

**Dike, Darlene**

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**From:** Henrietta Billings [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 February 2015 13:08  
**To:** Vivers, Simon  
**Cc:** Planning  
**Subject:** Application ref: 2014/7082/P Fitzroy Square Gardens London W1T 6EP

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Dear Mr Vivers,

The Twentieth Century Society has recently been alerted to the above planning application. The existing twentieth century landscaping scheme of Fitzroy Square garden by John Brookes is of considerable interest to us, and we wish to highlight our concerns with the application as outlined below.

**Significance**

According to the biography of John Brookes by Barbara Simms (2007), the landscape designer, "changed the way people think about their gardens...As a young designer in the early 1960s, he challenged the traditional concept of the private garden...as well as the limited vision of architects who gave little consideration to the spaces between and around buildings..."

Simms adds that, "Brookes' avant-garde views and design potential were noted by rising young architects Theo Crosby and Michael Manser as well as the established landscape architect Geoffrey Jellicoe, who encouraged his interest in modern art and design.... Brookes' modernist inspired designs for courtyard gardens at the Manser House (1961), the Chelsea Flower Show (1962) and Penguin Books (1964) brought him to public attention. By the end of the decade, with the publication of his first book, 'Room Outside', he was acknowledged as *the* designer of the 'modern' garden....Since those early years, Brookes has published 26 books, established and taught at schools of design worldwide and produced 1,300 designs for town and country gardens. (p9)"

Brookes achievements have been recognised by many awards including the award of Distinction for his 'unique and exceptional contribution to the profession of landscape design' by the American Association of Professional Landscape Designers (2004), and MBE 'for services to horticulture in the UK and overseas (2004) and an honorary doctorate from the University of Essex 'for services to the horticultural industry and specifically garden design' (2006).

The works to **Fitzroy Square** by Brookes are extensively written up by Simms. Simms describes how when Geoffrey Jellicoe was commissioned to prepare a landscape design for the square in the 1970s, he asked Brookes to work with him on the re-design. Brookes' plans accommodated the existing mature plane trees and "created an open undulating landscape with grassy banks for sitting and sunbathing, while additional shrub planting under the plans on the perimeter provided residents with privacy... Based on an underlying pattern of concentric circles, ground contours, formal planting beds and drifts of bulbs are mingled to create an informal garden landscape." (p68 - 71)

**Planning application**

We note from the documents submitted to accompany the planning application for changes to the landscape that no detailed description of works or justification is provided. In our view any intervention to alter this modern landscaping must be carefully considered, and without further details and justification for the proposals. it is not possible fully assess the proposals.

We would be grateful for receipt of further details as outlined above, so that we are able to provide you with detailed comments on the application. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Henrietta Billings  
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