

Is it a sculpture you can drink from, or a fountain that is sculptural?

Yesterday the Royal Parks Foundation's quest to create the ultimate drinking fountain for the Royal Parks was finally complete as Robin Monotti Architects' *Watering Holes*, a unique sculptural stone fountain, was launched in Green Park, following the unveiling of Moxon Architects' *Trumpet* in Kensington Gardens earlier this year. The two fountains are the winners of an international design competition supported by The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, New York.

Robin Monotti Architects and Mark Titman's *Watering Holes* is an 800kg slab of Cornish granite (the same as was used in the Diana Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park and Tower Bridge) perforated with three watering holes at heights from which adults, children, wheelchair users and dogs can drink cool, fresh water, in one of London's most visited Royal Parks.

The installation in Green Park, near the new Bomber Command Memorial, marks the end of a two-year collaboration between the Royal Parks Foundation, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and The Royal Parks, to create a new drinking fountain that is both beautiful and robust and which enhances The Royal Parks' Grade-I listed landscapes. The initial design competition, which attracted 169 entries from 26 countries, was an important element of *Tiffany - Across the Water*, a wider programme to restore drinking and ornamental fountains across the 5,000 acres of London's Royal Parks with the support of The Tiffany & Co. Foundation in New York.

Michael Freeman, Trustee of the Royal Parks Foundation and Chair of the Judging Panel alongside RIBA and Andrew Graham Dixon, said: "These new drinking fountains, *Watering Holes* in Green Park and *Trumpet* in Kensington Gardens, are fabulous additions to the Royal Parks. They work really well and they're terrific looking sculptures too. We're hoping to install them in other Royal Parks and potentially elsewhere outside the Royal Parks. Robin Monotti and Ben Addy are very talented British designers with great careers ahead of them."

There are around 35 public drinking fountains across the eight Royal Parks. Thanks to The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, 12 that needed the most urgent work will have been restored or replaced by the end of 2012, including Victorian troughs and the impressive granite fountain topped with a newly carved pineapple at Hanover Gate in Regent's Park. The other winning design, Moxon Architects' *Trumpet*, was installed by Kensington Palace in January this year. The Foundation will hold a small endowment for future maintenance of the new fountains.

Fernanda Kellogg, Chair of the Tiffany and Co. Foundation and design competition judge, said: "The Tiffany & Co. Foundation has a particular interest in supporting design as part of our mission to preserve the natural heritage in urban centres so we are pleased to celebrate the installation of *Watering Holes* and *Trumpet*. These two drinking fountains will enhance London's Royal Parks visually - with their modern classic aesthetic - and environmentally, by helping to reduce the use of plastic water bottles in the Parks. We are overjoyed to be supporting this endeavor."

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For more information or for high quality images of the project please contact Ally Morris on 020 7036 8046 or email amorris@royalparksfoundation.org

Notes to editor:

1. The drinking fountain programme was a key element of a campaign called *Tiffany - Across the Water* made possible by a \$1.25 million grant (£784,000) from the Tiffany & Co. Foundation to the Royal Parks Foundation (USA), a charity established to enable Americans to support the natural history and heritage of London's Royal Parks. *Tiffany - Across the Water* focuses on restoring ornamental and drinking fountains across the 5,000 acres of the eight Royal Parks. The funding has also enabled the extensive restoration of the adored Italian Gardens in Kensington Gardens - as well as the re-creation of a stunning twenty-foot water plume in St James's Park lake.
2. Drinking fountains have played an important part in London's history since 1859 when the first fountain was unveiled in Snow Hill in London by the Drinking Fountain Association (present at the commissioning event). Within 11 years, there were 140 fountains across the capital.

About the Royal Parks Foundation

The Royal Parks Foundation is the charity for London's eight amazing Royal Parks. We reach out to make the Parks part of more people's lives - raising funds for a wide variety of projects from wildlife conservation and landscape restoration, to community sport and art. Our charity registration number is 1097545, for more information, please visit www.SupportTheRoyalParks.org

About the Royal Parks Foundation (USA)

The Royal Parks Foundation (USA) is an independent charity that supports the work of the Royal Parks Foundation in the UK. It helps conserve London's historic landscapes, supports wildlife programmes, promotes horticultural and educational exchanges and aims to strengthen the many links between parklands in the United States and in Britain. It receives full tax exempt status from the IRS under section 501(C)3.

About The Royal Parks

The Royal Parks is an executive agency of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The Royal Parks are: Bushy Park, The Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, The Regent's Park and Primrose Hill, Richmond Park and St James's Park. For further information please visit: www.royalparks.org.uk

About Tiffany & Co. Foundation

Established in 2000, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation is a philanthropic foundation that provides grants to non profit organisations working in two main programme areas: the environment and the arts. The Foundation's environmental conservation programme promotes responsible mining, healthy marine ecosystems, the enhancement of urban environments and the preservation of culturally significant landmarks. In addition, the Foundation fosters design excellence by supporting organisations dedicated to design and the decorative arts. www.tiffanyandcofoundation.org

About Royal Institute of British Architects

RIBA Competitions delivers variety, inspiration and value through expertly run architectural design competitions and competitive selection processes. For further information visit www.architecture.com/competitions