# Lord Foster’s design to unite Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip in new St James’s Park memorial



The winning design for the national memorial to Queen Elizabeth II will prominently feature not only the late Queen but also her husband, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Announced recently, the memorial will be situated in St James's Park, central London, near Buckingham Palace—a site chosen for its historical significance and visibility from the royal residence. Lord Norman Foster's design team emerged victorious among five shortlisted proposals, delivering a concept that blends traditional and modern elements to honour the monarch's extraordinary life and service.

The memorial’s elements include a traditional statue of Queen Elizabeth II alongside a separate statue of Prince Philip, reflecting the inseparability of their long marriage which lasted 73 years until his death in 2021. Lord Foster remarked that portraying them together was essential to communicating their bond. A striking feature of the design is a translucent glass bridge inspired by the shape of the Queen’s wedding tiara—an artistic touch intended to evoke personal and royal symbolism. This bridge will span a pond in the park and feature a reinforced glass balustrade, visible from rooms in Buckingham Palace where the Queen often sat for portraits. The memorial complex will also include themed gardens, two new park gates including the “Prince Philip Gate,” and re-landscaped walkways.

Lord Robert Janvrin, chair of the memorial committee and a former private secretary to the Queen, said the design strikes a balance between formal and informal, traditional and modern. His hope is that the memorial will inspire reflection on the Queen’s long reign and the ways in which she embodied a life of public service, offering visitors a space to contemplate Britain’s evolving identity during her tenure. He believes the chosen location in St James's Park is fitting and something the Queen herself would have appreciated.

The design process, which included a public consultation on five finalist concepts, revealed a rich diversity of proposals. These ranged from a bronze cast of a Windsor oak tree and a giant canopy of limestone lily pads to gardens inspired by historic royal landscape designs, and artistic audio installations featuring the Queen’s voice. This variety demonstrates an ambition to combine natural elements with artistic symbolism to encapsulate the Queen’s legacy. Among the shortlisted architects were Foster + Partners and Heatherwick Studio, highlighting the calibre of creative talent engaged in the project.

While the exact date for completion of the memorial has yet to be set, the final design aims for unveiling around 2026, coinciding with what would have been the Queen's 100th birthday. The budget remains in discussion, previously estimated between £23 million and £46 million. Lord Foster described the project as both an honour and a creative challenge, pushing the boundaries of art and technology to create a lasting tribute to a monarch whose values resonated deeply with many.

This memorial not only promises to be a prominent and contemplative space within one of London’s most historic parks but also an emotional homage that brings together the Queen and Prince Philip in a shared legacy of service and devotion, inspiring future generations who pass through the grounds.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy8g98zxgg6o), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-names-st-jamess-park-site-national-memorial-late-queen-elizabeth-2024-09-06/), [[6]](https://www.architecturalrecord.com/articles/17393-foster-partners-and-heatherwick-studio-among-firms-shortlisted-for-planned-memorial-to-queen-elizabeth-ii)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy8g98zxgg6o), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9w8wlqxxl0o), [[7]](https://www.euronews.com/culture/2025/05/08/in-pictures-final-five-designs-shortlisted-for-queen-elizabeth-ii-national-memorial)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy8g98zxgg6o), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9w8wlqxxl0o), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-names-st-jamess-park-site-national-memorial-late-queen-elizabeth-2024-09-06/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/queen-elizabeth-memorial-st-jamess-park-designs-shortlist-heatherwick-b1226334.html), [[4]](https://www.wsls.com/news/2025/05/07/giant-lily-pads-and-a-bronze-tree-are-among-designs-for-queen-elizabeth-iis-memorial/), [[7]](https://www.euronews.com/culture/2025/05/08/in-pictures-final-five-designs-shortlisted-for-queen-elizabeth-ii-national-memorial)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy8g98zxgg6o), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9w8wlqxxl0o), [[6]](https://www.architecturalrecord.com/articles/17393-foster-partners-and-heatherwick-studio-among-firms-shortlisted-for-planned-memorial-to-queen-elizabeth-ii)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy8g98zxgg6o), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9w8wlqxxl0o)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy8g98zxgg6o> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9w8wlqxxl0o> - The BBC article discusses the unveiling of five proposed designs for a national memorial to Queen Elizabeth II, to be located in St James's Park, London. The designs include a statue of the Queen alongside Prince Philip, a translucent bridge inspired by the Queen's wedding tiara, and gardens. The memorial aims to honour the Queen's life and service, with a budget between £23 million and £46 million. The final design is expected to be submitted for approval in 2026, coinciding with the Queen's 100th birthday.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/queen-elizabeth-memorial-st-jamess-park-designs-shortlist-heatherwick-b1226334.html> - This article reveals the shortlisted designs for the Queen Elizabeth II memorial in St James's Park, London. The designs include a bronze cast of a Windsor oak tree, a giant canopy of stone lily pads, and a statue of the late Queen next to Prince Philip. Other ideas feature audio installations of the Queen's voice, a 'tranquil family' of royal gardens inspired by John Nash, and a 'graceful and strong' stone bridge with cascading water. The public is invited to provide feedback on these proposals.
4. <https://www.wsls.com/news/2025/05/07/giant-lily-pads-and-a-bronze-tree-are-among-designs-for-queen-elizabeth-iis-memorial/> - The Associated Press article discusses the five finalist designs for a permanent memorial to Queen Elizabeth II, featuring concepts like giant limestone lily pads, royal gardens with an audio tribute by Foster + Partners and artist Yinka Shonibare, a symbolic bedrock bridge with forested glades, a bronze oak tree centerpiece by garden designer Tom Stuart-Smith, and gently woven pathways by WilkinsonEyre. Each design integrates natural elements with artistic features to represent the Queen’s legacy. The public is invited to provide feedback on these proposals.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-names-st-jamess-park-site-national-memorial-late-queen-elizabeth-2024-09-06/> - Reuters reports that the UK government has chosen St James's Park in central London as the site for a national memorial to the late Queen Elizabeth II. The location was selected for its historical significance and proximity to Buckingham Palace. The memorial aims to honour the Queen's enduring legacy and service, providing a space for contemplation and community. Architects, artists, and designers will be invited to propose designs for the memorial later this year.
6. <https://www.architecturalrecord.com/articles/17393-foster-partners-and-heatherwick-studio-among-firms-shortlisted-for-planned-memorial-to-queen-elizabeth-ii> - Architectural Record reports that Foster + Partners and Heatherwick Studio are among the five finalist teams shortlisted to design a national memorial to Queen Elizabeth II. The memorial is planned for St James's Park in London, near Buckingham Palace. The design teams have been asked to create a masterplan that celebrates the Queen's extraordinary life of service and provides a space for pause and reflection. The final design is expected to be revealed in the summer of 2026, coinciding with the Queen's 100th birthday.
7. <https://www.euronews.com/culture/2025/05/08/in-pictures-final-five-designs-shortlisted-for-queen-elizabeth-ii-national-memorial> - Euronews presents images and descriptions of the five finalist designs shortlisted for the Queen Elizabeth II national memorial. The designs include a 'tranquil family' of royal gardens inspired by John Nash's original landscape, a 'Bridge of Togetherness' with 70 lily pad stepping stones, and a statue of the late Queen alongside Prince Philip. Other concepts feature a bronze cast of a Windsor oak tree and a 'graceful and strong' stone bridge with cascading water. The public is invited to provide feedback on these proposals.