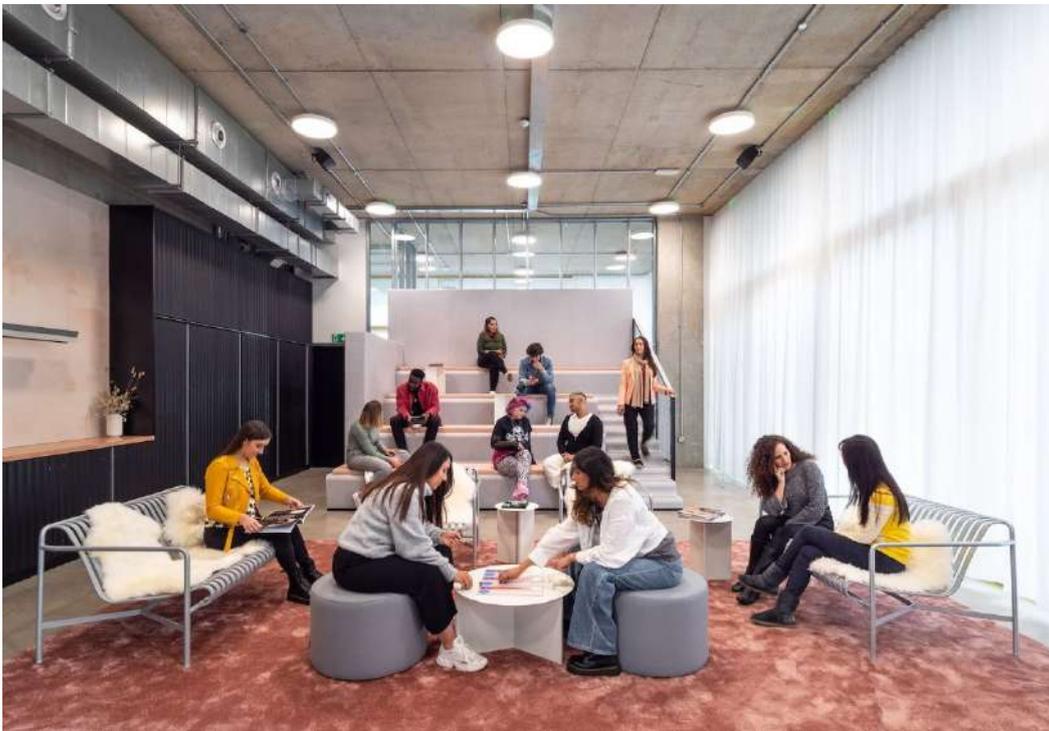


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## A members' club for the modern day Newly expanded Bureau offers London creatives one-of-a-kind flexible workspace, network-boosting and business support



Bureau's new 'forum' space that will host events and networking opportunities for the creative industries. Photograph by Alex Upton.

The new service-focused members' club for the creative industries, Bureau, has now expanded into a second building in Design District – a dramatic concrete structure by Architecture 00 that blurs the boundaries between indoors and out.

Conceived for our new world of work, Bureau meets the needs of freelancers, start-ups and larger organisations looking for flexible workspace for remote teams. **Bureau takes the old-school template of the members' club and turns it on its head,** making a thoroughly modern workplace proposition for anyone in the creative sector.

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The traditional member's club was a stuffy, exclusively male and monocultural affair – an old boys' club of wingback chairs, cigar smoke, back-scratches and back-handers. Although things have moved on, modern equivalents still tend towards being elitist, expensive, status-driven and lifestyle-focused, while at the other end of the spectrum, many of today's membership-driven co-working spaces lean toward bare-bones practicality.



Bureau's all-day restaurant and bar serves beautiful and delicious snacks and meals. More on this below. Photographs by Joe Howard.

Bureau is different. **Led by an all-female team**, it takes the benefits of the members' club as a place where people could relax, be themselves and build their networks, and translates them into a more progressive, accessible and open offering. Rather than being exclusive, Bureau is designed to serve anyone working in the creative sector, and give them access to one of the most affordable workspaces in the capital.

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Bureau's female-led team, clockwise: Design District director Helen Arvanitakis, Greenwich Peninsula COO and board director Kerri Sibson, Bureau club manager Ana Gervasio, Bureau interior designer Roz Barr. Portraits by Taran Wilkhu.

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*“Members’ clubs must not be the reserve of privileged white men. It is time everyone had assets at their disposal to better their careers and increase their opportunities. Bureau is a long way from these old clubs in that you don’t have to be a part of the ‘old boys network’ to get a foot in the door. Bureau is open to everyone in the creative industries; it’s a place where we encourage anyone who wants to connect to do so. It’s more about what you know than who, and recognising the value that has for your colleagues in the creative industries.”*

– Helen Arvanitakis, director, Design District

For many people working in the creative sector, **one of the biggest challenges of the last two years has been the loss of community and connection.** With networking opportunities limited, sales, exhibition and performance platforms inaccessible to many, and fewer possibilities for professional development, many creatives find themselves needing to build back their businesses and reconnect with their communities. The updated members’-club model of Bureau empowers them to do precisely that, to surround themselves with like-minded creatives and potential collaborators.



Interior designer Roz Barr designed 'the long table' for Bureau's new building to create a space for dinners and networking events. Photograph by Alex Upton.

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## A flexible, service-led offering tailor-made for creatives looking to rebuild their network

With the opening of its second building, Bureau offers its growing membership a wide array of versatile workspaces, including serviced studios, meeting rooms and outdoor working areas, as well as a multifunctional event space and all-day restaurant. What truly **sets the Bureau offering apart, however, is an emphasis on service, hospitality, and support – in terms of both career growth and wellbeing.** Alongside the physical benefits, membership grants access to a comprehensive programme of professional guidance and wellbeing support, with a calendar of events, talks and workshops curated by Bureau and industry leaders to provide ongoing opportunities for professional development, networking and creative stimulation.



The 'naked' architecture of Bureau's new building and the unique geography of Greenwich Peninsula offer incredible light and views to the members. Photograph by Alex Upton.

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Bureau membership is designed to give creatives in any discipline and at every stage, from graduate to established, everything they need to grow their businesses – whether that’s ad hoc or fixed desk space, somewhere to meet clients and colleagues, or a permanent base for teams of up to 10.

**Flexible workspaces are spread across two adjacent buildings, offering state-of-the-art office amenities** including 6th-gen WiFi, free printing and video-conferencing suites, as well as access to the wider benefits of Design District, including specialist facilities such as photographic studios, post-production suites, a sound studio and a pottery workshop.

**Being part of Bureau puts members at the heart of Design's District's unique creative community.** A hotbed of ideas and innovation, Design District has been purpose-built to nurture interdisciplinary connections and collaborations, creating a rich and dynamic ecosystem in which individuals and enterprises benefit from a network of mutual inspiration and support.



Bureau sits within the recently launched Design District, which offers members an ecosystem of over 1,800 creatives on their doorstep to collaborate with. Bureau members may grow their businesses to move into Design District offices in the future. Photography by Taran Wilkhu.

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*"It's fantastic having so many creative industries in one place. My business relies on good links with suppliers, clients and other designers. Having a creative network on our doorstep opens opportunities."*

– Chris Fox, Luum, Design District tenant

**With lounge access at £80 a month, hotdesking at £125, fixed desks at £230 and fully serviced studios from £560, Bureau's flexible membership structure is designed to respond to members' changing needs as they grow**, supporting them as they graduate from individual freelancer to fully fledged creative business. Membership can be switched on and off on a monthly basis as needed, allowing members to take time away if circumstances demand – for instance, if they need time off for maternity/paternity or childcare.

And, when they outgrow Bureau's workspace options, Design District's other buildings are right there on the doorstep to offer large-studio tenancies or even whole-building occupancy.

## Exceptional all-day dining

Courtesy of Bureau's all-day restaurant and bar, members have access to a superlative selection of food and drink from morning to evening. Another of the brilliant women at the forefront of the Bureau, head chef Ceri Tinkler presides over a daily changing menu of breakfast and lunch dishes. Initially trained in her native New Zealand, Ceri has honed her culinary skills over 15 years on London's bar and restaurant scene, developing a distinctive Modern European cooking style. Options include freshly made focaccias, seasonal soups and spicy North African-inspired dishes, alongside a range of pastries and cookies – perfect for a mid-afternoon energy boost.

As well as being a place to come to grab a snack or meal, the restaurant also serves as the social hub of Bureau; somewhere that members can mingle and decompress, hold informal meetings during the day, or grab a drink when winding down afterwards.

*"The longer I've been at Design District, the more I've come to enjoy the environment. It's such a novelty to be surrounded by like-minded creatives in a space like ours — it doesn't feel like the standard restaurant routine."*

– Ceri Tinkler, Head Chef, Bureau

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## Design and architecture to inspire creativity

As with all 16 buildings that make up Design District, Bureau's new building (D1) was 'designed blind' – meaning that Architecture 00 could make no reference to what the other seven architects chosen to shape the district were designing. This unusual – and potentially risky – masterplanning decision was intended to ensure Design District exhibited the architectural diversity and unexpected contrasts of an organically evolved neighbourhood.



Occupying two buildings on the central square at the heart of Design District. Photograph by Taran Wilkhu.

The pronounced visual contrast between Bureau's two buildings is a perfect illustration of this approach. While the first Bureau building (C3 by HNNA Architects) is elegantly clad with a gently curving corrugated white façade, D1 is a striking and robust structure of tiered concrete slabs at varying heights, its meshed terraces and angular, almost brutalist pillars conveying the impression of a building without walls. Wrapped around the structure, the terraces offer Bureau members both outdoor working areas for messy tasks or those that cannot easily be performed inside and

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break-out space in which to relax, socialise and share ideas, open to the fresh air while sheltered by the concrete roof above.

This has the effect of making the building appear raw and exposed, almost like a work in progress. This was a deliberate choice by Architecture 00.

*“The prominent framework of concrete columns and decks aimed to create a deliberate sense of a naked, unfinished building that invites future adaptation. We wanted to maintain a feeling of potential like that of a concrete frame on a construction site before it gets clad and its users’ activities become obscured – the idea that this is not the final iteration of the building, it is just the current iteration of the infrastructure.”*

– Lynton Pepper, Architecture 00

Despite the striking contrast, Bureau’s two buildings complement each other both aesthetically and functionally, and their sheer proximity to each other creates a strong sense of intimacy and connection. The interiors of both were designed by Roz Barr Architects, ensuring a consistent design language – an ‘elegantly utilitarian’ style and colour palette that emphasises materiality.



Bureau’s facade-less building creates substantial covered, outdoor spaces for socialising and networking. Photographs L–R by Taran Wilkhu and Alex Upton.

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As well as microstudios, meeting rooms, and versatile workspaces, the new building's unique features include the Forum – both an events space for talks and gatherings and a place to work during the day. Versatile banked seating and a reconfigurable layout make it ideal for lecture-style events, screenings and seminars, as well as panel discussions and interactive sessions, and a diverse programme of panel events, seminars and workshops is already up and running.

*"I wanted this space to offer a tranquil and calm place to work during the day. It gets beautiful light and so we played with natural plaster on the walls and soft hues to contrast with the galvanised chairs and concrete floors."*

– Roz Barr, interior designer for Bureau



The members' club also offers serviced studios for businesses or groups that require separate spaces for collaboration. Photograph by Alex Upton.

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## Membership from £80 a month

Just a few seconds' stroll from North Greenwich Tube station, Bureau is the only creative-workspace membership of its kind in South East London – and one of the most financially accessible in the city. Whereas some clubs typically charge their members £200 a month or more, Bureau delivers a comparable service for as little as £80 a month +VAT, including service charge, WiFi, bike storage, reception and cleaning services and more.

- Day passes – from £10
- Lounge access – £80 per month
- Hotdesking – £125 per month
- Fixed desks – £230 per month
- Fully serviced studios from £560 per month

Membership is available now – sign up or book a free tour and taster day at [bureau.club](https://bureau.club).



The 'salon' at Bureau hosts intimate talks and screenings. Photograph by Joe Howard.

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## Notes to editors

For more information about and images of D1, Bureau and Design District, contact us via [bureau@zetteler.co.uk](mailto:bureau@zetteler.co.uk).

### **Bureau**

Occupying two purpose-design buildings on Greenwich Peninsula, Bureau is a members' club and productive workspace for creatives, an affordable and dynamic space to collaborate, exchange ideas, socialise, and engage with the surrounding creative ecosystem of Design District. Bureau's innovative and versatile model of membership is designed to nurture and connect the community, leading to a stronger future for creativity in London and the UK.

[bureau.club](http://bureau.club)

### **Design District**

At the heart of Greenwich Peninsula, Design District is London's first permanent, purpose-built hub for the creative industries.



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Conceived and developed by Knight Dragon, and designed by eight leading architects, the Design District's collection of 16 unique buildings supports an ecosystem of 1,800 creatives, encompassing individual makers, ambitious start-ups, ground-breaking enterprises and industry leaders.

The closest Tube station is North Greenwich (30 metres). The Jubilee line (24-hour on Friday and Saturday), gets you to London Bridge in eight minutes and Waterloo in 11.

[designdistrict.co.uk](https://designdistrict.co.uk)

## **Architecture 00**

Founded in London in 2005, Architecture 00 is a collaborative design studio where creatives from a wide range of disciplines work alongside architects to make places that empower people. The studio has a track record of innovative workspace projects, including the Foundry in Vauxhall – RIBA London's Building of the Year in 2015. Architecture 00's work often rethinks the status quo, through open-source projects such as Wikihouse (a two-storey CNC-cut house) and local making platform Opendesk, or groundbreaking publications 'Compendium for the Civic Economy' and 'A Right to Build'.

[architecture00.net](https://architecture00.net)

## **Roz Barr Architects**

Established in 2010, Roz Barr Architects is a London-based architectural studio with a commitment to the crafting of architectural solutions through the process of making. As well as its work on Bureau, the practice's projects include the ongoing refurbishment of the public spaces of the Building Centre in central London, and the provision of a new Augustinian Centre and priory for St Augustine's Church in Hammersmith.

[rozbarr.com](https://rozbarr.com)