops, restaurants, an independent cinema and gym. These are just a few of the new neighbours set to move in by the end of this year and early next. We'll be announcing more in upcoming issues of *transmission*

Clockwise from above: Pergola on the Roof, Patty&Bun, The Allis

Food & drink

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

homeslicepizza.co.uk
@homesliceLDN @homesliceldn

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

theallis.com

Cecconi's
Modern Venetian dining by way of West Hollywood, Miami, Istanbul, Berlin and Barcelona.

sohohouse.com/restaurants/cecconis

Patty & Bun
London's favourite burgers come to Television Centre. Stacked buns that require an unhinged jaw.

pattyandbun.co.uk
@pattyandbunjoe @pattyandbun

Bluebird
The sophisticated Chelsea establishment moves north. Modern European dining with an interior to please the well-heeled.

bluebird-restaurant.co.uk
@bluebirdchelsea

Pop-up

Pergola on the Roof
A seasonal rooftop bar and street food offering atop the Television Centre car park.

pergolaontheroof.co.uk

Wellness

House Gym by Soho House
Television Centre residents' place for pumping, spinning, trotting, treading, lifting and a touch of ommmmm.

sohohouse.com
@SohoHouse

Entertainment

BBC Studioworks
Three historic studios are being refurbished, and will host live audience recordings from autumn 2017.

bbcstudioworks.com

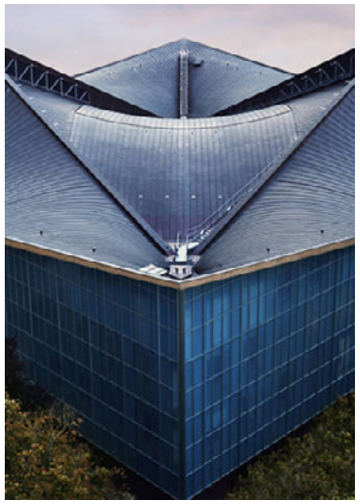
Soho House
A private members' club for the creative class. The adjoining hotel will offer 47 cosy bedrooms in the historic Helios.

sohohouse.com
@SohoHouse

Independent Cinema
A new cinema is slated to set up screen at Television Centre. Enjoy the latest arthouse flicks (or zombie thrillers) in a plush setting.

News & Events

Clockwise from top left: Net-a-Porter's new home at White City Place; scenes from The Ginger Pig; the new Design Museum.



Design Museum image: Gravity Road

Food & drink

YOOX NET-A-PORTER and RCA move to White City

We're very pleased to be welcoming in a new set of neighbours.

The YOOX NET-A-PORTER Group are moving into the MediaWorks building at White City Place – the up-and-coming innovation district adjacent to Television Centre. The e-commerce giant's 700-strong tech team is slated to start moving in by March of this year.

The Royal College of Art will open a new campus for postgrad communications, humanities and architecture, creating space for 700 students.

Events

Publishing Revolution Masterclass

Designers, editors and anyone else keen to turn ideas into printed form, the Independent Publishing Masterclass at the Design Museum is a good place to start, if not only to see its newly opened, £83m John Pawson-designed premises.

The Design Museum
224–238 Kensington
High St, W8 6AG

Sat 25–Sun 26 February
10.30am–17.00pm
Adult £125, Student £100
Member £75
designmuseum.org

Wildlife Photographer of the Year

This exhibition is not unlike surrendering to an episode of Planet Earth, only instead of the sonorous purr of David Attenborough's narration, the imagery sits within the context of the splendid interiors of the Natural History Museum, which when it comes to national treasures, certainly also has its merits.

Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road, SW7 5BD

21 Oct 2016–10 Sep 2017
£10.50–£13.50.
Free for members
nhm.ac.uk

Sausage making at the Ginger Pig

The Ginger Pig butcher in Shepherd's Bush regularly offers cooking classes, but professes the sausage seminars are the messiest and most hands-on. Roll up your sleeves and leave your vegetarian friends at home.

The Ginger Pig
137–139 Askew Road, W12 9AU

Tue, Thu and Sat 7–10.30pm
or Sun 4–7.30pm. £155
thegingerpig.co.uk

Copyright BBC photo library

The lost and found broadcasts of Apollo 11

It's 21 July 1969: Neil Armstrong is on the moon and the rest of the world is glued to a television screen. Around the corner from Television Centre, a dedicated studio was constructed especially to broadcast the Apollo 11 mission, with Sir Patrick Moore, Cliff Michelmore and James Burke in front of the lens.

Iconic as the moment was, its footage wasn't spared. Tape was expensive in the '60s, and it was common practice to reuse old reels. For the forty years that followed, it was assumed their own footage was lost.

That is, until 2012, when a man called Philip Longden came forward with his own tape of the events. He was twelve at the time and recalls waking at 3am to huddle with his family around the television set.

Using a tape recorder his father brought back from Singapore, he created a recording of the event. After hearing the BBC presumed their own footage lost, he fished his own tape from the boxes in his loft and returned it to the broadcaster to some applause. It revealed not only the revolutionary moments of the broadcast ("One small step for mankind"), but the quieter ones too. Without tweets from the audience or CGI reconstructions, it was up to their finesse as broadcasters to fill long periods of airspace with commentary. The young Mr. Longden, who was well aware of the historical magnitude of the moment, gave his own commentary of the television broadcast, with opening remarks by his mother. It may be one small moment in a little boy's life, but a giant leap for all of broadcasting kind.

The 1908 Summer Olympics, held in White City

Five things you didn't know about White City

1
Home sweet home: more than 2,000 new homes are coming to White City over the next 10 years.

2
The listed Dimco Building on Wood Lane, a red brick structure that houses the White City bus station had a starring role in the 1988 cult film *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* as the Acme Factory headquarters.

3
Television Centre was the world's first purpose-built structure for television production, designed to create 1,500 hours of programming a year.

4
The 1908 Summer Olympics, which were held in White City, were originally scheduled for Rome. Following the disastrous eruption of Mount Vesuvius, Italy was forced to redirect its Olympic funding to aid the affected area.

5
At 230,000 sq ft, the largest John Lewis in the country is set to open at Westfield in White City in 2017/18.