

The House of KOKO: London's most thrilling new members' club is finally unveiled

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Living

Set in one of the capital's favourite cultural venues, which has undergone a groundbreaking transformation, The House of KOKO is among the most hotly-anticipated openings of 2022

By Hope Coke

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KOKO

Sam Neil

As London reemerges from two years of coronavirus restrictions, the capital's social and cultural scene is undergoing a vibrant Renaissance. Case in point? The long-awaited debut of The House of KOKO in Camden Town, where the beloved concert venue and former theatre KOKO has been reborn in a glittering new incarnation.

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The history of the site dates back 122 years, to when it debuted as The Camden Theatre in 1900. In the 70s and 80s, it became a live music venue (initially as The Music Machine, then in its next life as Camden Palace), before KOKO CEO and Creative Director Olly Bengough took charge in 2004. In March 2019, having seen greats like Prince, Amy Winehouse, Janelle Monae and Dua Lipa grace its famous stage, KOKO closed its doors for an extensive revamp. And now, after a fire in 2020 set the project back and the pandemic put the brakes on live entertainment, the reimagined destination will finally debut this spring, following a three-year, £70-million overhaul. The revamp nods to KOKO's rich history, with its restored Victorian theatre still the beating heart of the space – albeit now revived as part of an ultra-modern, 50,000-square-foot venue.

House of KOKO roof terrace bar

Lesley Lau

For all its exciting new features (from a cool day-to-night eatery, Cafe KOKO, to an immersive Fly Tower viewing space) the shining attraction of the relaunch is surely its chic new members' club, The House of KOKO. Set 'backstage' behind the original 19th-century theatre, it extends across four floors, encompassing three sleek new restaurants, a roof terrace (set atop the original theatre roof), a penthouse and recording studio, piano room, library, secret speakeasy, cocktail bar and hidden vinyl rooms, among other delights. Members will also be granted exclusive access to perks like secret shows held in the main theatre, and a dazzling new events programme.

House of KOKO library

Lesley Lau



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Bengough assembled a crack team of industry greats to mastermind the ambitious project: Archer Humphryes Architects – the pros behind Chiltern Firehouse, The Standard and the soon-to-be unveiled Admiralty Arch Waldorf Astoria, among other acclaimed designs – have overhauled the exterior architecture; the interiors are by Pirajean Lees; while Andreas Engberg, who shot to culinary stardom at La Petite Maison, has been appointed as Executive Chef.

House of KOKO Battens Bar

Lesley Lau

Proving its credentials as a dynamic cultural hub, The House of KOKO will also play host to a private art and photography collection. Curated by Sotheby's and Soho House alumna Katie Heller, the collection features world-renowned names like Bob Dylan, Frank Auerbach, Yoko Ono, Sahara Longe, Ronnie Wood, Sara Berman and Derek Ridgers.

House of KOKO private dining room

Lesley Lau

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Whether you're a culture vulture with an insatiable appetite for live music and performance, or a social butterfly who always seeks out the latest hotspots, The House of KOKO is your exclusive ticket to the beating heart of the action.

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The House of KOKO will launch on 28 April. For more information and to inquire about membership, visit thehouseofkoko.com.

House of KOKO rooftop

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