



## Pocket opens contest for Haringey community nursery

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Up-and-coming developer Pocket has launched a design competition for a £822,500 community centre and nursery in Haringey, north London

Aimed at design-led emerging practices, the contest seeks proposals for a low cost facility which will act as a landmark civic gateway to the firm's West Green Place development.

Masterplanned by HTA Design with BD Landscape Architects, the low-rise scheme will create a mix of open market and Pocket-style homes next to Downhills Park.

The existing West Green Playgroup Nursery and Goan Community Centre – which currently occupy the 0.74 hectare site – will be replaced by the new 360m<sup>2</sup> competition-winning structure.

Pocket head of design Russ Edwards commented: 'We're very excited about this opportunity – for Pocket and the architect, it's an opportunity to get on with a design, within a fantastic masterplan, in a great park setting, includes new public realm and play space, and it's for real users.'

'This is an opportunity for Pocket to collaborate with the next generation – perhaps offering an emerging practice their first significant commission for a developer client.'

Founded in 2005, the developer specialises in innovative micro-homes aimed at London's squeezed middle earners.



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SOURCE: IMAGE BY BD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS  
West Green Place site analysis

The units – which cost 20 per cent less than local equivalents – are only available to first-time buyers who either work or live in the local area and earn below £90,000 annually.

Pocket currently has 15 live projects and recently received a £21.7 million loan from the Greater London Authority which it is planning to invest in 4,000 homes over the next ten years.

Last year the outfit ran a high-profile ideas contest ([AJ 16.01.15](#)) to create a new compact layout for 'two bedroom-two person' apartments which are currently omitted from the mayor's space standards.

Proposals for the West Green Place nursery should include a storytelling area, play space, store room, sleeping room, kitchen and toilets with an external patio measuring at least 200m<sup>2</sup>. A multi-function hall, kitchenette and lift will also be required for the community centre.

Applications from firms which are less than five years old, feature up to ten team members and have turnovers below £1.5 million are 'strongly encouraged'

by the client which has no formal restrictions on bidders.

Judges include Edwards, HTA partner Ben Derbyshire, Architecture Foundation director Ellis Woodman and Lyn Garner – director of place and sustainability at Haringey Council.