



CONDÉ NAST
BRITAIN | PROPERTY

ACROSS THE WATER

From contemporary apartments to traditional villas, some of London's finest properties look out across the Thames. *Rosemary Brooke* explores the rich array of riverside homes



WARDIAN LONDON, E14

Combining modern architecture with innovative landscaping, the apartments in this new Canary Wharf development will each have their own sky garden. Communal spaces are similarly green, and tended by the resident gardener. Amenities include an open-air swimming pool and roof-top observatory with spectacular river views. Prices from £592,500. *EcoWorld Ballymore* 020 3944 3174

The River Thames has always been the backbone of London – the city has grown up along its bends and curves. It has been immortalised in everything from paintings to poetry, capturing the imaginations of successive generations. Once, this great river was the route of nearly all of the capital's commerce, as boats laden with goods travelled up and down its length, the waterway bustling with trade and industry. Today, London's great river is less of a busy highway and more of a place of leisure – you're more likely to see a vessel laden with tourists, rather than timber – but it remains one of the most iconic features of the capital.

There are many reasons why properties that overlook the Thames are so popular. The views, of course, are the most obvious selling point. In a city where so many buildings face squarely upon their neighbours, a river view offers a rare sense of space and freedom. The constant movement of the water as it flows towards the sea gives a feeling of life and energy, a reminder of the natural world.

As you move along the Thames from west to east, you can see how its character changes. It winds its way through some of the leafiest areas of west London, through Richmond, past Kew Gardens and on to Chiswick. Here it is possible to find that rarest of London features – a property with a good-sized garden. A five-bedroom house currently on the market with Knight Frank and Hamptons is a prime example, with a 180-foot garden that leads down to the river bank.

Set on a quiet road with ample off-street parking, Hartington Road is a detached villa with generously proportioned rooms, and an outdoor swimming pool that faces



THE STAR AND GARTER, TW10

Residents of the grand Grade II-listed building on Richmond Hill can enjoy the same spectacular panorama of the Thames that was painted by Turner, Constable and Reynolds. Over 90% of the apartments in this unique development are now sold, but there are a few opportunities remaining. From £1,995 million for a three-bedroom apartment. *London Square 0333 666 0162*

out across the Thames. The opposite bank is lined with trees, so there's a sense of being in the countryside – a rare thing in such a major capital city.

A few bends along, and the river is almost at the heart of London. On the north side lies the Chelsea Embankment, while on the south is Battersea Park and Nine Elms, the latter of which is being substantially redeveloped and transformed to create a new residential and commercial district – the US embassy recently moved there. One of the most significant recent projects on this side of the river has been the renovation of the old Battersea Power Station. Its high brick towers have long been a local landmark, and it is now an exciting mix of shops, restaurants and apartments, with more set to open. The Grade II*-listed building will



CASTELNAU, SW13

This Regency house in Castelnau is close to Barnes village, with its shops, cafes and farmers market. Set over four storeys, the property has six bedrooms and spacious living areas. There's plenty of original details, from fireplaces to shutters, and a large garden. £5.5 million. *Right Place 020 3737 4967*



LANDMARK PLACE, EC3R

One of the City's newest new properties, the 33-ling Penthouse at Landmark Place comprises 3,105 square feet of aerial space featuring a huge wrap-around rooftop terrace with views of the river from Tower Bridge to the Shard and beyond. £1,025 million. *For more information, call 0333 263 0193 or visit www.landmarkhomes.co.uk*

BAZALGETTE COURT, W6

Formerly a Victorian pumping station at the edge of the Thames, this elegant building has been turned into a series of apartments, the jewel of which is this two-storey penthouse. Outstanding features include the panoramic views from the rooftop reception room and garden. £2.5 million.
Sealls: 029 8987 3330



BELVEDERE GARDENS, SE1

As one of the buildings in the Southbank Place development, Belvedere Gardens is close to some of London's top cultural attractions. With a direct entrance to Waterloo Station, it will have a number of shops and cafes, as well as a fitness centre solely for residents. Scheduled to complete in early 2020, prices from £2.14 million for a two-bedroom apartment.
Southbank Place: 020 7001 3600



THE CORNICHE PENTHOUSE, SE1

At the top of the Corniche building on the Albert Embankment lies this spectacular penthouse, spanning 5,520 square feet, with floor-to-ceiling windows making the most of its impressive aspect. There's even an outdoor kitchen on the enormous private roof terrace, the perfect place for alfresco entertaining. £18 million.
St James: 020 8246 4190



that today it's such a key financial district. There's also an increasingly diverse array of residential options for those who are attracted to the area, either because of work, or by the excellent transport links.

A new development that offers something wonderfully unexpected is Wardian London. It takes its name from a 19th-century invention called the Wardian case, an early type of terrarium used to transport newly discovered plants safely from far-flung locations. Some of the prized specimens bound for Kew and other botanical gardens would likely have been brought ashore close to where these two residential towers now stand. The botanical theme even inspired the design – each floor has a wraparound terrace, so every apartment has outdoor space, which has been landscaped with a mix of ferns and succulents. The double-height lobby looks a little like a rainforest – there are fully grown trees and plants flourishing behind glass panels – and displays of plants appear throughout the building. It's modern in an ambitious way, yet inspired by the area's past – a testament to how London is always evolving. Yet however much the city's landscape may change, one thing has remained constant across the centuries – the flowing waters of the River Thames.



BATTERSEA POWER STATION, SW8

As one of the biggest London redevelopments of recent years, Battersea Power Station now has over 1,000 residents, with more apartments still to come. With spectacular river views and a vibrant mix of restaurants and shops, this iconic London landmark is becoming one of the city's most desirable addresses. From £870,000.

Battersea Power Station: 020 7301 9678



CHOLMONDELEY HOUSE, SURREY

Set on the banks of the Thames, Cholmondeley House is a three-bedroom Georgian property with light and airy interiors. It's set back from the road, with a large front garden, while the back faces a tranquil stretch of river. Richmond town centre and train station are close by.

£3.75 million.

Saville: 020 8613 9109



HARTINGTON ROAD, W4

This stunning five-bedroom villa in Chiswick has exquisite gardens that back directly on to the River Thames. It's large enough to accommodate every imaginable amenity – an office, a gym, a garage and even an outdoor swimming pool. £10 million.

Knight Frank: 020 3757 6259

Hamptons International: 020 3369 4370



LANDMARK PINNACLE, E14

At 784 feet high, Landmark Pinnacle is one of London's tallest residential buildings. Built on the South Dock, it's in the heart of Canary Wharf. Stand-out features include a contemporary version of a London garden square, set on the 27th floor. From £480,000 for a studio.

Landmark Pinnacle: 020 3963 6026