

**SPEIRS
MAJOR**

Millennium Dome,
London, UK

**LIGHT
ARCHITECTURE**

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Multiple viewpoints from the river, air and ground, our approach to the exterior lighting of the 320-metre diameter structure was holistic; we opted to light only selected architectural and landscape elements, creating points of discovery for visitors.

CLIENT
The Millenium
Commission

YEAR
1999

ARCHITECT
RSHP

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
Dan Pearson Studio

PHOTOGRAPHER
Mandy Reynolds

PROJECT TEAM
Mark Major, Jonathan
Speirs

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Monumental and Controversial

The Millennium Dome was one of the most monumental – and controversial – projects designed to mark the birth of the 21st century in the UK.

The iconic yellow masts that sprout from the roof are lit to enhance the three-dimensional character of the structure.



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At base level we highlighted the cylindrical plant towers in red to suggest a sense of energy, while washing the curved sides and overhanging eaves in white to define the perimeter.

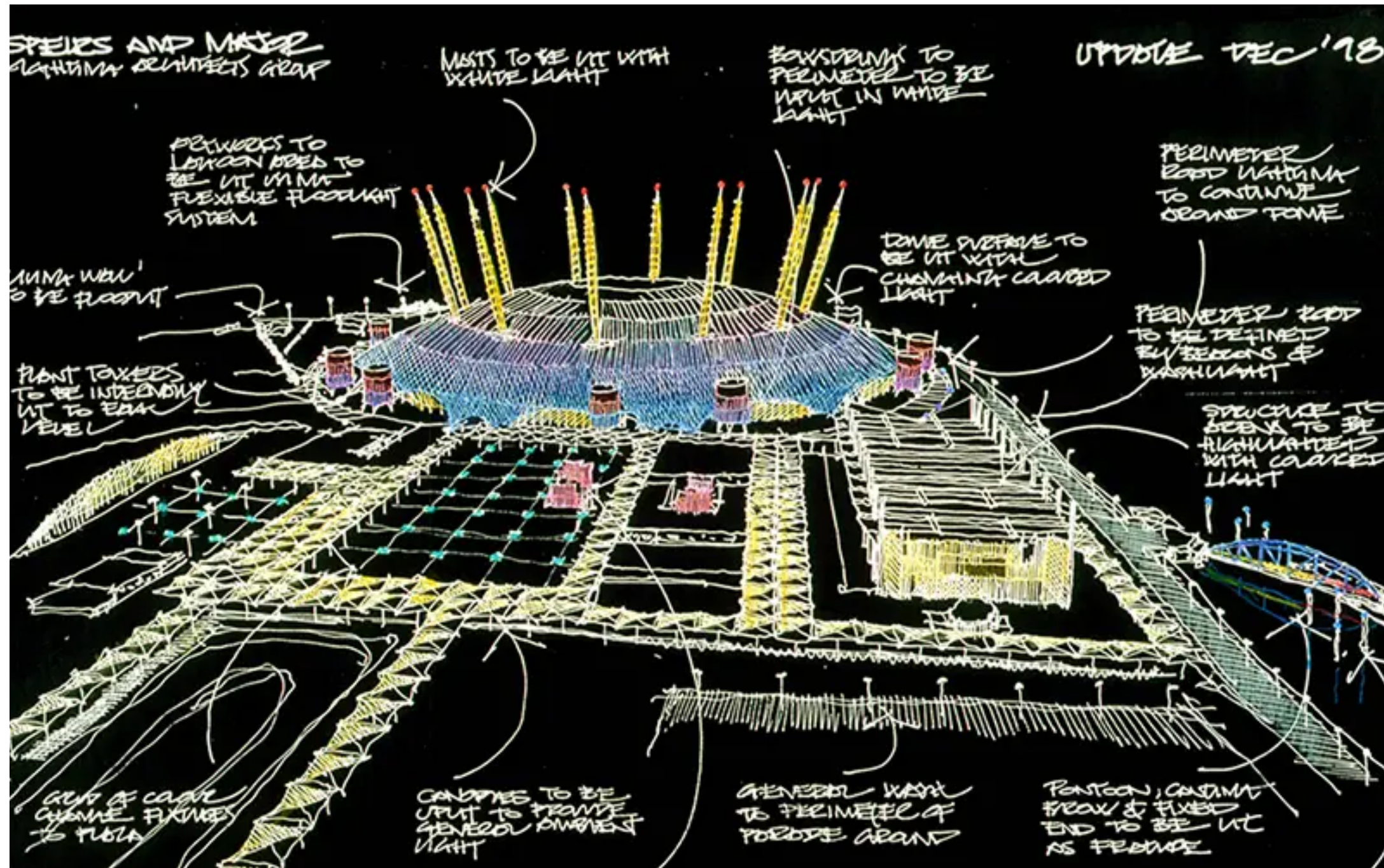


For the piazza, a grid of ground-recessed LED colour-change fittings blink and change colour on the hour, helping to orient visitors in both place and time. The Millennium Gardens were envisaged as a dark contemplative area, so we approached the lighting with a simple 'field of stars' on a 14m grid, bounded by the subtly illuminated Living Wall.



Inside, we lit up the roof structure, describing the form of the building in lighting that changes colour during the course of the day from white to deep blue at night, and marking out walkways and circulation zones.

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In 2006, we were invited back to provide lighting design advice as part of the team transforming the site into the hugely successful O2 entertainment arena.