

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Leading designer transforms entrance to Guy's Hospital

Internationally renowned designer, Thomas Heatherwick, has helped to transform the entrance to Guy's Hospital as part of a major £2 million project to improve the area.

The exciting new scheme is his studio's first commission for the National Health Service and brings together a huge number of improvements which will benefit patients, visitors and staff alike. These include widened pavements for better pedestrian access; a one-way traffic system, with designated drop off points; improved signage and lighting; and a new shop for the Friends of Guy's Hospital.

At the centre of the scheme is the *Boiler Suit*, a unique façade designed to encase the boiler house which powers Guy's Hospital. The *Boiler Suit* is made up of 108 undulating tiles of woven stainless steel braid and is illuminated at night to provide a distinctive welcoming beacon for staff and visitors arriving at hospital in the dark.

The project has been made possible thanks to funding from Pool of London Partnership, Guy's and St Thomas' Charity and the Friends of Guy's Hospital.

Other improvements made to the Guy's Hospital approaches include:

- A one-way traffic system including an entry barrier at the Snowfields end of Great Maze Pond with an intercom for vehicle drivers to gain access to the hospital entrance;
- Better drop-off and parking arrangements for disabled visitors and patient transport vehicles;
- Seven new CCTV cameras which monitor the entrance and the surrounding area 24 hours a day;
- A new cycle store right next to the main entrance.

Alastair Gourlay, Capital Development Manager at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We have wanted to make improvements to the area around Guy's for some time, and I am pleased that our patients and visitors are now greeted by a much more welcoming environment. The feedback we have received so far has been very positive, and we are now

looking at ways of making further improvements to link into forthcoming developments at London Bridge.”

Karen Sarkissian, Director of Art and Heritage at Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity, said: “It has been enormously rewarding and exciting to commission such a prestigious designer to work with us. Thomas has come up with an eye catching design which you would not expect to encounter on a hospital site.”

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Note to editors:

1. Images of *Boiler Suit* are available on request
2. For further information please contact Katie Fleming, Katie Fleming, Communications Manager, Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, Tel: 020 7188 5577, e-mail: [katie.fleming@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:katie.fleming@gstt.nhs.uk). Out of hours, please call our pager bureau on 08700 555500, ask for pager number 847704 and give the pager operator your message.
3. Guy’s and St Thomas’ provides ¾ million patient contacts in acute and specialist hospital services every year. As one of the biggest NHS Trusts in the UK, it employs over 9,000 staff. The Trust also works in partnership with the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Biomedical Sciences of King’s College London and other Higher Education Institutes to deliver high quality education and research. Website: [www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk](http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk)
4. Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity, formerly known as Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charitable Foundation, was created on 1 April 2000 from the merger of the Special Trustees of Guy’s Hospital and the Special Trustees for St Thomas’ Hospital. The charity can trace its roots back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century when St Thomas’ Hospital was founded. Today, the Charity provides funding to support excellence in research and development at the hospital and local health organisations and funds projects to enhance health services that will benefit the wider NHS. For further information, contact Kate Dawson, Head of Communications on 020 7188 1218 or mobile: 07722 119157 or visit the website at [www.gsttcharity.org.uk](http://www.gsttcharity.org.uk).
5. Heatherwick Studio was established by Thomas Heatherwick in 1994, it is recognised for its work in: architecture, sculpture, urban infrastructure, product design and strategic thinking. Significant works include the ‘Rolling Bridge’ at London’s Paddington Basin, the world flagship for French luxury brand, Longchamp in Soho, New York and East Beach Café, a seaside café and restaurant in Littlehampton. Website: [www.heatherwick.com](http://www.heatherwick.com)
6. Pool of London Partnership gave a grant of £1.4 million towards this project. Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity also gave £500, 000 and the Friends of Guy’s Hospital gave £75,000.