

MIZZI

Mizzi Studio completes largest commission across London's Royal Parks with brass kiosk at the foot of Buckingham Palace.



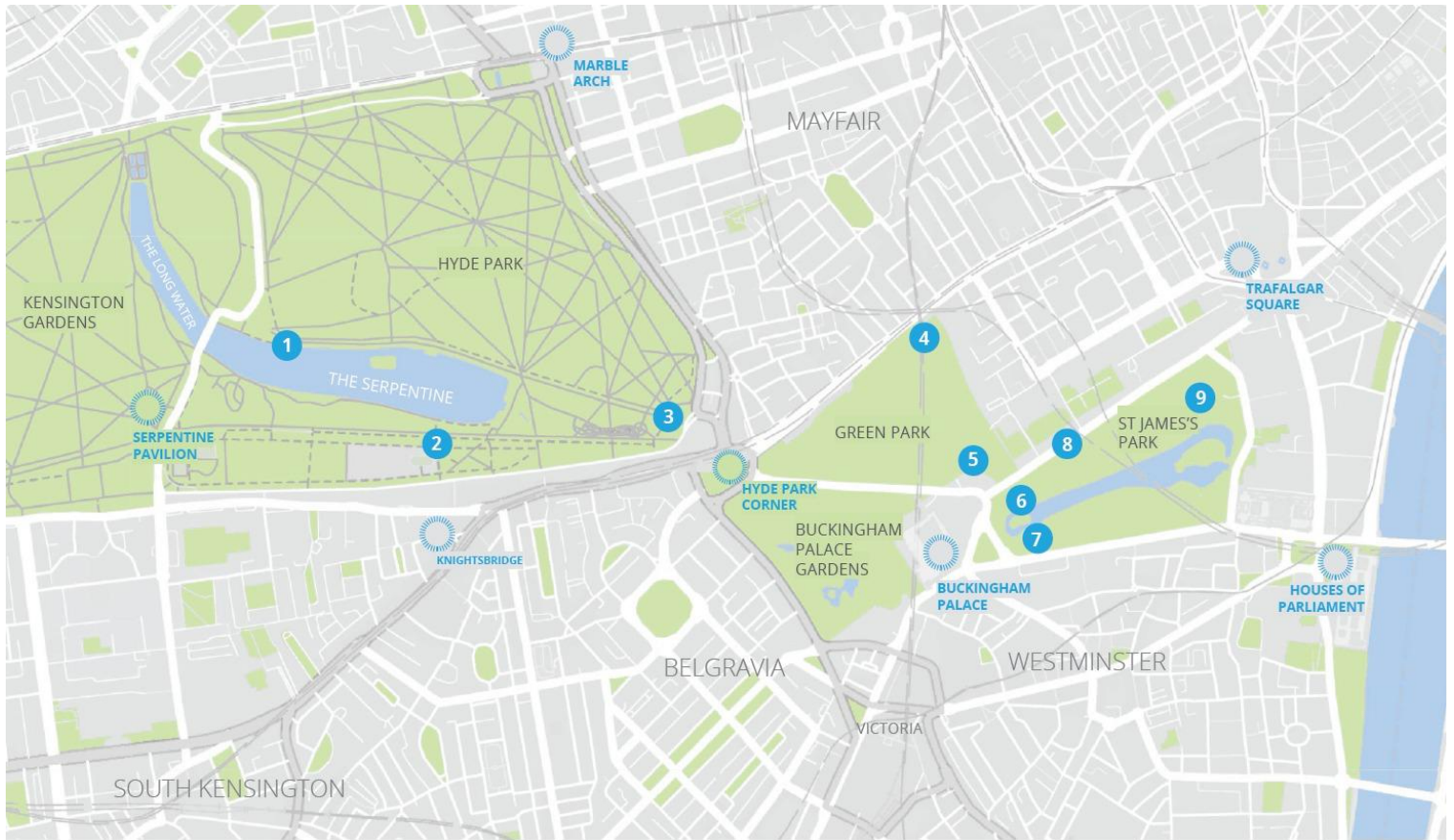
Brass Kiosk sitting underneath Buckingham Palace – Photograph by Luke Hayes

As part of a significant public realm enhancement project across London's Royal Parks, architecture and design practice Mizzi Studio recently saw the installation of a brass tubular food kiosk at the foot of Buckingham Palace, representing the final leg in the project's completion. In summer 2017, on behalf of artisan brand Colicci, Mizzi Studio designed the landmark Serpentine Coffee House and a family of nine kiosks for prominent locations within The Royal Parks, London. The kiosks' installation roll-out began in October 2018, with the final kiosk erected on site at St James's Park last week.

March 2021: Characterising the largest mobilisation The Royal Parks has seen in 14 years. The high-profile commission included the delivery of a coffee house near the Serpentine lake, as well as nine "handcrafted" kiosks to replace ageing food kiosks on existing sites across Hyde Park, Green Park and St James's Park. The most recently erected structure, the flagship Horseshoe Bend kiosk in St James's Park, is clad in tubular brass and mirrors the ornate precious metals of the nearby Sir Thomas Brock's Queen Victoria Memorial.

Responding to the Grade I listed landscape, Mizzi Studio has designed each kiosk to sit sympathetically in its environment. The freestanding kiosks are conceived as a family of individual curvaceous structures with a graceful tree-like canopy that unites their design language. The initial eight kiosks are clad in hand "steam-bent" English oak timber, developed in collaboration with British designer and maker Tom Raffield.

MIZZI



to caption: The Royal Parks map of Colicci Kiosks designed by Mizzi Studio.

Fleet Locations
(from top left to right):

1. Triangle Car Park Kiosk, Hyde Park
2. Playground Kiosk, Hyde Park
3. Hyde Park Corner Kiosk, Hyde Park
4. Ritz Corner Gateway Kiosk, Green Park
5. Canada Gate Gateway Kiosk, Green Park
6. Horseshoe Bend Kiosk, St James's Park
7. St James's Playground Kiosk, St James's Park
8. Marlborough Gate Kiosk, St James's Park
9. Artillery Memorial Kiosk, St James's Park





In context: Horseshoe Bend Kiosk and The Royal Parks Family Fleet

The kiosks' 360-degree sculptural canopy swells outwards like a tree's crown, creating recognisable silhouettes. The organic-inspired volumes follow a continuous shape with varying degrees of curvature and differing cladding profiles, each providing contrasting textures. Each design variation is informed by the architectural or organic elements that the kiosk shares its space with. Together with Colicci's Director Rob Colicci, Jonathan Mizzi, Director of Mizzi Studio, spent months exploring the parks' heritage. Each kiosk is unique, tailored to the history, nuances, and demographics of its respective site.

The materiality of the Horseshoe Bend kiosk marries with Mizzi Studio's Serpentine Coffee House, sited metres away from Zaha Hadid's Serpentine Sackler Gallery, with views towards the picturesque Serpentine Lake in one direction and the Princess Diana Memorial Fountain in the other. The coffee house is swooping and sinuous, inspired by both the lake itself and the motion of a stingray's flight. Its sculptural brass roof gives the appearance of a giant golden cape being pulled through the air over the entire structure, bringing movement and texture to the verdant landscape in which it sits.

Mizzi Studio has collaborated with Colicci on a number of projects over the years, including the multi award-winning copper café at London's Westfield Stratford shopping centre and The Pheasantry Café within Grade I Listed Bushy Park. Their joint body of work has had a strong focus on craftsmanship, a connection with nature, and creating memorable sculptural moments.

"The installation of the final Horseshoe Bend Kiosk marks a significant moment for the Colicci brand, as well as our longstanding relationship with Mizzi Studio," said Colicci Director, Rob Colicci. "The Royal Parks hold a special place in the hearts of city dwellers and people who visit the capital from near and far. The richness of the brass kiosk echoes Colicci's dedication to quality food and drink and highlights our belief in the relationship between excellence in design and service – each positively reinforcing one another. We look forward to seeing the kiosks being enjoyed by park-goers once again come the summer months, uniting families through their warmth and magnetism."

Post-pandemic respite: collective wellbeing in London's public realm

Following a four-year period of design and delivery, the installation of the final kiosk at St James's Park marks a climactic moment for the team at Mizzi Studio. After a year of public restrictions in the face of the Covid-pandemic, the design team sees this moment as a turning point not just for their studio, but for the British public at large. London's Royal Parks are beloved by both the capital's residents and visitors alike, and they have become a lifeline for many Londoners this year, helping to boost people's mental as well as physical health, particularly during lockdown. With the UK's restrictions easing over the coming months and the weather getting warmer, the parks will become even busier as people look forward to once again meeting friends and family outdoors for a walk or a coffee. In line with the completion of The Royal Parks commission, Mizzi Studio's will host a virtual event during LFA 2021 in the summer, building dialogue around the ways design, architecture and landscape bring people together, offering physical relief and emotional unity.

Commenting on the partnership with Mizzi Studio and Colicci, Andrew Varnava, Head of Catering Contracts at The Royal Parks, said: "It has been an amazing journey with Colicci and Mizzi Studios through the various stages of concept and design meetings, installation and finally seeing the new fleet of kiosks in use. Working collaboratively, we have been able to achieve the installation of these fantastic kiosks, designed to be in keeping with the parks' natural environment, and we now boast an expanded and impressive range of high-quality food and drink for the thousands of visitors who come to our parks every day. The Mizzi and Colicci teams have been a pleasure to work with."

"Our communities have endured so much over the past twelve months; being confined to our homes and having to forcibly

MIZZI

alter our definition of togetherness. The Horseshoe Bend Kiosk marks the conclusion of our studio's most significant commission in London to-date. But more importantly, it signals a new chapter for Londoners and visitors alike – a chapter of hope and belonging.

As spring blossoms around us, we hope this new architectural structure will be a symbol of respite for the many people who will soon hopefully be returning to London's beautiful parks. We believe public architecture can restore mental well-being, bring people together, and offer surveillance and support at a time when the city's inhabitants feel most vulnerable. We are grateful to Colicci and The Royal Parks for allowing us the opportunity to offer a network of nature-inspired landmarks that people can turn to, enjoy, and unite amongst as they recover from the shared trauma of the pandemic."

Jonathan Mizzi, Director and Founder, Mizzi Studio.

--- ENDS ---

MIZZI

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Photography – Luke Hayes

Follow Mizzi Studio on social media:
@MizziStudio

For press queries, material, and interview requests, please contact:

Press:

E: pr@mizzi.co.uk

T: +44 (0) 207 183 2774

T: +356 99617718

About Mizzi Studio

Mizzi Studio is an award-winning architecture and design practice with studios in London and Malta. Working across a diverse range of disciplines, scales, and sectors, we seek out projects that have a positive social and cultural impact. Through better design, we strive to add tangible value and enhance the physical world. We apply creative thinking and ingenuity to the needs of each project. Our approach fuses traditional craft with the latest digital manufacturing techniques. Drawing inspiration from the natural world, our work is distinguished by colour, texture, and warmth, creating transformative and experiential results. Founded in 2011 by Maltese-British architect and designer, Jonathan Mizzi, our growing practice comprises a close-knit, collaborative team who share the same bold imagination. Our work has been acknowledged by numerous awards including FX Magazine's Breakthrough Talent Award (2017).

Mizzi Studio is a RIBA Chartered Practice.

W: www.mizzi.co.uk

S: [@mizzistudio](https://www.instagram.com/mizzistudio)

About Colicci

Leaving his native Italy in 1978, Ernie Colicci arrived in London with a very clear dream to sell ice cream. He met his soon-to-be wife Josephine and co-founded Colicci in 1982, operating an ice cream van around parks in London. Some 35 years later the company may have changed beyond recognition - operating some 34 sites and employing over 250 people -but the core ethos remains: to serve quality coffee and freshly baked goods by upbeat, friendly, and knowledgeable staff. As well as operating fixed kiosks and cafés/ restaurants at sites such as Kensington Gardens, Richmond Park, Dulwich Park and Westfield Stratford City, Colicci also serves ice cream at all of the RHS's events including the Chelsea Flower Show.

W: www.colicci.co.uk