

# News Release

071 512 3000

London Docklands  
Development Corporation  
Thames Quay  
191 Marsh Wall  
London E14 9TJ  
Telex 894041 LDDC G  
Fax No. 071 512 0777

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## **LIMEHOUSE LINK WINS CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TOP AWARD**

The Limehouse Link in London Docklands has won one of the construction industry's premier awards - placing it amongst the world's top ranking engineering achievements.

The 1.8km dual carriageway underground highway linking the City with the Isle of Dogs, was judged the winner of the Civil Engineering category in the 1993 British Construction Industry Awards ceremony hosted by Construction Minister Sir George Young.

Considered to be one of the most challenging civil engineering projects ever undertaken, the Limehouse Link, commissioned by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), runs a route through a densely populated residential area skirting the River Thames.

Judges in this year's awards, chaired by Sir Bob Reid, Chairman of the British Railways Board, praised the fact that the Link had been completed on time and within the agreed price of £255 million. They also applauded the efforts made to minimise the disturbance to local residents.

Principal designers on the project were Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners and the main contractor was Balfour Beatty/AMEC Joint Venture.

"Excellence was the hallmark of all successful projects and the winners of this year's awards yet again rank with the world's best. The completion of the Link on time and at the right price is a triumph for teamwork and creative engineering," said Sir Bob Reid.

"It is one of the great civil engineering schemes of the decade and its value in unlocking communications to Docklands is incalculable," he added.

Various construction options were considered but eventually the LDDC opted for a cut and cover tunnel snaking through the Limehouse Basin as potentially the least disruptive and requiring the minimum possible disturbance to residents.

Inconvenience to residents was minimised by keeping noise to a minimum and by using the Thames to deliver materials and remove waste via a purpose built site wharf saving around 300,000 truck movements on local roads.

Under the Accord with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, the LDDC rehoused 570 Council tenants directly affected by the road schemes and refurbished a number of properties near the line of the new roads. It is also providing £35 million for social and community initiatives to benefit Tower Hamlets' residents.

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Work on the 1.8km highway, 1.5 kilometres of which are underground, and the three distinctive red and white post-modern style service buildings was completed in around half the time normally taken for a similar road at grade.

Opened in May this year by the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon John Major MP, the opening of the Limehouse Link marked the completion of the Docklands highways network, a series of new and improved roads planned, designed and built by the LDDC in just over seven years.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

LDDC Press Office

071 512 0444 (office hours)

071 512 3000 (after hours)