

# O2 station gets the rock star treatment

## First images of spectacular £1bn glass landmark at North Greenwich

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THESE are the first images of the spectacular £1 billion glass landmark from a top "starchitect" that will soar above Greenwich Peninsula next to the O2.

Developers commissioned Spanish-born "visionary" Santiago Calatrava to design what they claim will be a "St Pancras of the Underground" at North Greenwich station.

The images, released today, show a huge glass Galleria and 80ft high "winter garden" atrium topped by three towers of 32 storeys above the station. It will be used by crowds heading to the O2 Arena – the world's busiest venue, which hosts millions of visitors a year and recently staged concerts by Justin Bieber, Rihanna and Adele.

Peninsula Place includes 800 flats – 200 are classed as "affordable" – 300,000sq ft of offices, about 80 shops, restaurants and bars, a cinema, performance venue and 500-room hotel. The development will be linked to the Thames by a sinuous pedestrian bridge. The bus station will be rebuilt to handle 100 bus movements an hour. The Tube station – likely to be renamed Greenwich Peninsula – will stay open during three years of building, set to start next year.

It is Mr Calatrava's first structure in Britain. The Zurich-based architect, who designed the Athens Olympic

Park, is known for his gleaming "neo-futurist" designs but also for cost overruns on some projects. Richard Margree, chief executive of developer Knight Dragon, said passen-

gers would arrive at "the single most astonishing Tube station in the UK".

Mr Calatrava said: "It is an honour to be designing such a piece of the fabric of London, a city I love." The 150-acre scheme is the third phase of an £8 bil-

lion regeneration of former industrial land. Mayor Sadiq Khan said: "Peninsula Place will create a new, buzzing cultural destination." @JonPrynn

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**Hometown glory:** Peninsula Place near the O2, which hosted Adele, will have a huge garden atrium

